

Drinking Water Advisory Committee
Draft Meeting Minutes
January 21, 2015, 10:00 am – 1:00 pm
Keizer

Members Present

Dorothy J (DJ) Ezell, Special Districts Association of Oregon
Jenifer George, Oregon Environmental Health Association
Celeste Hari, Privately Owned Water Systems
Ray Johnson, Plumbers/Backflow Testers
Jason Pulley, Large Water Systems
Brian Rigwood, Pacific NW Section, American Water Works Association
Brian Stahl, League of Oregon Cities

Members Absent

Paul Berg, American Council of Engineering Companies
Ed Butts, Oregon Association of Water Utilities
Sarah Chaplen, League of Women Voters of Oregon
Teresa Huntsinger, Environmental Advocacy Groups
Beth Myers, Oregon Environmental Lab Association
Annette Pampush, Conference of Local Health Officials

Guests

Chuck Kingston, Joint Water Commission
Chris Wanner, Portland Water Bureau
Rory White, Analytical Laboratory Group

Staff

Oregon Health Authority:

Adam DeSemple	Casey Lyons
Tony Fields	Kari Salis
Dave Leland	Julie Wray

Infrastructure Finance Authority:

Robert Ault	Geoff Ostrove
Jeremy McVeety	

Welcome:

Brian Rigwood welcomed the group and led introductions.

November Meeting Minutes:

Jenifer George made the motion to approve the minutes, Ray Johnson seconded. They were voted on and approved.

Member Concerns: Ray Johnson

Cross Connect Advisory Meeting was held in December.

- Mike Perry is retiring and the replacement is Molly Keller who will be cross training starting February 2, 2015.
- Steven West is the chair and Ray Johnson is the vice chair.
- 1,123 currently certified backflow testers, concern about proposed fee increases
- Currently have 4 vacant slots of the 9 seats. They are recruiting for the following open positions: Oregon licensed plumber; certified Oregon plumbing inspector; engineer; and someone from the general public is still open.

Program Update: Dave Leland

- Recruitment –
 - Steve Wagner is the Center for Health Protection Administrator.
 - Casey Lyon is new DWS Region 2 Manager.
 - Dave Leland is back as the Drinking Water Services (DWS) Section Manager.
 - Lillian Shirley, the PHD Director, is recruiting for the Center for Prevention & Health Promotion Administrator.
 - Lynne Saxton is the Oregon Health Authority Acting Director.
- 2013-2015 Budget –
 - Summary one-pager at 3 quarters of 2013-15 biennium (expenditures thru Dec. 2014).
 - Continue to expend remaining balances from past year SRF grant awards, now spending SRF funds from the 2014 grant award. 2015 SRF award expected July 1.
 - Increased expenditures include personal services (staff pay), reflecting increases in benefits and PERS; end of four years of pay and COLA freezes
 - 20% overall cost allocation rate for shared services (payroll, financial services, human resources, info technology, etc) and other departmental overhead is becoming evident.
 - DWS revenue is 2/3 federal funds, largely beyond our direct influence. Budget aspects we do control:
 - Set fee levels to cover full cost of fee-based activities, and
 - Do our best work on the quadrennial SRF infrastructure needs survey, which determines each state's percentage share of the national SRF allocation. Based on the last survey, Oregon received 1.42% of SRF

funds, up from the minimum 1% from the previous survey. The survey contractor was selected for the next survey and they will survey between 50 – 55 systems this year from the 60 total larger systems.

- Legislature –
 - The Division is getting ready for the 2015 legislative session with 1,400 pre-session bills already filed. Our division is tracking 200 of these bills.
 - DWS is tracking bill (SB 121) which amends health hazard abatement statute (ORS 222). Bill was proposed in response to HHA proceeding underway in Milton-Freewater
 - DWS does not have any agency legislative concepts for the upcoming session, but legislative concepts presented on behalf of others could affect us.

- Revised Total Coliform Rule Adoption – The rules can be no less stringent than Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) rule. Department of Justice and the Oregon Health Authority’s rules coordinator will proofread for any errors. The proposed rules will go into effect April 1, 2016, but are due to EPA in early 2015. Oregon has filed a primacy extension with EPA to May 1, 2016. EPA has been providing informal feedback on Oregon’s draft rules and has continuously been given updates.

- Department of Geology Earthquake Risk Report on hospitals and water systems– Public Health had some available preparedness funds and engaged DOGAMI to evaluate two hospitals and five water systems: Lincoln City; Sheridan; McMinnville; Grand Ronde; and Willamina. The entire report will be posted on the public health web site.

- Milton-Freewater Health Hazard Abatement action–
 - PHD has found that a “danger to public health” exists due to contaminated public and private wells adjacent to the City of Milton Freewater
 - Next step is a public hearing on our finding in the affected area
 - City and residents are working together to identify an acceptable alternative to mandatory annexation for resolving the health hazard.

- Legionella –
 - 4 cases in one unit of a recreational condo in central Oregon which resulted in one death.
 - EPA will soon release a guidance of Legionella response for building operators and states.

DWS Fee Increase:

It has been eight years since DWS has raised any fees. DWS fee schedules are in rule, not statute, although the subsequent legislature has to approve any fee increases adopted by rule by any agency. Department of Administrative Services and the Oregon Health Authority agreed to include program fee increases in the Agency Requested Budget to obtain legislative approval first, and then raise fees in rule after the session. DWS is proposing to follow this path for selected agency fees in the 2015 session, including the drinking water fees.

Current total fee revenue is \$1M per biennium for the four current fee-based activities. The current fees now support less than half of the 9 staff conducting the fee-related work. Therefore that work has been increasingly supported by federal funds in recent years, and now- flat federal funding levels make that support unlikely to continue. In order to fully cover the costs of the fee-based work with the fees for the services, the following increased fee revenue is proposed for 2015-17: operator certification \$407,618; Backflow tester & specialist certification \$414,445; Plan Review \$536,099; and Water System survey inspections \$877,913. The increased revenue will preserve current staffing and service level.

The fee increase proposal has not yet been approved by OHA for inclusion in the agency budget request.

Revolving Fund Update:

The annual review with EPA is scheduled for February. We are submitting the application for the 2015 grant award in February.

Eleven Letters of Interest for safe drinking water construction projects have been received and they are being rated and ranked. Nine are in the process of being submitted for the 2016 grant period.

Quadrennial Drinking Water Infrastructure Needs Survey – the contractor will start doing surveys on 50 of the 60 water systems in February.

Future Agenda Items:

Outreach strategy for the fee proposal.

Update on the RTCR status.

EPA annual review of SRF and Primacy programs - preliminary results.

Finalize Best Management Practices for treatment outages.

Begin discussion of best practices for developing the water system operator workforce.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 pm.

Next Meeting:

April 15, 2015 – Keizer

July 15, 2015 – Keizer

October 21, 2015 – Keizer