



## **Drinking Water Advisory Committee**

Meeting Minutes

August 14, 2018

Keizer

### Members Present

**Dwayne Barnes**, League of Oregon Cities

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

**Jenifer George**, Oregon Environmental Health Association

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

**Lori Grant**, Environmental Advocacy Groups

**Jason Green**, Oregon Association of Water Utilities

**Bruce Hellebuyck**, Privately Owned Water Systems

**Bety Myers**, Oregon Environmental Lab Association

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

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

**Kim 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

**Ray Johnson**, Plumbers/Backflow Testers

### Guests

**David Barnett**, Infrastructure Finance Authority

**Jessica Dorsey**, City of Hillsboro

**Jon Unger**, Infrastructure Finance Authority

### Staff

Adam DeSemple

David Emme

Tony Fields

Diane Weis

**To Do:**

- Send Operator Certification Survey Results PowerPoint to committee: Tony Fields

**Welcome:**

DJ Ezell welcomed the group and led introductions.

**May Meeting Minutes:**

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

**Member Update:**

Dwayne Barnes reported the cyanotoxin levels in the City of Salem water is down.

**Program Update:**

Dave Emme summarized Salem Cyanotoxin Incident –

- There were 33 days of Do Not Drink
- 5 days exceeded safe levels Health Advisory thresholds
- Emergency response included state and county staff
- Other water systems, city, county, and National Guard helped with situation
- City engineers installed pre-treatment
- New OHA rules were developed
- Incident impacted hospitals, health care facilities, schools, and restaurants
- Negative impacts were an abundance of plastic waste, people using unclean containers, and public skepticism of tap water
- Positive outcomes were improved treatment, improved public information, improved awareness of the value of drinking water, new cyanotoxin rules
- Lessons learned were public notification early, share information quicker, work with incident command structure, importance of emergency preparedness

Dave Emme summarized DWS Fee Proposal –

The goals are to restore program capacity, adequately fund county and Department of Agriculture partners, regulate non-EPA systems, and improve stability of program revenue.

There is a Legislative Concept to replace the survey fee with an annual regulatory fee with a tiered fee structure.

There is also a Policy Option Package to add five positions and increase county support. The E-board in mid-September will be asked to prefund the Policy Option Package and add an emerging contaminants coordinator position effective October 1.

Members were asked to give their input on whether they and their organization support the fee proposal, are neutral or opposed:

DJ Ezell, Special Districts Association of Oregon (SDAO) – She and her district support fee proposal. For other SDAO water districts she has not heard any objections to the fees with the exception of Tualatin Valley Water District which felt that there should be an additional classification with lower fees for systems that only do chemical addition and do not have treatment facilities.

Bruce Hellebuyck, Privately Owned Water Systems – They support additional funding. Some systems support trying for General Fund first, if that fails, try for regulatory fee structure and some systems support trying for the regulatory fee structure first.

Brian Ginter, American Council of Engineering Companies – Supports.

Dwayne Barnes, League of Oregon Cities – Generally supportive of the program. He wants to know what service they would receive by paying higher fees.

Annette Pampush, Conference of Local Health Officials – Supports. Says Drinking Water Services needs more staff but county's need more money too.

Beth Myers, Oregon Environmental Lab Association – Supports. Counties are helping systems but also asks state for help. Labs see the large volume of data processed by the State program.

Chris Wanner, Large Water Systems – Supports using either General Fund or modified tiered fee schedule.

Brian Rigwood, Pacific Northwest Section, American Water Works Association (PNWS/AWWA) – PNWS/AWWA supports the program but does not see the State adequately supporting the program with General Funds. They want to see long lasting General Fund support. They do not support the fee structure.

Jenifer George, Oregon Environmental Health Association – Personally opposed to the fee restructure.

Jason Green, Oregon Association of Water Utilities – The Association supports the program and the needs, although they want to see it funded by General Fund. If that is not possible, try for the fee restructure.

Lori Grant, Environmental Advocacy Groups – Supports program. Does not believe General Fund will work because it would need to be constantly sought after. Supports fee restructure for stable program.

Amelia Nestler, League of Women Voters of Oregon – Supports program. Cannot comment on General Fund vs. fee structure, hadn't reviewed with the group.

**Revolving Fund Update:**

- John Unger shared account balance information which does not include source water protection funds.
- Projects have slowed down; they have received only one Letter of Interest.
- City of Ashland may ask for more money.
- New handbook for applicants is being created.

End of 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2018 Combined Infrastructure Project Priority List – This was a slow quarter with only one new project added to the list which now totals 39 projects. \$175,000 has been requested for the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter.

End of 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2018 Sustainable Infrastructure Planning Projects (SIPP) PPL – The base SIPP is available for eligible projects and now there is seismic funding available up to \$20,000 for eligible systems submitting master plans.

2018 DWSRF Capitalization Grant Application Status – The application was submitted July 27 and the award is expected to be received by the end of September.

2018 National Information Management System – Data will be available soon to submit annual report.

**Operator Certification Program and Regulatory Revisions:**

Our new certification database is now live. We are working through bugs, but the new software has already increased the pace and efficiency of our processing.

We have also completed our review of the feedback from the satisfaction survey, and have implemented the following changes:

- Removing the restriction on related experience for level 1 certificates
- Accepting the due diligence of other Primacy agencies for reciprocity applications

The following pending changes require a rule change:

- Implementing an “Operator-in-Training” program
- Removing the requirement for original documents for affidavits
- Pro-rating initial certification fees

Future changes will include:

- Revising the application documents into a single form
- Adding small water systems to the new database
- Electronic records management

- On-line data entry portal for operators to enter and manage their own records
- Permanent administrative support for Certification

**2018 Meeting Schedule:**

October 17, 2018 – Keizer