

Drinking Water Advisory Committee
Draft Meeting Minutes
October 17, 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
Beth Myers, Oregon Environmental Lab Association
Brian Stahl, League of Oregon Cities
Kathy Willis, Privately Owned Water Systems

Members Absent

Ray Johnson, Plumbers/Backflow Testers
Matt Michel, Special Districts Association of Oregon
Annette Pampush, Conference of Local Health Officials

Guests

Robert Ault, Infrastructure Finance Authority
Rich Giani, Portland Water Bureau
Chris Marko, Rural Community Assistance Corporation
Jeremy McVeety, Infrastructure Finance Authority
Chris Wanner, Portland Water Bureau

Staff

Brad Daniels	Michael Perry
Adam DeSemple	Dottie Reynolds
Tony Fields	Kari Salis
Karen Kelley	Gail Shibley
Dave Leland	Diane Weis

To Do:

- Check with Infrastructure Finance Authority on changing shelf life of SRF projects: Adam DeSemple
- Finalize Harmful Algae Bloom Best Management Practice: Mel Damewood
- Finalize fall 2012 draft rules, and file proposed rule amendments: Brad Daniels

Welcome/Agenda Check/Roster Check:

Brian Stahl welcomed the group and led introductions.

July Meeting Minutes:

Mel Damewood made motion to approve the minutes, Beth Myers seconded. They were voted on and approved.

Member Concerns:

Brian Stahl asked about procedures for retail water suppliers and their wholesale customer water suppliers when implementing and ending area-wide boil water notices. Portland Water Bureau said they are conducting “after-action” analysis of the July 2012 boil water notice, and will be sharing lessons learned.

Sarah Chaplen has a concern over management/governing board turmoil occurring at a Portland metro area water supplier. Dave explained that Drinking Water Services has no legal authority over board governance issues, but would act if there were safe drinking water regulatory compliance issues.

Program Update:

- Primacy rule adoption wrap-up – State rule modifications requested by EPA addressing remaining issues from the three recent EPA rules have been finalized and filed.
- Legislature – The legislative session is coming up. Drinking Water Services has no legislative concepts or bills, but will be charged with reviewing and tracking any bills broadly relating to water.
- Budget update – Drinking Water Services is on track with expenditures.
- Grant application status –
 - FY13 primacy grant application was submitted and approved with effective date of October 1.
 - FY13 SRF grant application will be submitted soon.
 - Budget Sequester Act – Federal fund spending reductions are likely as the date for implementation of the Act nears in January 2013. About 1/3 of EPA's budget is in the drinking water and clean water revolving funds
 - In mid-February EPA will announce the results of the Drinking Water SRF Needs Survey, which determines the percentage of available DWSRF funds each state will receive in FFYs 2014-2017.
- ASSE equivalency request response – The letter responding to ASSE's request for equivalency to USC for approving backflow assemblies was sent out before the meeting.

Revolving Fund Update:

- FY 2011 SRF grant funds have been spent. The EPA Operator Certification Grant balance will be reallocated by EPA and added to the 2012 Capitalization Grant, which was recently awarded to OHA.
- The web-based Letter of Interest process was successful. All 27 projects that were submitted are eligible and are being rated.
- The National Information Management System (NIMS) reporting on SRF expenditures and projects is going well.
- The Rural Community Action Corp Water & Wastewater Finance Workshop had a good turnout. There was more wastewater staff than water staff in attendance. It was a good opportunity for networking between groups.
- The 2013 SRF Cap Grant streamlining process went well. There was a reduction of paperwork in the Intended Use Plan and the Executive Summary.
- There is a proposal to keep projects on the project priority list from date of Intended Use Plan approval, rather than based on the grant year. Adam DeSemple will check with Infrastructure Finance Authority on requirements to make this change.
- The FY 2012 annual SRF report to EPA will be sent to them before the annual on-site review in November.
- The Infrastructure Finance Authority quarterly SRF report was distributed for review and information.

Harmful Algae Bloom Best Management Practices Draft Document:

The Best Management Practice (BMP) and other resources are still in comment period until November 16. Send any comments to Mel Damewood. The final BMP will be presented to the Drinking Water Advisory Committee at the January meeting.

Oregon Health Authority's web page has a lot of Frequently Asked Questions, guidelines, and resources on this subject.

The purpose of the HAB Grant, managed by Research and Evaluation Services, is to study the effect of algae blooms statewide. The HAB Grant is ending and will likely not be renewed by CDC.

Fall 2012 Draft Rule Amendments and Proposed Adoption Timeline:

The draft rulemaking proposal was discussed and minor clarifications were reviewed generally, while substantive amendments were reviewed in detail. The committee discussed further clarification of Section 333-061-0050(10) and

recommended modified language within this section relating to the repair of existing water mains or the installation of new mains.

The committee concurred that the program move forward to file the proposed rule amendments with the modification indicated above. The rule adoption timeline includes filing proposed rules on December 1, 2012; a public hearing in Portland on December 20, 2012; and final rule filing by mid-January 2013. Individual committee members should refer any additional comments to Drinking Water Services by the end of October 2012.

Next Meetings:

January 16, 2013 – Public Utility Commission (Program Update, SRF Update, Operator Certification, Cyanobacteria Best Management Practice, Resiliency Project)

April 17, 2013 – Public Utility Commission

July 17, 2013 – Public Utility Commission

October 16, 2013 – Public Utility Commission