



**Drinking Water Advisory Committee**  
Draft Meeting Minutes  
July 19, 2017  
Keizer

Members Present

**Jason Canady**, League of Oregon Cities  
**Jenifer George**, Oregon Environmental Health Association  
**Lori Grant**, Environmental Advocacy Groups  
**Jason Green**, Oregon Association of Water Utilities  
**Bruce Hellebuyck**, Privately Owned Water Systems  
**Annette Pampush**, Conference of Local Health Officials  
**Brian Rigwood**, Pacific NW Section, American Water Works Association  
**Chris Wanner**, Large Water Systems

Members Absent

**DJ Ezell**, Special Districts Association of Oregon  
**Ray Johnson**, Plumbers/Backflow Testers  
**Beth Myers**, Oregon Environmental Lab Association  
**David Phelps**, League of Women Voters of Oregon

Guests

**David Barnett**, Infrastructure Finance Authority  
**Michelle Bilberry**, Infrastructure Finance Authority  
**Janna Graham**, Infrastructure Finance Authority  
**Dennis Knight**, Infrastructure Finance Authority

Staff

Brad Daniels            Tony Fields  
Adam DeSemple        Diane Weis  
David Emme

**Welcome/Roster Update:**

Brian Rigwood welcomed the group and led introductions.

There were no changes to the agenda.

**May Meeting Minutes:**

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

**Member Update:**

No one had any updates.

**Program Update:**

Legislature/Budget:

- The only bill in the legislature that affected Drinking Water Services was SB 1062 - Healthy Schools. This bill provides for environmental testing, including lead. It will require adoption of “mandatory guidance” in regulation.
- There is a drinking water bill in Congress to enhance infrastructure financing.
- OMMP fund will be replaced with General Fund, though the allocation internally is pending.
- House Appropriations Subcommittee passed a federal budget for FY 18 with a 6% EPA cut.
- Drinking Water Services staffing has been reduced through attrition due to budget constraints.
- There are travel restrictions still in place to reduce OHA expenditures.
- Approximately \$750,000 of unused SRF program management set-aside has been requested in the FY17 grant to support minimum staffing needs. This reduces the amount of capitalization grant funds available for loans, however a significant amount of reloan money is available, as existing loan recipients continue to make payments into the fund.

Flint:

- The drinking water crisis in Flint Michigan from a couple years ago continue to cast a shadow over drinking water programs nationwide. Due to the city’s financial crisis, their water source was switched from Detroit’s water system and Lake Huron to using the Flint River. The water source was corrosive and liberated lead from pipes and plumbing resulting in higher blood lead levels in children. There were also two large outbreaks of Legionnaires disease during use of the Flint River, though it is uncertain if corrosion was the cause.

- Different levels of government knew about the problem but did not do anything about it and many bad decisions were made. Recently some criminal charges were filed against 15 public officials. The challenge is to avoid common cognitive biases that can lead to poor decisions and maintain our focus on protecting public health.

#### DWS Update:

- Staffing has been reduced by a third since 2009.
- There are 3,405 public water systems; one-quarter of these are state-regulated serving 0.4% of the population. Drinking Water Services does not have the capacity to regulate these systems. No surveys are conducted, the Program only responds to complaints about them.
- The Program is still focused on lead, the Portland LT2 Variance Revocation, small system compliance issues, and program optimization including electronic reporting, working better with counties, and long-term planning that considers revisiting fees, and potential repeal of the non-EPA system threshold.

#### **Revolving Fund Update:**

City of Jefferson – They are requesting \$6 million from the loan fund for a new water treatment plant. Their current plant is 30 years old and is reaching its capacity.

Improvements outlined in the Master Plan are for a new treatment plant, new raw water pump station, new filtration system, a disinfection system and a new finish water pump station.

There was a question as to its sustainability but that has been factored in the Master Plan.

Annette Pampush made motion to provide the requested loan amount to the city, Chris Wanner seconded. It was voted on and approved.

FFY2017 DWSRF-Grant Application – The application is being resubmitted for over \$11 million. There will be additional Administrative and State Program Management expense set-aside funds available.

End of 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Combined Infrastructure PPL – This has been a slow quarter with only one new project bringing the total to 64. Some older projects will be removed from the list.

Drinking Water Source Protection Grants – Twelve Letters of Interest were submitted, and seven are being recommended for funding.

SRF Marketing – The brochure is being finalized then will be mailed. Additional marketing strategies will be looked at, such as emailing.

Water/Wastewater Finance Workshops – There will be a workshop July 20 in Silverton.

30 + 20 SRF Anniversary Celebration – There will be an event in Indianapolis in the fall to celebrate 30 years of the SRF Program. It is 20 years for Oregon.

DWNIMS – This is a Federal database for recording funding.

Janna Graham from Infrastructure Finance Authority reviewed their quarterly report listing the projects committed and what funding is available. In 2013 the program started receiving repayments so that money can now be loaned out.

### **Rule Update:**

The timetable for the filing of the rules was reviewed. Some important dates: comments from the committee are due by July 24; the public hearing is September 21 at 2:00pm at the Portland State Office Building; the rules will be finalized by November 16.

The presentation of proposed rule changes included:

- The definition for “disinfection” may be changed.
- Housekeeping was reviewed.
- Repeat and Special Coliform Tests was discussed. This will be a topic at a future advisory committee meeting.
- Seismic risk assessment would increase the cost of master plan development by 15%-20%.

The committee asked that the suggested corrections/changes/clarifications be made then send another copy of the draft rules for the committee to review.

### **Future Meeting Topics:**

Routine vs. Special Samples and New Coliform Rule

Ozone

Seismic Guidelines

Results from LCR compliance reviews of Large Systems

### **2017 Meeting Schedule:**

October 18, 2017 – Keizer (Routine vs. Special Samples and New Coliform Rule)