

Drinking Water Advisory Committee
Draft Meeting Minutes
October 16, 2013
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
Jenifer George, Oregon Environmental Health Association
Celeste Hari, Privately Owned Water Systems
Matt Michel, Special Districts Association of Oregon
Beth Myers, Oregon Environmental Lab Association
Annette Pampush, Conference of Local Health Officials
Jason Pulley, Large Water Systems
Brian Rigwood, Pacific NW Section, American Water Works Association
Brian Stahl, League of Oregon Cities

Members Absent

Teresa Huntsinger, Environmental Advocacy Groups
Ray Johnson, Plumbers/Backflow Testers

Guests

Robert Ault, Infrastructure Finance Authority
David Barnett, Infrastructure Finance Authority
Jeremy McVeety, Infrastructure Finance Authority
Sarah Spotts, Portland Water Bureau

Staff

Brad Daniels Dave Leland
Adam DeSemple Diane Weis
Tony Fields

To Do:

- Contact organizations whose member's terms have expired: Members
- Finalize comments from DWAC on Operator Certification and Backflow rules and send to members: Brad Daniels

Welcome/Agenda Check/Roster Check/Review Vacant Positions:

Brian Stahl welcomed the group and led introductions.

The vacant positions and positions whose member's term has ended were reviewed. The members whose term has ended will contact their organization to nominate a member.

July Meeting Minutes:

Motions were made to approve the minutes. They were voted on and approved.

Member Concerns:

Brian Stahl would like Drinking Water Services staff to follow up with consecutive purchasing systems to develop standard operating procedures when a system has a positive total coliform.

Program Update:

- Staffing Changes –
 - Tom Mitchell will be retiring November 30. There will be an in-house review for covering his duties.
 - Daniel Hough left his position as field sanitarian in Region 2 for a job with Department of Environmental Quality. The position has been posted for recruitment.
- Small Water System Training Course contract had expired. A request for proposal was submitted and OAWU got the contract. Materials are being reviewed to be made available as an electronic course.
- Memorandum of Understanding with Infrastructure Finance Authority will be changed to an Intergovernmental Agreement.
- Pacific Northwest Section/AWWA held a basic water class that was very well presented. Drinking Water Services will look at using the material for their own classes.
- The cryptosporidium outbreak in Baker City was not well covered except by local media. Cattle were likely the source of the outbreak of as many as 2,000 cases. These types of outbreaks do not occur very often. This is an example of why there are national and state drinking water regulations.
- Dave Leland is still interim center administrator for Center for Health Protection. Recruitment for this position is underway.
- Lillian Shirley has been appointed the new Public Health Director. She will start in December. The deputy public health director position is still vacant, with Bobby Green serving as interim.

- There have been some organizational adjustments within the three centers of the Public Health Division. Preparedness and Emergency Medical Services have been moved from the Director's Office to Centers, and Research and Education was moved from Center for Health Protection to another Center. Oregon Health Licensing will become part of Oregon Health Authority next July.
- With the government shutdown, Oregon state government could go for three to four weeks without being effected, although some agencies in other states have already had layoffs.

Legislative Update –

- The Center for Health Protection did not introduce any bills but there were 16 bills that passed affecting the Center; 14 result in new rules.

Rule Update Discussion:

In continuing discussion about clarification to the rules relating to backflow assembly tester certification, cross connection specialist certification, and operator certification, comments from the July meeting were discussed.

Fees will be collected every two years; there will be no fee increase.

Operator Certification exams can be taken any time on-line at H&R Block.

The proposal that would require a direct responsible charge live within a specified area of the system has been abandoned.

Operators will be required to notify Oregon Health Authority of any violations.

After additional suggestions for further clarification were made by the committee, they had consensus to proceed with making rules.

Any further comments send to Brad Daniels.

Revolving Fund Update:

Oceanside Water District –They are asking for more than the \$6M limit in loan funds. The excess in the loan would not take away from other systems receiving funding. It would also get more money out the door and to use. A Land Use Compatibility Statement was included in their submittal.

Beth Myers made motion to approve funding, Jenifer George seconded. It was voted on and approved.

There was a concern that the system would be made larger requiring more staff. Infrastructure Finance Authority staff did not think that would be a possibility but they will check.

Quarterly Report – The 2013 award has been granted.

Letter of Interest – Postcards were sent reminding systems of the open process of accepting applications year-round. Responses have been received.

Water/Wastewater Finance Workshop – The workshop held October 7 had a good turnout.

SFY-2013 Annual Report – The status report is almost done. The goal is to have the report to EPA before the annual review in mid-November.

Operating Agreement – There is no deadline but the hope is to have updates in draft form completed by end of the year.

Public Notice Process – Reviewed current process. The decision was made that emergency projects will be posted on public meeting calendar but there will no longer be a seven day limit.

LOI Rating Reference Document – The workgroup will discuss this further and then request committee approval. Any comments get to Adam DeSemples.

SDWRLF Website – The webpage is currently outdated. It will be updated and reorganized with lots of useful resources.

Marketing Strategy – Adam showed a video demo that could be used for advertising the SRF program and other water issues. Target audience would be anyone wanting information on what the SRF program does. Consensus from the group was to go ahead and look into it further.

Next Meetings:

January 15, 2014 – Public Utility Commission (Program Update, Rule Making Adoption, EPA Review, Operating Agreement, LOI Rating Reference Document, Oregon Resiliency Plan)

April 16, 2014 – Public Utility Commission

July 16, 2014 – Public Utility Commission

October 15, 2014 – Public Utility Commission