

Program update

by Dave Leland

In late June, the 2011 Oregon Legislature adjourned after approving a state budget for the 2011–13 biennium, which began July 1. The Oregon Health Authority legislatively-approved budget is \$11.9 billion, of which \$1.7 billion is state General Fund revenue.

The Legislature also approved a companion bill establishing and increasing a range of OHA fees, including an increase in medical marijuana cardholder fees expected to raise an additional \$7 million to partially restore a number of public health programs for which General Fund moneys were reduced or eliminated in the approved budget. Of that revenue, \$3 million partially replaces General Fund moneys that were entirely removed from the Drinking Water Program budget, resulting in a \$0.9 million net loss of program funding for 2011–13 compared to 2009–11.

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Reminder: 2011 Drinking Water Infrastructure Needs Survey is now under way

Results will determine funding available to Oregon

by Anthony J. Fields

The 2011 Drinking Water Infrastructure Needs Survey is currently under way. The survey is a tool used by EPA to determine financial need across the United States, and only those water systems eligible for State Revolving Loan Fund moneys are selected to participate. HBH Consulting Engineers is under contract to conduct the survey this year, and is already working with those water systems selected to participate in the survey process.

Please note that the **results of this survey will determine the amount of funding that Oregon will receive**, and in turn be able to provide to water systems for the next four years with the State Revolving Loan Fund. It is **critically important** for the selected water systems to complete the survey. If your water system has been selected as a respondent and you have not yet made arrangements to work with HBH Consulting Engineers to complete the survey, please contact HBH as quickly as possible at 503-625-8065, or via email at rhenry@hbh-consulting.com.

As the EPA survey website states (<http://water.epa.gov/infrastructure/drinkingwater/dwns/index.cfm>), "Local water utilities must make significant

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While the Oregon Legislature was in session, concerns also mounted in the Congress over the federal budget deficit. The final approved federal budget for FFY 2011 included a 31 percent reduction in drinking water revolving loan funds. Oregon's share of those funds dropped from \$13.5 million in FFY 2010 to \$9.3 million in FFY 2011. The forecast for FFY 2012 is even lower at \$8.3 million. Since each state can set aside up to 31 percent of its State Revolving Loan Fund grant to support its regulatory and assistance programs, the Oregon program will sustain an additional reduction of \$0.9 million in Federal Funds for 2011–13.

Having \$1.8 million less in total funds (state plus federal) during 2011–13 means the Drinking Water Program is funded at about 85 percent of its 2009–11 level. This will mean the following reductions in program effort:

- Elimination of oversight and testing for 900 very small water systems required under state law (defined as fewer than 15 connections) across the state; these systems will now be without oversight.
- Greatly reduced consultation and technical assistance about how to meet national standards for drinking water quality for approximately 2,600 smaller water systems. These systems have depended on help from the state program in the past, but will have to maintain compliance with federal regulations with less of this assistance.
- Greatly reduced capacity for coordination with other agencies that will be enacting policies affecting the quality of drinking water without input from public health experts.
- Elimination of planning and exercising for emergencies affecting drinking water systems.

The program is initially implementing these reductions by managing staff vacancies. Due to the agency-wide hiring freeze in effect during the previous biennium, eight Drinking Water Program staff who retired or left state service during the past two years were not replaced, reducing total program staff from 49 to 41. Three of the vacant positions were eliminated in the 2011–13 budget, leaving five vacant positions that exist but cannot be filled under the approved budget due to lack of funding. All 41 currently filled positions are funded though 2011–13 (see organization chart on page 5).

We continue to closely monitor the federal budget discussions and actions, and the state budget progress leading up to the February 2012 legislative session. During the next year, we will be engaging our Drinking Water Advisory Committee and a broader group of stakeholders to identify future program funding options. In the meantime, count on us to do our best work to address the highest priority public health tasks with the resources that we have.

Dave Leland is manager of the Drinking Water Program / 971-673-0415 or david.e.leland@state.or.us



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investments to install, upgrade, or replace equipment in order to deliver safe drinking water and protect public health. Every four years, EPA conducts a survey of the anticipated costs of these investments and reports the results to Congress. The results are also used to help determine the amount of funding each state receives for its Drinking Water State Revolving Fund program, which funds the types of projects identified in the survey."

Additional information can be found on the EPA Drinking Water Infrastructure Needs Survey website at <http://water.epa.gov/infrastructure/drinkingwater/dwns/basicinformation.cfm>, or by calling the Drinking Water Program at 971-673-0405.

Anthony Fields is the unit manager for the Protection, Planning & Certification Unit of the Drinking Water Program / 971-673-2269 or anthony.j.fields@state.or.us

Congratulations to our "Outstanding Performers"!

Jobs well done by the operators of these systems:

Water system name	County served
Avion WC - Brasada Ranch	Crook
Chenowith PUD	Wasco
Grants Pass, City of	Josephine
Gresham PWO-Water Section	Multnomah
Idaho Power-Oxbow Village	Baker
La Casa Mia	Deschutes
Mount Angel, City of	Marion
Suburban East Salem WD	Marion
Turner, City of	Marion
Woodland Mobile Home Park	Linn

These are the public water systems that have most recently met the established criteria for outstanding performance. Outstanding performers are systems with no significant deficiencies identified, as well as no unresolved violations. All systems are evaluated during their routine Water System Survey, and those that meet the outstanding performer criteria have their survey frequency (and fee!) reduced from every 3 years to every 5 years. To find out how to qualify, visit <http://public.health.oregon.gov/HealthyEnvironments/DrinkingWater/Pages/osp.aspx>.

Staff updates

The Drinking Water Program's new Revolving Loan Fund coordinator is **Adam DeSemp**. Adam has an Associate of Applied Science degree in water and environmental technology from Clackamas Community College and a Bachelor of Science in business administration from Concordia University. Additionally, Adam is a certified operator in water treatment and distribution in Oregon, and brings a great deal of technical insight and experience to the program. Adam began his work with the program in April. He can be reached at 971-673-0405 or by email at adam.desemple@state.or.us.

Tony Fields joined the management team in June to lead the Protection, Planning & Certification Unit. Tony has been with the Drinking Water Program since 2008, working in the PPC Unit as the drinking water security coordinator and serving as acting PPC Unit manager since 2010. He is a registered environmental health specialist.

Daniel Hough, the environmental health specialist assigned oversight responsibility for Douglas County, recently transferred from the Medford office to the Springfield office. You can reach Daniel at 541-726-2587, Ext. 27, or daniel.l.hough@state.or.us.

Chris Hughes, P.E., retired in May with 33 years of state service. After graduating from Oregon State University in forestry engineering and civil engineering, he worked at the Oregon Department of Forestry and Oregon Water Resources Department. Chris joined the Drinking Water Program in 1986 and moved into management service in 1990, serving most recently as the manager of the Technical Services Unit – Region 1. He has seen it all during his tenure: implementing primacy for the Safe Drinking Water Act, implementing the Safe

Drinking Water Revolving Fund, working with water systems statewide to meet health-based standards, and responding to drinking water emergency conditions from storms, floods, and spills. We all appreciate the experience and knowledge he has passed on to his colleagues, his steady hand when the pressure was on, his “can-do” attitude, and his ability to organize and carry out big projects. We wish him well in his future endeavors!

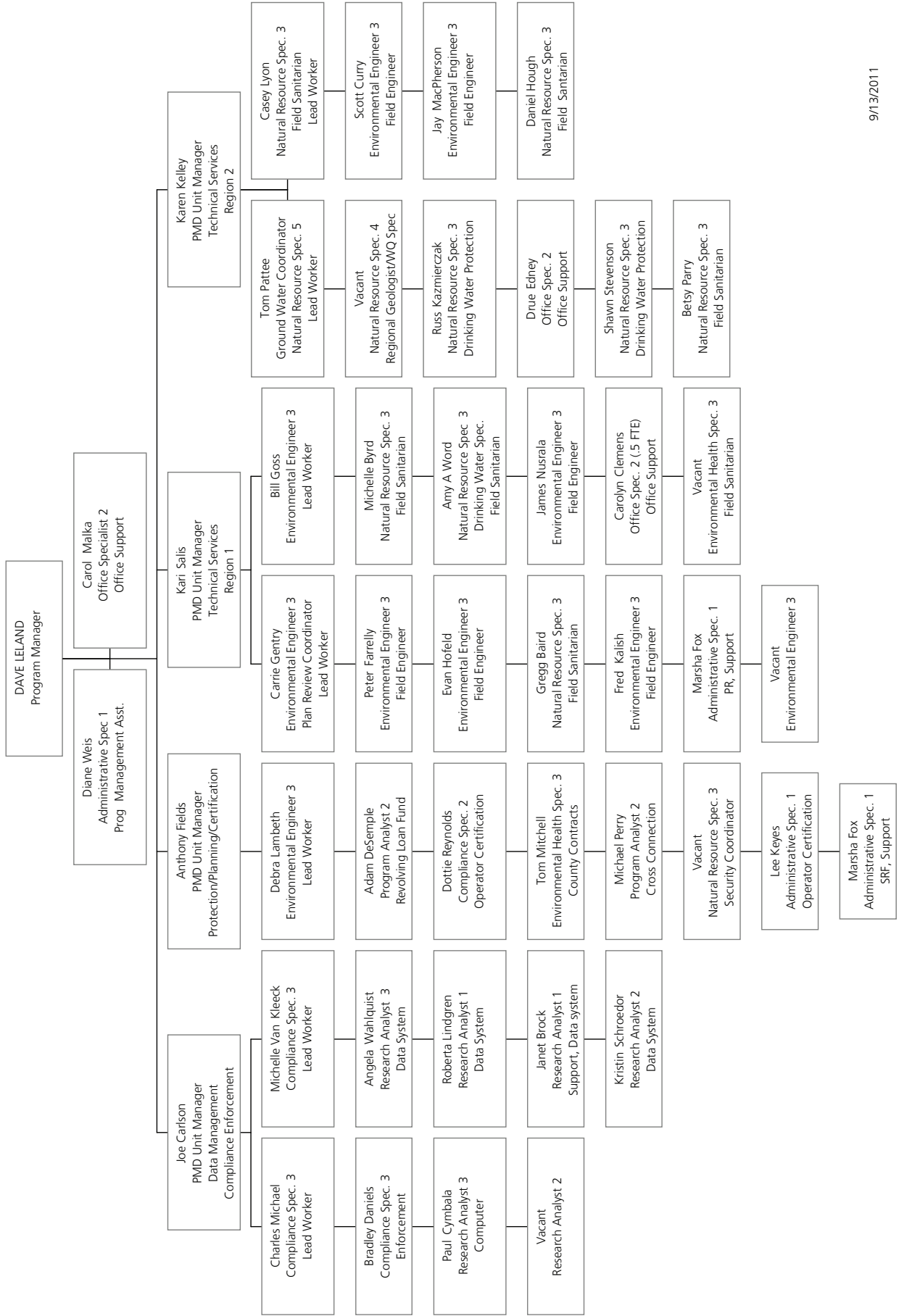
Amy Parmenter left state service on Aug. 16, 2011, to pursue a Master of Science in the geosciences at the University of Rhode Island. Originally from Rhode Island, Amy is looking forward to being close to family again while she continues her professional development in geology. Amy began working for the Drinking Water Program as a hydrogeology intern in 2002. She has worked as a registered professional geologist both in drinking water protection and regulatory program areas. Amy has made countless contributions to the Drinking Water Program and will be sorely missed. We wish her the best in her future endeavors! For any questions concerning Amy's departure or re-assignment of her work, please call the Springfield office at 541-726-2587 and ask for the person on phone duty.

Congratulations to **Betsy Parry** who successfully passed the sanitarian's registration exam and is now a fully registered environmental health specialist. This is a great achievement for Betsy who worked very hard to accomplish this goal.

Kari Salis joined the management team in June to lead the Technical Services Unit – Region 1. Kari has been with the program since 1995, working in the Technical Services Unit at the staff level and as a lead worker. She is a registered professional engineer.

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DRINKING WATER PROGRAM



9/13/2011

Dr. Irene Ronning retired June 1, 2011, as administrator of the Oregon Environmental Laboratory Accreditation program (ORELAP). Twenty-one years ago she joined the Public Health Department Oregon State Public Health Laboratory and was assigned responsibility for inspecting laboratories testing drinking water for compliance with EPA and Oregon primacy. In 1999 she helped develop ORELAP and obtained national recognition for the program through the National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (NELAP) as an accrediting body.

Gary Ward has replaced Irene as ORELAP administrator. Gary previously served as laboratory director at Accutest Laboratories, Denver, Colo. His extensive government and private industry experience includes serving as vice president,

chief quality officer, ethics officer, and IT director at Columbia Analytical Services; director of three NOAA laboratories; and as chairman of the Interagency Committee for Water-Data Acquisition. While working at EPA headquarters, he served as deputy branch chief of the Analytical Support Branch of the Superfund program and national program manager of the Contract Laboratory Program (CLP). In England, Gary worked at Intertek Testing, London, where he was director of Laboratory Standards for 240 laboratories worldwide.

He has produced more than 130 technical publications and presentations. For many years he participated in NELAP and TNI, and was TNI's representative on the U.S. delegation to assist China's national EPA in preparation for the Olympics.



MEETING CALENDAR

Drinking Water Advisory Committee

Oregon Health Authority
Diane Weis / 971-673-0427

Nov. 2, 2011

All meetings are held at the Public Utility Commission Office, 550 Capitol St., N.E., Salem, Oregon, 97310

Cross Connection Advisory Board

Go to: <http://public.health.oregon.gov/HealthyEnvironments/DrinkingWater/CrossConnection/Pages/advisoryboard.aspx>

Oregon Environmental Services Advisory Council

Go to: www.oesac.org/meeting_schedule.aspx

TRAINING CALENDAR

CEUs for Water System Operators

Check www.oesac.com for new offerings approved for drinking water

OAWU

503-837-1212

Oct. 10	Developing Your O&M Manual
Oct. 18	Water Meters by Badger
Oct. 20	Water Meters by Badger
Oct. 31	Developing Your O&M Manual
Nov. 1-3	Small System Operator's Conference
Nov. 16	Control Valves by GC Systems
Dec. 6-8	13th Annual End of Year Operator's Conference
Dec. 13	Safe Drinking Water Act Update

Oregon APWA Training Program

541-994-3201

Oct. 18-21	Oregon Chapter Fall Conference
Nov. 15-18	Public Works Leadership
Dec. 6-9	Public Works Essentials

Backflow Management Inc.

503-255-1619

Oct. 11	Basic to Advanced Math for Water Operators
Oct. 11	Oregon Administrative Rules Review
Oct. 12-13	Water Distribution Exam Review
Oct. 14	Confined Space Entry Safety

Cross Connection/Backflow Courses

Backflow Management Inc. (B)
503-255-1619

Clackamas Community College (C)
503-594-3345

Backflow Assembly Tester Course

Nov. 14-19	Portland (B)
Dec. 5-9	Oregon City (C)

Backflow Assembly Tester Recertification

Oct. 7	Oregon City (C)
Nov. 3-4	Portland (B)
Nov. 4	Oregon City (C)
Nov. 8-9	Portland (B)

Cross Connection Inspector Course

Oct. 24-27	Portland (B)
Oct. 31-Nov. 3	Oregon City (C)

Cross Connection Inspector Recertification

Oct. 28	Oregon City (C)
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Small Water System Training Course

503-837-1212

Oct. 11	Baker City
Oct. 18	Salem
Oct. 27	Tillamook
November *	St. Helens
November *	Hillsboro

* Dates to be determined