



## **Drinking Water Advisory Committee**

Meeting Minutes

July 15, 2020

Conference Call

### Members Present

**Ed Butts**, Oregon Association of Water Utilities

**Greg DeBlase**, Oregon Environmental Health Association

**Brian Ginter**, American Council of Engineering Companies-Oregon

**Bruce Hellebuyck**, Privately Owned Water Systems

**Karen Lewotsky**, Environmental Advocacy Groups

**Brian Rigwood**, Pacific NW Section, American Water Works Association

**Chris Wanner**, Large Water Systems

### Members Absent

**Dwayne Barnes**, League of Oregon Cities

**DJ Ezell**, Special Districts Association of Oregon

**Ray Johnson**, Plumbers/Backflow Testers

**Beth Myers**, Oregon Environmental Lab Association

**Amelia Nestler**, League of Women Voters of Oregon

**Annette Pampush**, Conference of Local Health Officials

### Guests

**Jon Unger**, Business Oregon

### Staff

Adam DeSemple      Samina Panwhar

David Emme          Kari Salis

Tony Fields          Diane Weis

**Welcome/Agenda Check:**

Brian Rigwood welcomed the group.  
There were no changes to the agenda.

**April Meeting Minutes:**

Chris Wanner made motion to approve the minutes, Bruce Hellebuyck seconded.  
They were voted on and approved.

**Member Update:**

No one had any updates to report.

**Program Update:**

*[see attached PowerPoint]*

Response to January public comment –

Direct Lab Reporting – Reporting responsibility of public water systems vs. lab. It is the water systems responsibility to make sure results are reported to Drinking Water Services.

Fee Schedule – With the new fee schedule, there appears to be no incentive in being an Outstanding Performer since there is no reduction in the annual fee. There are other benefits such as recognition, reduction in survey schedule and monitoring.

Forest Practices – There needs to be coordination between Oregon Health Authority and Oregon Department of Forestry. Drinking Water Services funds the Source Water Protection Program at the Department of Environmental Quality, and there was a project with Oregon State University on forest practices impacting drinking water.

Covid-19 Update –

The Drinking Water Program staff are still mostly working from home. There is a move in the Agency to continue remote work long-term.

Surveys have resumed following the Governor's new safety requirements.

Water systems have not reported any significant COVID-19 issues yet.

Budget –

The current biennium has a \$2 billion General Fund shortfall. Rainy day funds can be used to offset shortfall but an additional 4% may need to be cut.

There is a projected \$3.5 billion General Fund shortfall for next biennium; therefore, 25% cuts may be asked for.

Revenue comes from: 59% federal funds, 21% general funds, 20% fees. There is also some banked State Revolving Fund set-asides that can be tapped.

Planned Rulemakings –

Operator Certification – Rule changes were made without EPA prior approval; 1) Operator in Training designation, 2) prorating of initial fees, 3) substituting education for experience for Level 1, 4) eliminating test for small system certification. EPA is okay with the first two changes, they question the third change, but does not approve the last change because the State does not meet federal requirements. The State needs to create a test and a rule change needs to be made to address certification of small system operators in the next two years or approximately \$3 Million per year could be withheld from SRF grants.

Other rules changes being considered: 1) separate rules for non-EPA and state regulated systems, 2) update Emergency Response Plan, 3) align disinfection after repairs with AWWA standards, 4) Plan Review fees for small systems.

Program Updates –

- EPA Regulatory Update – Perchlorate will not have a national standard.
- EPA Strategic Goal – Reduce health-based violations at community water systems by 25%.
- Systems with violations are going down.
- Priorities – Build capacity for addressing emerging contaminants, improve emergency preparation, improve small system compliance, and work towards electronic reporting.
- Data Visualization work is ongoing, working on GIS map of water system active advisories.

### **Revolving Fund Update:**

*[see attached PowerPoint]*

The Funding Status list shows more applications than money available. The Program is going well. Warm Springs will receive some funding for their water system.

City of Hines received a 2019 WATERS Award, which is given when a system meets specified standards.

National Information Management Systems (NIMS) is open through the end of August.

Capitalization Grant application was submitted and should receive award of \$14,487,000 by end of September.

Combined Project Priority List showed 10 new projects bringing the total to 45 with a requested amount of \$84 million.

Sustainable Infrastructure Planning Projects (SIPP) was closed during 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of SFY2020. SIPP is currently open for applications.

**2020 Meeting Schedule:**

October 21, 2020 – Keizer or Conference Call/Virtual Meeting (elect new chair and vice chair)