



**Drinking Water Advisory Committee**  
Draft Meeting Minutes  
May 16, 2018  
Keizer

Members Present

**Dwayne Barnes**, League of Oregon Cities  
**Ed Butts**, Oregon Association of Water Utilities  
**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  
**Ray Johnson**, Plumbers/Backflow Testers  
**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

**David Phelps**, League of Women Voters of Oregon

Guests

**David Barnett**, Infrastructure Finance Authority  
**Jessica Dorsey**, City of Hillsboro  
**Julie Harvey**, Department of Environmental Quality  
**Rich Rodriguez**, Infrastructure Finance Authority  
**Jon Unger**, Infrastructure Finance Authority

Staff

Adam DeSemple  
David Emme  
Tony Fields  
Casey Lyon

Tom Pattee  
Kari Salis  
Diane Weis

**To Do:**

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

**Welcome:**

DJ Ezell welcomed the group and led introductions.

**January Meeting Minutes:**

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

**Member Update:**

Dwayne Barnes asked how Drinking Water Services distributes information, specifically rule change information. Kim Ramsay expressed the same concern. Dave Emme said information is shared by stakeholder groups, at meetings, and with rule changes' comment periods and hearings. Dwayne wants to know when rules are finalized.

Chris Wanner wants to talk about the Early Learning Division lead in water testing. This will be included in another topic later in the meeting.

Ray Johnson is one of nine members of the Cross Connection Advisory Board. Anyone is welcome to attend. A current topic is possibly changing the rule that says testers cannot repair devices.

**Program Update:**

Primacy and SRF Grants have had a slight national increase so each state will receive a small increase in their allocation. Additional EPA grants were given for lead testing.

The program has been able to fill a couple of vacancies although temps are being used for data entry. The staffing level is still low.

The federal government is aiming to deregulate and cut government spending. Their focus is on lead, infrastructure investment, and improving compliance.

The emerging rules are lead and copper revisions, and unregulated contaminants.

Upcoming Issues –

- Increase compliance with health based standards.
- Evaluate surface water filtration systems.
- Integrate Source Water Protection into the drinking water systems.
- Certified operators need to plan for retirements.

To increase resources, Dave is submitting a legislative concept to revise or replace survey fees. This could add five positions, increase county partnership, and regulate non-EPA systems. He has created a stakeholders group to talk about options and will bring back more information to the committee at the next meeting.

### **Revolving Fund Update:**

John Unger shared account balance information which shows outstanding repayments is low. EPA wants more money going back out to systems for projects. The current Project Priority List is not included in the balance.

The city of Hines water system is crumbling. It is a health and compliance issue so Oregon Health Authority approves the \$7,229,000 funding. After some questions and discussions, Chris Wanner made motion to approve funding, Dwayne Barnes seconded. It was voted on and approved.

End of 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2018 Sustainable Infrastructure Planning Projects (SIPP) PPL – Up to \$20,000 is available for eligible systems to include the new seismic requirement in their master plan reviews.

2018 DWSRF Capitalization Grant Application Status – Appropriation from Infrastructure Needs Survey not final yet.

### **Operator Certification Survey Results:**

A survey was conducted to determine people's satisfaction with Drinking Water Services' Operator Certification Program. The survey was sent to approximately 1,800 water systems and operators via email, and the link to the survey was also posted on both the DWS main website and the Operator Certification website. We received 333 responses to the survey, which included answers to the specific questions we asked, and also included comments by the respondents around those questions they had additional feedback they wanted to share with us.

Overall, people were generally satisfied with the work we do, but there are areas we need to improve, including responsive times for questions and processing

applications, and internal consistency when making rule interpretations. Other feedback we received includes concerns relating to the amount of experience required to qualify for a certification exam, as well as the overwhelming desire to have the Operator in Training (OIT) designation be reinstated.

Some improvements the program is implementing are a new database, combining the Backflow and Operator Certification Programs, review workload, and consider rule changes.

### **Source Water Protection:**

The Source Water Protection Program resulted from the 1986 and 1996 Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments. The 1996 Amendments required states to provide Source Water Assessments that can be used to implement drinking water protection strategies. Assessments identify drinking water source area(s), inventory potential contaminant sources within the source area(s), and evaluate water system susceptibility to contamination. An individualized report is sent to the water system and the community can then determine strategies for protecting their source area(s). Assessment reports were originally compiled and released between 1998 and 2005. This effort was successful in raising awareness among water systems and it also provided Drinking Water Services (DWS), Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), other state agencies, and local government with critical data that could be used to promote source water protection, prioritize workloads, and make informed land use planning decisions. DWS has recently completed fieldwork that obtained accurate drinking water source locations and identified preliminary source water delineations for wells that are new since the original Assessment reports were released. DWS is currently working on Source Water Assessment Updates for groundwater systems, GIS layer improvements, and maintaining the Drinking Water Source Protection Grant fund.

DEQ works with DWS on Source Water Protection. Source water protection is implemented under the Clean Water Act where drinking water is considered an important beneficial use. Source water protection is voluntary however, reasons for continuing Drinking Water Source Protection efforts include, intensified storms and droughts as a result of climate change, new chemicals and chemicals of emerging concern, and public health. Source protection can be achieved through Federal, State, and Local Government efforts and/or the efforts of individuals. DEQ is currently updating Source Water Assessments for surface water systems, working on GIS layer improvements, implementing grant-funded contamination reduction projects, and gathering more data. Most coastal surface water systems have received an updated Source Water Assessment Report which are available on DEQ's website. The DEQ website also has Drinking Water Source Protection Resource Guides available, an interactive Map Viewer, and GIS Layers that are

available for download. The resource guides highlight risks, partners and resources, technical information, land uses and activities, funds, and resources. Loans and grants for Drinking Water Source Protection work are available through the Drinking Water Providers Partnership (about \$650,000 per year) and through the DWS Drinking Water Source Protection Grant fund (\$200,000 per year).

**Tech Services Update:**

Ozone – DWS has received the first request for a waiver to allow inactivation credit to be granted for pre-filtration ozonation. The workgroup is doing a survey through ASDWA to see what other states are doing before responding.

Lead – Daycares are regulated through Early Learning Division. Rules to test for lead were adopted and include testing every 6 years. Coordination with DWS has been minimal. Rules for testing lead in schools are still in progress, and a stakeholder group is discussing details.

Master Plan Seismic Testing – Some systems have been including the information in their master plan, and if not, they have 60 days to submit a scope of work and schedule to complete the work.

**2018 Meeting Schedule:**

July 18, 2018 – Keizer

October 17, 2018 – Keizer