



**Drinking Water Advisory Committee**  
Draft Meeting Minutes  
May 10, 2017  
Beaverton

Members Present

**DJ Ezell**, Special Districts Association of Oregon  
**Jenifer George**, Oregon Environmental Health Association  
**Lori Grant**, Environmental Advocacy Groups  
**Annette Pampush**, Conference of Local Health Officials  
**Kimberley Ramsay**, Oregon Environmental Lab Association  
**Brian Rigwood**, Pacific NW Section, American Water Works Association  
**Chris Wanner**, Large Water Systems

Members Absent

**Ed Butts**, Oregon Association of Water Utilities  
**Jason Canady**, League of Oregon Cities  
**Ray Johnson**, Plumbers/Backflow Testers  
**David Phelps**, League of Women Voters of Oregon

Guests

**Kari Duncan**, Lake Oswego Water District  
**Janna Graham**, Infrastructure Finance Authority  
**Jeremy McVeety**, Infrastructure Finance Authority

Staff

Brad Daniels      Kari Salis  
David Emme      Diane Weis  
Tony Fields

**Welcome/Roster Update:**

DJ Ezell welcomed the group and led introductions.

There were no changes to the agenda.

The roster was reviewed for vacancies and highlighted member's terms that have expired or will expire soon. Letters will be sent to the organizations who have members' terms expiring.

**February Meeting Minutes:**

Brian Rigwood made motion to approve the minutes, Annette Pampush seconded. They were voted on and approved.

**Member Update:**

DJ Ezell heard from a Clackamas Water District employee that appreciated the operator certification reciprocity. She passed this on to the committee because it was discussed at these meetings.

DJ asked for clarification on ABC's professional operator's standards. Tony Fields said that the professional operator's certification process is linear: one must take a level 1 exam before taking a level 2, etc. Oregon is not currently considering a change to the current certification process.

**Program Update:**

Dave Emme gave an overview of the federal, state and Drinking Water Services budget.

- Mandatory spending, such as the federal debt and interest payments, is increasing resulting in a decrease in discretionary spending, of which most goes toward the military with only a small portion going to EPA.
- The EPA budget has been flat but there will be cuts to their budget.
- There is a \$1.6 billion deficit in the state's budget.
- State expenditures are increasing partly due to health insurance and personnel costs.
- To help with the state's budget shortfall there is a hiring freeze, travel restrictions, and other budget saving goals for the rest of the biennium.
- Drinking Water Services is not serving state-regulated systems because of short staffing.
- Most of the program's revenue comes from federal grants.
- Personnel is almost half of expense and is increasing, but Federal grants and fees are not covering the expenses.

- In the past, to meet the budget shortfall, the strategy was to eliminate staff through attrition, raise fees, and use SRF set-asides.
- The future plan is to work with current FTE level but to improve processes, prioritize work, and plan for the future.
- The fee structure will be revisited for the 2019-2021 biennium.

**Revolving Fund Update:**

FFY2017 DWSRF-Grant Application – The application is for over \$11 million and is due to EPA by June 16.

Sustainability Infrastructure Planning Program – Four projects have been added during the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter. Public comment period ends May 11.

Combined Infrastructure PPL – Seven new projects were added during the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter. There is a total of 63 projects on the list totaling over \$133 million.

Drinking Water Source Protection Grants – Letters of Interest are being reviewed and rated. Results will be available in May.

SRF Marketing – Drinking Water Services is working with Business Oregon to create a brochure promoting the SRF program.

Water/Wastewater Finance Workshops – There are a couple of workshops in July.

Jeremy McVeety reviewed their quarterly update highlighting the commitments and disbursements. He also went over the list of systems that have submitted applications.

The Infrastructure Finance Authority restructured their workload.

**Rule Update:**

The upcoming amendments have some changes to various sections of the rules, such as monitoring, treatment, and construction standards. There are also clarification and housekeeping changes.

If you have any comments or proposed changes, please let Brad Daniels know right away so they can possibly be added to the current rule package. He plans to have the final draft completed and ready for approval before the July 19 advisory committee meeting.

**Ozone Subgroup Follow-up:**

Requests are still being made for a disinfection rule change or waiver process. Drinking Water Services stands by their approach of reviewing each water system on a case-by-case basis through the waiver process.

The subcommittee, consisting of Kari Salis, Carrie Gentry, Jay MacPherson, and Brian Rigwood will reconvene to talk about the possibility of a waiver. Brian Stahl was on the subcommittee and he will be contacted to see if he wants to continue or if someone else should join the committee. Chris Wanner may be willing if another member is needed.

The subcommittee will review what information will need to be submitted to be considered for a waiver.

**2017 Meeting Schedule:**

July 19, 2017 – Keizer

October 18, 2017 – Keizer