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## **Drinking Water Advisory Committee**

Meeting Minutes

January 20, 2021

Conference Call

### Members Present

**Dwayne Barnes**, League of Oregon Cities

**Ed Butts**, Oregon Association of Water Utilities

**Greg DeBlase**, Oregon Environmental Health Association

**Michael Grimm**, Special Districts Association of Oregon

**Bruce Hellebuyck**, Privately Owned Water Systems

**Beth Myers**, Oregon Environmental Lab Association

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

**Brian Rigwood**, Pacific NW Section, American Water Works Association

**Zach Roberts**, Conference of Local Health Officials

**Chris Wanner**, Large Water Systems

### Members Absent

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

**Ray Johnson**, Plumbers/Backflow Testers

**Karen Lewotsky**, Environmental Advocacy Groups

### Guests

**Yone Akagi**, City of Portland

**David Barnett**, Business Oregon

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

**Kim Ramsay**, Oregon Environmental Lab Association

**Jon Unger**, Business Oregon

### Staff

Adam DeSemple      Samina Panwhar

David Emme          Kari Salis

Tony Fields          Diane Weis

**Welcome/Agenda Check:**

Brian Rigwood welcomed the group.

There were no changes to the agenda.

All member nominations are up to date, but there needs to be follow up on the Plumbers & Backflow Testers group.

**October Meeting Minutes:**

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

**Member Update:**

No one had any updates or concerns.

**Program Update:**

Dave Emme reminded everyone to sign up for GovDelivery emails. That can be done on the Drinking Water Program home web page using the “Sign up for DWS Alerts” button. Anything pertaining to the program will automatically be emailed to them.

**Covid-19 –**

Oregon counties have been assigned a risk category depending on their number of cases. Staff are not doing surveys in counties that are in the Extreme Risk category. Vaccines have begun rolling out.

**Wildfire Recovery –**

- \* Multiple agencies have been involved in the recovery.
- \* Erosion threat assessments have been completed.
- \* Debris removal is in progress.
- \* VOC sampling is being done due to benzene in materials that were burned.
- \* No significant impacts have been reported on runoff from burn areas yet.

**Program Performance –**

- \* Oregon does not have any systems with persistent health-based violations.
- \* Completing 2021 surveys along with catching up on past due 2020 surveys may be difficult.
- \* Buildings that have been closed for a while due to Covid-19 continue to represent a risk due to stagnation of water. Guidance for flushing is available.

**Rulemakings –**

Operator Certification – The rules were changed to meet federal guidelines.

Upcoming rule changes – 1) Separate rules for non-EPA and State Regulated systems, 2) update Emergency Response Plan, 3) align disinfection after repairs with AWWA standards, 4) Plan Review fees for small systems.

Lead and Copper Rule (LCR) Revisions – Compliance is due January 16, 2024, but an inventory of lead service lines and replacement of these lines is due by that date and can begin immediately. The goal is to protect children and remove lead from drinking water. The Program will adopt the rules and submit to EPA within two years and will receive guidance from EPA on implementation of the rule.

Drinking Water Services does not have any Agency Bills in this Legislative session, although some other programs or agencies have bills that affect the Program.

**Revolving Fund Update:**

Bruce Hellebuyck asked if State Revolving Funds can be used for Covid-19 related issues and personal protective equipment. Funds are restricted, but a water system can contact Business Oregon to determine financial assistance.

There are plenty of funds available, almost \$10M currently.

Business Oregon is looking for ways to help with wildfire funding.

2021 Capitalization Grant award should be close to the 2020 award amount.

There could be stimulus funds.

2019 Reallotment – Federal and State match of approximately \$158,400 will go to the loan funds for projects.

Combined Project Priority List received 10 new projects now totaling 42, bringing the total amount to over \$85M.

Sustainable Infrastructure Planning Projects (SIPP) received three new projects.

Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Act was awarded to Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs. Some future awards will also go to Tribes.

DWSRF Annual Report was submitted in November. Draft PER is in process.

Small System Equipment Assistance (SSEA) program is still on track to launch early 2021.

Wildfire Assistance – There are resources on the Drinking Water Program website.

**Loss of Pressure BMP:**

Dwayne Barnes wants to create a workgroup to update the existing BMP; this would be a guideline, not a rule. The workgroup consists of Kari Salis, Dwayne Barnes, Yone Akagi, Brian Rigwood, Mike Grimm, and Jason Green, who will lead the group. They will report back to the committee at the next meeting.

**2021 Meeting Schedule:**

April 21, 2021 – Conference Call/Virtual Meeting (loss of pressure BMP)

July 21, 2021

October 20, 2021