



Drinking Water Advisory Committee

October 19, 2017

Keizer

Members Present

Ed Butts, Oregon Association of Water Utilities

DJ Ezell, Special Districts Association of Oregon

Jason Green, Oregon Association of Water Utilities

Bruce Hellebuyck, Privately Owned Water Systems

Ray Johnson, Plumbers/Backflow Testers

Beth Myers, Oregon Environmental Lab Association

Brian Rigwood, Pacific NW Section, American Water Works Association

Chris Wanner, Large Water Systems

Members Absent

Jason Canady, League of Oregon Cities

Jenifer George, Oregon Environmental Health Association

Lori Grant, Environmental Advocacy Groups

Annette Pampush, Conference of Local Health Officials

David Phelps, League of Women Voters of Oregon

Guests

David Barnett, Infrastructure Finance Authority

Janna Graham, Infrastructure Finance Authority

Staff

Brad Daniels Adam DeSemple

David Emme Kari Salis

Diane Weis

Welcome/Agenda Check:

DJ Ezell welcomed the group and led introductions.

The Great Oregon Shake Out earthquake drill is today so the committee will take a break at 10:19 to participate in the exercise.

July Meeting Minutes:

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

Member Update:

Beth Myers said that the rules require labs to report to Drinking Water Services within 48 hours if an IOC analyte has a result over 50 MCL. Her concern is if one analyte in a batch containing other analytes needs to be reported, she has to run the entire batch again. There may be a misunderstanding of the rules.

DJ Ezell followed the new process of qualifying to take an operator exam, and is now a professional operator.

Ray Johnson reported that Drinking Water Services has updated their database for testers and inspectors. Also, the State has received a request for trainers to train inmates; more to come on that request. Renewals for people whose last name begins with L-Z went out October 4.

Program Update:

Budget and programmatic update –

Dave Emme has identified challenges related to the budget:

- How to be more efficient – Some ways identified: develop compliance monitoring data portal, move to an e-document management system, and continue working with the state-county workgroup to discuss process improvement.
- How to stabilize staffing – revenue is insufficient so use banked SRF set-asides.
- What to do with State-regulated systems – Approximately one-quarter of the systems are State-regulated which serves 0.4% of the population. The Program does not have resources to regulate them, only systems with alerts receive a response, so 20% of the State-regulated systems have stopped reporting. The options are to deregulate them or find a way to fund the work. The consensus is to find a way to fund the work, thus retaining them in statute and tie-in with fee restructuring proposal.
- How to achieve sustainable funding source – Current survey fee does not meet AWWA rate setting principles, funding is insufficient, inequitable and unpredictable with billing every 3-5 yrs. Most other states base fees on connections, population or water sales.

Potential 2019 legislative concept –
Legislative concepts for the 2019 session are required to be submitted by December. The concept Drinking Water Services will put forward is replacing survey fees with an annual fee. The Program will work with partners to propose a rate structure. If there is inadequate support, then the Program will move to deregulate State-regulated systems.

Revolving Fund Update:

FFY2017 DWSRF-Grant Application – The grant was awarded for \$11.7 million split between projects and set asides.

End of 1st Quarter 2018 Combined Infrastructure PPL – Ten new projects have been added, bringing the total to 58 projects at \$113 million.

End of 1st Quarter 2018 Sustainable Infrastructure Planning Projects (SIPP) PPL – Seven new projects have been submitted at \$111,000. Some funds are turning into infrastructure projects. The program is open for public comment until November 13. The SIPP Program will receive an award!

SFY2017 DWNIMS – This is a mandatory report. The submission was made before the deadline and everything was in good order.

SFY2017 Annual Report – Draft report is done and is now being reviewed by management. The final report is due October 31. The EPA annual review will occur the week of November 13.

Janna Graham from Infrastructure Finance Authority reviewed their quarterly report listing the projects committed. The program is going well and is doing what it is supposed to do, which is revolve funds.

Rule Update:

The public hearing was held September 21, with the public comment period being extended to October 25. The end of 2017 or beginning of 2018, the language will be finalized and public comments received will be reviewed and responded to. The rules will be finalized by February.

There are two major areas of concern from the committee:

Seismic risk assessment section – the concerns are based on the significant increase in cost of a master plan review, its importance and relevance, and the language of the rule is too generic.

Special samples – there is concern with some operators that the rule change will take away an important tool, which is not the Agency’s intent and the language will be revised to reflect this.

In both instances, the rule language will be better defined.

Lead and Copper Reviews:

As a result of the situation in Flint, MI, Oregon chose to do an internal LCR implementation review.

Oregon’s review indicated some needed improvements: correction schedule, invalidation procedures, consumer notification, and water quality parameter monitoring.

Large water systems were reviewed to see how they are doing. The list of items being reviewed were: materials evaluation, original site selection, assuring sites are Tier 1, presence of lead in system, sampling instructions, consumer notification, public education, water quality parameter monitoring, and customer requested samples.

The review showed that systems are generally following the rule and appreciated the extra focus on their procedure. The biggest issues were setting minimum water quality parameters and improper site selection. It also showed there is not much lead in Oregon, other than solder.

Operator Certification:

Dave Emme has heard concern about certain operator certification issues and is considering a workgroup.

Chris Wanner has a Direct Responsible Charge (DRC) concern. He was informed that being a manager does not necessarily mean that person is an operator or DRC. This creates a problem for him.

DJ Ezell, Jason Green, Chris Wanner, and Brian Rigwood will work on this issue, along with Tony Fields and Dave Emme.

2018 Meeting Schedule:

The committee is fine with the current schedule of the 3rd Wednesday of the first month of every quarter. Diane Weis will check on the Salem Willow Lake Wastewater Plant room availability and get back to the committee with the dates.