

Drinking Water Advisory Committee
Draft Meeting Minutes
July 18, 2012
Salem

Members Present

Paul Berg, American Council of Engineering Companies
Ed Butts, Oregon Association of Water Utilities
Sarah Chaplen, League of Women Voters of Oregon
Mel Damewood, Pacific NW Section, American Water Works Association
Jenifer George, Oregon Environmental Health Association
Todd Heidgerken, Large Water Systems
Ray Johnson, Plumbers/Backflow Testers
Matt Michel, Special Districts Association of Oregon
Beth Myers, Oregon Environmental Lab Association
Annette Pampush, Conference of Local Health Officials
Brian Stahl, League of Oregon Cities
Kathy Willis, Privately Owned Water Systems

Guests

Robert Ault, Infrastructure Finance Authority
David Barnett, Infrastructure Finance Authority
Dave Barrigan, Portland Water Bureau
Rich Giani, Portland Water Bureau
Jason Green, Oregon Association of Water Utilities
Phil Johanson, Infrastructure Finance Authority
Chris Marko, Rural Community Assistance Corporation
Jim Ruef, Infrastructure Finance Authority
Sheree Stewart, Department of Environmental Quality

Staff

Adam DeSemple Michael Perry
Tony Fields Diane Weis
Dave Leland

To Do:

- Finalize Hazardous Algae Bloom Best Management Practice: DWAC subcommittee
- Send letter to ASSE regarding equivalency: DWAC

**Welcome/Agenda Check/Roster Check/Member Terms and Recognition/
Nominate New Chair and Vice-Chair:**

Brian Stahl welcomed the group and led introductions.

The roster was circulated and members were asked to check for accuracy of their contact information.

Nominations were made for Chair and Vice-Chair.

- Mel Damewood nominated Brian Stahl as Chair, Beth Myers seconded, and the nomination was voted on and accepted.
- Todd Heidgerken nominated Beth Myers as Vice-Chair; the nomination was voted on and accepted.

April Meeting Minutes:

Ed Butts made motion to approve the minutes, Todd Heidgerken seconded. They were voted on and approved.

Member Concerns:

Paul Berg heard about a problem water system near Cottage Grove. Dave Leland will address it in his update.

Sarah Chaplen stated her concern over the vacancies in the DWAC membership, public water user, watershed council, and environmental group. She urged filling these to get more public representation.

Beth Myers asked if there was a way for systems to not receive a violation if the lab reports after the 10th of the month. Dave Leland said the federal standard for reporting is simply whether or not the result is received by the 10th, and noted that even though a violation is assigned, the website accurately shows if the sample was just received late.

Program Update:

- ABC Operator Certification Exam Contract – The contract was renewed through 2014, and the delayed spring exams were given statewide on July 27. Exam scheduling and proctoring and other process/quality improvement issues will be brought to this committee for future discussion.
- Rule Adoption – The current rule proposal is to complete final primacy for three most recent EPA rules. There will be a rule hearing August 23. A second rule proposal will address accumulated needed improvements in operator

certification, backflow, and other topics, and will be presented at the Advisory Committee meeting in October.

- Budget Update – We are half way through the 11-13 biennium and are on track with spending compared to 09-11. An item to note, is over one-third of expenses goes towards partners, such as other state agencies, counties and contractors. Some variables to the budget are the OMMP fees, fiscal year 13 federal grants, results of the SRF Infrastructure Needs Survey, and future personnel costs.
- SDWIS NextGen Drinking Water Database – Currently a variety of different current database versions are in use amongst states; the new version will be a single centralized database for all states to use. SDWIS NextGen is scheduled to be in place by September 2014. The old SDWIS-State database is to be decommissioned by September 2015.
- PHD Organizational Improvement – July 1st the Public Health Division reorganized to better align itself with its goal and priorities of the Health Authority. The Division has gone from five Offices to three Centers. There is a new mission statement for the Center for Health Protection and a revised mission statement for Drinking Water Services.
- Annual Compliance Report (ACR) – The report shows how many and what types of violations systems were recorded for Oregon water systems during 2011. Reporting is improving over time, and fewer community water systems commit health-based violations during the year.
- Next Due List – The list identifies upcoming program operational dead lines. Some highlights are: closing past SRF set-aside awards, apply for FY13 primacy grant and SRF grant, prepare rule amendments, update contracts for 13-15, prepare for SDWIS NextGen, and prepare various EPA required reports. The Program Performance Level Survey will be distributed again in the next issue of the “Pipeline”.
- A mobile home park near Cottage Grove has high arsenic. Inaction by the owner led the agency to file a complaint in court.

Revolving Fund Update:

- Myrtle Creek is asking for additional loan money to complete their 2009 project. After some clarifying questions on construction and financing Beth Myers made motion to approve the additional loan, Ed Butts seconded, it was voted on and approved.
- The FY 2012 SRF grant application was submitted June 8. The application included some remaining 2005 and 2006 funds, now returned to Oregon. [Note: award subsequently received and signed by OHA on 8/1/12!]

- The Letter of Interest postcards were mailed June 14. The Letter of Interest was also posted on the website. Both are open from July 16 to September 17, 2012.
- The deadline for financial data to be reported into EPA's National Information Management System database is August 27, 2012.
- RCAC is sponsoring a Water & Wastewater Finance Workshop on September 10, 2012, in Silverton.
- The process for submitting applications is being streamlined, starting with the 2013 Cap Grant application.
- The Infrastructure Finance Authority report was distributed for review.

Harmful Algae Bloom Best Management Practices:

Over the last few years there has been an increase in harmful algae blooms in drinking water sources. An advisory was sent out last year informing customers on how to handle algae blooms.

Mel Damewood led a committee on the development of a Best Management Practice (BMP) needed to assist utilities in dealing with Harmful Algae Blooms (HABs). Mel reviewed the draft document with the committee, and proposed next steps for wider review by stakeholders. The draft BMP will be presented at the August 10 Oregon Water Utility Council meeting and at short schools. Mel wants it finalized by summer 2013.

Backflow Recommendation on ASSE Application:

The Cross Connection Advisory Board has been reviewing a request from ASSE for DWS to consider their backflow assembly testing protocols equivalent to USC under the rules. The Board found that the ASSE protocol is not equivalent in several important respects. Although the lab reviews were similar, ASSE does not require a one year field test, instead it is voluntary, nor is there a list of the ones that did pass field tests.

Paul Berg made motion to agree with Board's finding and to recommend that DWS inform ASSE of the finding, Beth Myers seconded, and it was voted on and approved.

The Drinking Water Advisory Committee will send a letter to ASSE giving the equivalency finding.

Oregon Resiliency Planning Project:

The project involves planning for and dealing with the after affects of an earthquake. All sorts of businesses and services would be affected but water and wastewater utilities were specifically addressed by a workgroup Mel and others are participating in.

Participants considered earthquake impacts that could occur and what recovery plans are needed. They thought about what a system's performance and recovery time would be, now and in 50 years. Local building codes and DWS plan review rules may need improvement. The planning project is to be finalized by February 2013.

Source Water Monitoring:

DEQ/OHA efforts to monitor drinking water sources for a wide variety of contaminants were described. DEQ reviews OHAs SDWIS monitoring data and system well closures to help them prioritize their focus. The results are helpful to develop a wider picture of the occurrence of contaminants in drinking water sources around the state.

Some things people can do, some with DEQ's help: conduct pesticide collection events, reduce household hazardous waste, and participate in Drug Take Back. DEQ plans to use monitoring results to strengthen science, prioritize exposure and reduction, and actively minimize input of contaminants to drinking water sources.

Next Meetings:

October 17, 2012 – Public Utility Commission (Budget Update, SRF Update, Rule Adoption, Backflow Recommendation, Harmful Algae Bloom Best Management Practice)

January 16, 2013 – Public Utility Commission

April 17, 2013 – Public Utility Commission

July 17, 2013 – Public Utility Commission

October 16, 2013 – Public Utility Commission