

DRAFT
Drinking Water Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
July 16, 2025
In-Person and Virtual Meeting (Teams)

Members and Alternate Members Present

Ashley Davis, Conference of Local Health Officials
Caroline Gross-Regan, Oregon Environmental Health Association
Cheyenne Holliday, Water Consumers
Chris MacQuarrie, Plumbers/Backflow Testers
Craig Harper, Watershed Councils
Craig Sheahan, American Council of Engineering Companies of Oregon
Jessica Dorsey, Pacific NW Section, American Water Works Association
Karen Lewotsky, Environmental Advocacy Groups
Kim Ramsay, Oregon Environmental Laboratory Association
Lacey Goeres-Priest, Vice Chair, League of Oregon Cities
Matt Johnson, Oregon Association of Water Utilities
Mike Masters, Large Water Systems
Michael Grimm, Special Districts Association of Oregon
Sandra Bishop, League of Women Voters of Oregon

Members Absent

Adam Jackson, Privately Owned Water Systems
Beth Myers, Oregon Environmental Lab Association
Jason Green, Chair, Oregon Association of Water Utilities

Guests

Gene Hubbard, substituting for Adam Jackson (Privately Owned Water Systems)
Alyssa MacDonald, City of Hillsboro
Yone Akagi, Portland Water Bureau

DWS Staff

Samina Panwar, Adam DeSemples, Brad Daniels, Casey Lyon, Kari Salis, Michelle Byrd, Tony Fields, Paula Rich

Welcome/roll call

Lacey Goeres-Priest welcomed attendees and took roll call.

Agenda check

Backflow protection requirements for wholesale water customers removed from agenda.

April meeting minutes and action items review

Mike motioned to approve the April minutes and Jessica seconded. A vote was taken and minutes were unanimously approved.

Action items review (Lacey Goeres-Priest)

Items from April were completed.

Member update/public input

New members introduced themselves:

- Mike Masters, large water systems
- Caroline Gross-Regan, Oregon Environmental Health Association
- Craig Harper, Watershed Councils

Craig Sheahan noted that the ASCE infrastructure report card for drinking water is available here: <https://infrastructurereportcard.org/cat-item/drinking-water-infrastructure/>

Elections for DWAC officers

Mike Grimm motioned to nominate Jason Green as Chair and Lacey Goeres-Priest as Vice Chair. Craig Sheahan seconded the nomination. Lacey called for other nominations; there were none. A vote was taken and Jason and Lacey will continue as Chair and Vice Chair.

Program update and discussion (Samina Panwhar)

- Samina reviewed the DWS organizational chart, current staffing and recruitment, public water system types and numbers across state
- Contracts and agreements for system oversight
- Priority noncompliers longer than six months: EPA and OVS systems. No federal funding currently available to help OVS noncompliers.

- DWS funded primarily (60%) by federal annual grants and Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). Also general fund (20%) and fee revenues (20%).
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 - IIJA is temporary – 5 years.
 - Within DWS, each program area has its own specific funding source. General funds are sometimes used creatively, as needed.
 - Program is stable now, waiting for general funds that DWS will receive from OHA's GF allotment for next biennium.
- LCRR: Service line inventories update: 92.6% of systems have reported. No lead lines.
- Rulemaking: LCRI and PFAS rules still under review at federal level.
- USACE's deep drawdown: Green Peter and Lookout Point planned for fall 2025.
 - DWS requested changes to halt criteria a few weeks ago. USACE has scheduled meeting with agencies to discuss, then they will have review and approval process. Should be finished by fall, before the next drawdown operation.
- Question about funding for source water protection: federal funding. No state monies at this time.
- Request for bar chart showing how many consumers are affected by priority noncomplier systems. (**Action item**)

Rulemaking update (Brad Daniels)

- Brad discussed the nine proposed rule amendments to administrative rules, as listed in his PowerPoint presentation.
 - OAR 333-061-0043 – adds requirements in the federal Consumer Confidence Rule (CCR) rule revisions – proposed changes are extensive. Brad displayed an EPA Fact Sheet that covers these changes.
 - Discussion: Reports must be delivered to consumers by July 1 every year and include data from the previous calendar year. A copy of each report must be submitted to OHA within 10 days of delivery, including the delivery certification form.

For water systems serving 10,000 people or more only, a second report is due by December 31 and must include information about certain violations or situations that occurred between January 1 and June 30 of the current year. Currently, 69 systems serving 10,000 or more people will be

affected by this new requirement.

- Draft language has been sent to EPA. Notice of Proposed Rulemaking is expected to be filed with OR Secretary of State in late September. Public comment period will extend through October 31, 2025. Revisions will be made as necessary during November and December. Final rules will be effective on January 1, 2026.
- Discussion: Production of CCR can be burdensome, especially for smaller systems. Most consumers have no interest in it.
- Kari discussed changes to the list of water system survey deficiencies (OAR 333-061-0076) and displayed a significant deficiency list that itemized removals and additions. Criteria: Does the deficiency represent a pathway to contamination or the inability of the system to demonstrate adequate treatment or water quality? If so, the deficiency was added to 0076. If not, it was removed, but the rule was added to another section of the OAR and noncompliance will be called an “unmet rule requirement.”

Update on operator reciprocity process (Tony Fields)

- Results of satisfaction survey regarding the process to obtain an operator certification via reciprocity:
 - Six responses from participants of reciprocity process; none from supervisors.
 - Two specific recommendations from survey-takers:
 - DWs should award some credit for experience working with water that isn't specifically related to the certification they are applying for. However, OHA has been doing that for as long as they have had primacy over certification.
 - Feedback on employee who did not provide appropriate information on credit for experience. OHA does provide detailed information to applicants about the results of their application. The employee in question has retired. OHA has refocused on customer service and has received positive feedback on quality of new staff.
- Currently revising reciprocity application process. When sending a form to the regulatory agency asking for information about the applicant, the applicant is cc'ed on the email and invited to participate in the process.
- Plan to improve website with more information about reciprocity process.

- Considering the request to issue temporary licenses to water system operators applying for reciprocity. That will require express approval from EPA and then Oregon Department of Justice (DOJ).
- Also considering the request to remove the affidavit requirement. Because the use of affidavits was mandated by Oregon Department of Justice, OHA will need to obtain their approval to drop the use of affidavits, and OHA anticipates that if DOJ agrees, OHA will need to identify an alternative process to validate claims of experience. OHA will also have to obtain written approval from EPA prior to implementing any change that might be authorized by DOJ.
- Tony will provide a link to the reciprocity web page content, when ready, for DWAC review.

GIS maps/data, electronic communication (Michelle Byrd, Casey Lyon)

- [Online GIS maps: interactive resources for regulators, consumers, water suppliers](#)
 - Drinking water advisories map: provides info about open advisories
 - ORELAP accredited drinking water labs locations and contact info
 - Oregon public water systems (PWSs) locations
 - Oregon PWSs and wildfires: updated in real time
 - Map layers can be activated to show surface water intakes, source water protection areas, so, for example, the map can show location of wildfire in relation to a PWS source protection area.
- Other GIS mapping uses
 - Source water protection, spill response and PWS notification
 - DEQ also provides maps on the website.
 - [Source protection funding map](#): Types of projects and where they are underway in state.
- Service area boundary data: OHA plans to develop mapping. Information offers many benefits for emergency response, public health, and other uses.
 - EPA provides a national service area boundary dataset, but Oregon's boundary data is based on models so may contain some inaccuracies.

- Next steps: Improve accuracy of data, perhaps hire a GIS intern. Continue improving mapping resources, with emphasis on security (infrastructure locations are not identified).
- Electronic notification: Plan to move from paper to email for all sampling compliance notifications by 2026.

Action items

- Samina: For next presentation, create bar chart showing how many consumers are affected by priority noncomplier systems.
- Brad: Send rulemaking information to members. (Done, immediately after meeting)
- All members: Please send comments about the BMPs to Kari within a month.

Closing comments

None.

Meeting adjourned at about 1:30 p.m.

Next meeting

October 15, 10:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in Keizer and via Teams

To view video (link will expire 60 days from meeting date), go to:

[Recap: Drinking Water Advisory Committee Wednesday, July 16 | Meeting | Microsoft Teams](#)