

Drinking Water Advisory Committee
Draft Meeting Minutes
April 15, 2015
Keizer

Members Present

Paul Berg, American Council of Engineering Companies
Ed Butts, Oregon Association of Water Utilities
Sarah Chaplen, League of Women Voters of Oregon
DJ Ezell, Special Districts Association of Oregon
Jenifer George, Oregon Environmental Health Association
Celeste Hari, Privately Owned Water Systems
Ray Johnson, Plumbers/Backflow Testers
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

Guests

Scott Berry, Oregon Association of Water Utilities
Eric Mende, City of Wilsonville
Jeremy McVeety, Infrastructure Finance Authority
Ed Tabor, Infrastructure Finance Authority
Chris Wanner, Portland Water Bureau

Staff

Adam DeSemple Kari Salis
Tony Fields Diane Weis
Renee Hackenmiller-Paradis

Welcome:

Beth Myers welcomed the group and led introductions.

January Meeting Minutes:

DJ Ezell made motion to approve the minutes, Brian Stahl seconded. They were voted on and approved.

Member Concerns:

Tony Fields brought up a concern he had received earlier about CEUs for technical training. As a result, the CEU policy is being revised. Beginning in January 2016, the following changes are being proposed:

Certificate holders will not be required to submit proof of CEUs at every renewal, and instead will be audited in a random fashion after the renewal period ends. CEUs must still be earned within certification period, however, and if an operator fails to meet this standard they will be subject to revocation. Additionally, new training options will now be creditable for CEUs, including management, supervisory and financial topic.

Jason Pulley described the difficulty large systems face being unable to attract level 3 and 4 certified operators with management experience to oversee water system operations. He inquired about the possibility of creating a new certification for supervisors that would supersede currently certified operators without requiring the hands-on experience that DRCs must have. Tony advised the group that the Drinking Water Advisory Committee has a workgroup tasked with this issue, but that Drinking Water Services would be willing to review the issue with board members again if so desired.

Modernization of Public Health:

Public Health System foundational capabilities needed at state and counties:

- Assessment and epidemiology
- Emergency preparedness
- Communications
- Policy and planning
- Leadership and organizational competencies
- Health equity and cultural responsiveness
- Community partnership development

Foundational public health programs are:

- Communicable disease control
- Environmental health
- Prevention and health promotion
- Access to clinical preventive services

The current situation in Oregon:

- Limited county funding
- Limited state funding

- Reliance on federal funding
- Variable service delivery

A Task Force was created as a result of 2013 legislation, HB 2348, to look at the future and efficiency of public health. Recommendations were made in each of the four foundational program areas. Next step is to form workgroups to assess and define current capabilities and identify capability and funding gaps. HB 3100 in the 2015 legislature identifies some startup funding for these efforts.

Ozone Disinfection Credits Workgroup:

Eric Mende, City of Wilsonville, is proposing a change to the OAR to remove the requirement for 0.5 log post-filtration giardia inactivation for systems using ozone.

He says proposal would not reduce requirements and will not affect water quality because there will be less chemicals to treat. Health will be determining factor in changing rule. The rule change would benefit several large water systems.

He is looking at changing the rule in about a year, and will work with Kari Salis.

Program Update:

PHD Budget and Drinking Water Fees –

Fee-based programs are not being supported by the current fee structure. Fees are dated and need to be increased to cover existing work. State Revolving Loan Fund set-aside balances from prior grant years have been covering gaps to date, but those prior balances will be fully expended early in the next biennium.

Department of Administrative Services and the Oregon Health Authority are asking the 2015 legislature for authority to increase fees in three public health program areas where fee increases are most critical. The Drinking Water Services fees are: Operator Certification, Backflow Tester and Specialist, Plan Review, and Water System Survey Inspections. If the legislature approves, then DWS will initiate rulemaking to adopt fees after session, with a projected effective date on January 1. If not approved by this legislature, then OHA will likely add the fee increases to the 2017-19 agency request budget for consideration in the next legislature.

Revolving Fund Update:

DWSRF Annual Review was the week of February 23 in Salem. The process went well. After responding to EPAs concerns, they will be sent the final report.

The FY 2015 DWSRF appropriations have been announced. Applications are due online which will be good for consistency.

A combined project priority list is being developed to eliminate redundancy and provide consistent information. Currently there are three lists.

SRF Sustainability Proposal –

The proposal is to have \$200,000 available for all projects that follow the prescribed guidelines and new rating criteria that would be set up. The pilot project would determine if there is a need for this.

Drinking Water Services and Infrastructure Finance Authority would like to send the notices out by summer. Any comments on the proposal need to be sent to Adam DeSemples or Jeremy McVeety.

DWAC Project Status:

Update Treatment Outages Best Management Practice (BMP) – Kari Salis is working with Brian Rigwood, Jason Pulley, and Ed Butts to discuss the BMP because it is not working. Some parts are regulatory issues, with certain requirements rather than just a best management practice.

Brian Rigwood made motion to remove the BMP from the Drinking Water Services website, Paul Berg seconded. Motion was voted on and approved by all members.

Work Force Issues – Clackamas Community College (CCC) has a concern about their students taking the water operator certification class but not being eligible for certification in Oregon for at least one year. CCC also trains wastewater operators, but Department of Environmental Quality allows wastewater graduates to become certified in a “trainee” status, and they believe Oregon Health Authority should allow the water operators to do the same. Tony Fields advised the members that US EPA and Oregon’s Department of Justice required Drinking Water Services to stop offering an “Operator in Training” (OIT) certificate approximately 10 years ago, but agreed to research the issue further as requested.

Next Meeting:

July 15, 2015 – Keizer (CEUs)

October 21, 2015 – Keizer