Drinking Water Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
July 15, 2026
Virtual Meeting (Teams)

Members and Alternate Members

Sandra Bishop, League of Women Voters of Oregon
Ashley Davis, Conference of Local Health Officials
Jessica Dorsey, Pacific NW Section, American Water Works Association
Lacey Goeres-Priest, Vice Chair, League of Oregon Cities
Michael Grimm, Special Districts Association of Oregon
Caroline Gross-Regan, Oregon Environmental Health Association
Craig Harper, Watershed Councils
Karen Lewotsky, Environmental Advocacy Groups
Chris MacQuarrie, Plumbers/Backflow Testers
Beth Myers, Oregon Environmental Lab Association
Craig Sheahan, American Council of Engineering Companies of Oregon
Mike Masters, Large water systems

Members of the public

Yone Akagi, Portland Water Bureau
Barney Santiago, H20 Engineering
Jean Hubbard,
Kierra Cano, Medford Water

DWS Staff

Kari Salis, Acting Section Manager
Gregg Baird, Natural Resource Specialist
Michelle Byrd, DMCE Manager
Adam DeSemple, Program Specialist
Carrie Gentry, Acting Technical Service Manager
Chuck Michael, Compliance Specialist
Matt Bergquist, Administrative Staff

April meeting minutes and action items review -

- Members discussed the April meeting minutes with no requested changes.
- Motion to Approve: Mike Grimm
- Second: Jessica Dorsey
- Outcome: Passed unanimously; no opposition recorded.

No major action items remained from the April meeting.

Member updates and issues -

Karen Lewotsky announced she will soon be retiring and OEC will be hiring a water person to hopefully replace her on DWAC. She will be training the person to take on role once hired.

Program Updates, Kari Salis –

1. Kari announced and welcomed Rose Poton to DWAC, representing water consumers. She is Verde's water justice associate and replaces Cheyenne Holiday, whose term expired. Rose was not able to be present for the meeting.
2. Kari reviewed some of the operating guidelines for DWAC.
    a. Mike Grimm requested the DWAC get advance notice of any controversial or complex topics or OHA requests for feedback from the represented groups.
3. Kari reviewed the OHA leadership and several leadership position under recruitment.
4. Kari reviewed DWS program funding. Fees will likely need to be increased soon. Generally the financial situation is sound for now. Kari also reviewed the various contracts and interagency agreements DWS has. Members asked several clarifying questions.
5. Kari reviewed the federal rulemaking timelines. DWS plans to adopt the Lead and Copper rule improvements and the PFAS rules in September 2027. Kari reminded the group that the proposed PFAS rules are less stringent than the current PFAS rule, and DWS will need to decide which rules to adopt. Extensive discussion followed.
    a. Representatives from the League of Women voters and OEC prefer to adopt all 6 MCLs and not provide a compliance extension.

b. Representatives from 4 public water systems stated a preference to adopt EPA's rules. They stated EPA must have a good reason for the new rules, and it is challenging to communicate differences between EPA and OHA.

c. Mike Grimm also noted there is a judicial review underway regarding the hazard index.

d. The committee will revisit the rules after EPA finalizes the proposed rules.

e. Links to the EPA rules and resources, as well as slides from the presentation, were requested. **Action item: DWS to provide links and the slides from this meeting.**

Data processing – Michelle Byrd

1. Michelle Byrd discussed data processing and the time and resources it takes to manually enter data received by email. DWS is encouraging labs to use the Compliance Monitoring Data Portal (CMDP) but so far few have signed up. Michelle asked the committee what barriers might exist to signing up.
2. Beth Meyers stated that labs are concerned that they will have to enter data twice, and that omissions would be difficult to catch. If something happens, the water system gets the violation.
3. Chuck Michael pointed out that the LIMS system can be programmed to match CMDP.
4. Mike Grimm expressed that increased workload by labs would lead to higher costs for water systems. Beth said that if the LIMS can be programmed, that would not be necessary.
5. OHA will continue outreach and training with labs.

Chair and Vice Chair elections - all.

1. Chair & Vice Chair Elections. Elections were initially postponed to allow time for Chair Jason Green to join; ultimately the committee proceeded.
2. **Election of Chair**
   - Nomination: Craig Sheahan nominated Lacey Goeres-Priest for Chair.
   - Second: Beth Myers
   - Vote: All in favor; no opposition
   - **Outcome:** *Lacey Goeres-Priest* elected Chair
3. **Election of Vice Chair**
   - *Mike Masters* volunteered/was nominated for Vice Chair.
   - Seconds: Craig Sheahan and Jessica Dorsey both provided seconds.
   - Vote: All in favor; no opposition
   - **Outcome:** Mike Masters elected Vice Chair

Action Items and next steps:

a. DWS to share pdfs of all presentations and PFAS links on 7/23/26.
b. Next meeting: Wednesday, October 21st. Members are asked to forward any requests for agenda items.