



PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION  
Center for Health Protection, Drinking Water Services

Kate Brown, Governor

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**Health**  
Authority

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## **Drinking Water Advisory Committee**

Meeting Minutes

April 15, 2020

Conference Call

### Members Present

**Dwayne Barnes**, League of Oregon Cities

**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

**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

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

**Ray Johnson**, Plumbers/Backflow Testers

**Karen Lewotsky**, Environmental Advocacy Groups

### Guests

**Brian Barnett**, City of Beaverton

**Becky Bryant**, Business Oregon

**Susan Cole**, City of Beaverton

**Rob Davis**, City of Hillsboro

**Jon Unger**, Business Oregon

**Bob Willis**, Consultant

**Dave Winship**, City of Beaverton

## Staff

Adam DeSemple      Kari Salis  
David Emme          Diane Weis

### **Welcome/Agenda Check:**

Brian Rigwood welcomed the group.

### **January Meeting Minutes:**

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

### **Member Update:**

Kim Ramsay called other labs to find out how their businesses were doing during the COVID-19 outbreak. Only one lab reported being short-staffed. Most labs are busy.

Kim also reported the new ORELAP administrator mandated that if a lab is shut down and their performance testing was not completed, when they reopen they will be required to do their performance testing before they can start testing again. Dave Emme will check into this. Chris Wanner suggested the possibility of virtual performance testing assessments.

Dwayne Barnes asked if the labs are ready for the annual cyanotoxin testing; and yes, they are.

Dave Emme reported that most systems are suspending shut offs from nonpayment of bills. This may become mandatory. He also reported that water system surveys are being suspended.

Someone had asked if the program would waive Operator Certification requirements. Dave Emme reported that the audit deadline was being extended.

### **Revolving Fund Update:**

City of Beaverton Project – The City has submitted a request for \$10M for a North Transmission Intertie Project to the committee for review and approval. The request is for funding using State Revolving Funds. Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) and other state funding agencies would also fund portions of the project.

The project is an aquifer storage and a seismically built transmission line. This would allow the city to serve a larger area, will be reliable after an earthquake and could also serve as a backup line. It would reach to City of Hillsboro so the two cities can support each other during an emergency.

The loan pay back would come from rate increases. The city has approximately \$17M in reserves, which has not been dipped into.

Chris Wanner made motion to move forward and approve the \$10M for City of Beaverton to construct this project, Bruce Hellebuyck seconded, it was voted on and unanimously approved. Note: Brian Rigwood abstained from the vote.

**Program Update:**

Budget – Budget and EPA grants are stable.

PFAS – The Source Water Protection Workplan is in draft phase. PFAS locations can be identified using GIS. The Primacy grant has been allocated \$117,000 to be used for labs sampling emerging contaminants.

Covid-19 –

The Drinking Water Program staff are working from home and are accessible by phone and email. Drinking water is considered an essential service so it is work as usual with enforcement and sampling requirements. Due to restrictions some sampling sites may change. There has not been mention of any systems having problems due to staffing shortage although shipment of some chemical supplies may be delayed.

When the economy opens, buildings that have been vacant will need to be recommissioned due to stagnant water and possible contamination in the water lines. It is recommended to flush the mains and disinfect the stagnant areas.

COVID-19 DWAC Member Issues –

Ed Butts – His daughter is a health care nurse. She is concerned about her health, but her test results have come up negative so far.

Bruce Hellebuyck – He is working from home. He has been helping small utilities by answering any questions they may have.

Chris Wanner – He is working on a plan for staff going out to do work and how future surveys will take place. ORWARN membership is going up!

Dwayne Barnes – Work is normal but maintaining social distancing. Staff that can are working from home. They are maintaining operational needs.

Brian Rigwood – City offices were shut down for a short time. It is now open to staff but closed to the public. Some staff are working 24-hour shifts.

**2020 Meeting Schedule:**

July 15, 2020 – Keizer (Direct Lab Reporting, Survey Fee, Department of Forestry)

October 21, 2020 – Keizer