



Drinking Water Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
April 20, 2016
Keizer

Members Present

Ed Butts, Oregon Association of Water Utilities
DJ Ezell, Special Districts Association of Oregon
Celeste Hari, Privately Owned Water Systems
Beth Myers, Oregon Environmental Lab Association
David Phelps, League of Women Voters of Oregon
Brian Rigwood, Pacific NW Section, American Water Works Association
Brian Stahl, League of Oregon Cities

Members Absent

Jenifer George, Oregon Environmental Health Association
Ray Johnson, Plumbers/Backflow Testers
Samantha Murray, Environmental Advocacy Groups
Annette Pampush, Conference of Local Health Officials
Jason Pulley, Large Water Systems

Guests

Mary Baker, Infrastructure Finance Authority
Jeff Ballad, RH2 Engineering
David Barnett, Infrastructure Finance Authority
Mike Collier, Oregon Association of Water Utilities
Kari Duncan, Lake Oswego-Tigard WTP
Emma Faught, Student
Mike Faught, City of Ashland
Scott Fleury, City of Ashland
Janna Graham, Infrastructure Finance Authority
Jude Grounds, Carollo
Peter Kreft, MWH

Jeremy McVeety, Infrastructure Finance Authority
Eric Mende, City of Wilsonville
Chuck Scholz, City of Harrisburg
Chris Wanner, Portland Water Bureau

Staff

Adam DeSemple Kari Salis
Tony Fields Diane Weis
Dave Leland

To Do:

- Discuss Operator Certification and CEU concerns: Subcommittee
- Review final report from Ozone Workgroup and make rule revision recommendation: Subcommittee

Welcome/Roster Update:

DJ Ezell welcomed the group and led introductions.
The roster was circulated for any necessary corrections.

January Meeting Minutes:

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

Member Update:

Beth Myers had concern about the marijuana program using the public lab for testing. She is concerned the water fees will subsidize the marijuana fees.

DJ Ezell brought a concern from Robert Funk, owner of OCT Inc. He is proposing a change to the water and wastewater certification. Robert proposes changes to process to obtain certification and CEUs. Dave Leland suggested a subcommittee to review the proposal and recommend any action. This will be an agenda item for the next meeting.

Program Update:

Flint, MI Lead Crisis, Aftermath, Ramifications (See attached PowerPoint slides)

Dave Leland reviewed –

- Why lead is bad
- History and future of lead regulations
- Overview of Flint MI community
- Cause of the water crisis
- The fix of the crisis
- Media coverage, national and in Oregon

- Flint Task Force findings
- Recommendations for Oregon water suppliers

There was a lot of media coverage and concern as to whether it could happen elsewhere, including here in Oregon.

EPA took multiple steps to ensure this sort of problem will not happen again, one of which was asking all States to answer questions about their lead and copper rule implementation and their responses to recent lead action level exceedences at water systems. EPA wrote to all state drinking water primacy agency directors, including Lynne Saxton at OHA, calling for a response to specific actions to improve protection of public health from lead at the tap.

Congressional oversight hearings found governmental failure at all levels in the Flint MI crisis, but there were a few heroes in the story: 1) a concerned and persistent city resident, 2) an EPA Region V inspector, 3) an academic corrosion expert assisting the city, and 4) a local pediatrician who found increases in blood lead levels in city children.

Dave then reviewed what Oregon is doing to assure the public is protected from lead at the tap, including proper implementation of the lead and copper rule, assuring water systems know how to comply, and following up on any lead action level exceedences.

Budget –

Dave reviewed the revenue and expenditures of the program in the current 2015-17 biennium, and efforts to align expenditures and revenue in the face of increasing program costs and continuing flat federal funding levels. He noted that fees were raised substantially in the 2015 Legislature, and while helpful, fees remain the smallest part of total program funding. A limited amount of remaining federal funds from prior grant years are being used this biennium, and staff vacancies that occur are not being filled. As a result, program service levels must necessarily and noticeably decline, but we will focus our available efforts on highest priority essential program functions.

Revolving Fund Update:

SRF Quarterly Report –

The quarterly report was distributed and reviewed.

City of Ashland –

(See attached PowerPoint slides)

The City of Ashland is asking for \$14.5M loan fund to build a new water plant. Mike Faught, a representative of the City, described the project. The existing plant is in a flood zone and is threatened by landslides, wild fires, and earthquakes. It is also a disadvantaged community.

For Infrastructure Finance Authority (IFA), the loan would be positive because loan repayment rate is more than interest earned.

IFA has approved the loan, now project needs the Drinking Water Advisory Committee approval. The members present were in consensus for making the loan to the City, but there was not a quorum so the vote will be by email. [After the meeting, consensus was achieved by email approving the City of Ashland project].

FFY2016 DWSRF-Estimated Grant Appropriations –

The estimated amount is approximately \$12M. The application will be submitted in late spring.

SFY2015 DWSRF-Annual Review –

The EPA review was February 29 through March 2. The draft Program Evaluation Report was received and there were very few and minor findings. The draft response will be submitted late April.

Expanded Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Eligibility –

The final Letter of Interest (LOI) Rating Form for expanded funding eligibility was sent to advisory committee members before the meeting. The expanded eligibilities for funding will be advertised to water systems.

Sustainability Infrastructure Planning Program –

Systems had until April 15 to submit Letters of Interest. 20 systems have shown an interest.

Combined Infrastructure Project Priority List –

There are 41 projects on the 2016 list. Public comment period ends May 16.

Drinking Water Source Protection Applications –

The 2016 Letters of Interest are being collected with the deadline being May 6.

Ozone Workgroup Report:

The workgroup consists of water utilities, a subcommittee of Oregon Water Utility Council. The goal is to eliminate or waive requirement to achieve 0.5 log giardia inactivation post-filtration.

It was stated and agreed by all that a rule change would be based on science and any change must provide equivalent or improved public health protection. EPA's rules do not specify where treatment should occur. Extensive research was done on ozone and its benefits. As well as disinfection, ozone's other benefits to public health is reducing algal toxins and organic components.

The workgroup is preparing a report that has general background, case studies from other states, and efficacy of ozone.

A subcommittee consisting of Kari Salis, Brian Stahl, Brian Rigwood, and the DWS Plan Review Coordinators, will work together to respond to the Ozone Work Group final report and make a recommendation to DWAC regarding any proposed rule change.

This will be a topic at the next advisory committee meeting.

2016 Meeting Schedule:

July 20, 2016 – Keizer (Ozone, Operator Certification CEUs)

October 19, 2016 – Keizer