



Drinking Water Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
July 20, 2016
Keizer

Members Present

Ed Butts, Oregon Association of Water Utilities
Jason Canady, League of Oregon Cities
DJ Ezell, Special Districts Association of Oregon
Jenifer George, Oregon Environmental Health Association
Celeste Hari, Privately Owned Water Systems
Ray Johnson, Plumbers/Backflow Testers
Beth Myers, Oregon Environmental Lab Association
Annette Pampush, Conference of Local Health Officials
David Phelps, League of Women Voters of Oregon
Brian Rigwood, Pacific NW Section, American Water Works Association
Chris Wanner, Large Water Systems

Guests

David Barnett, Infrastructure Finance Authority
Jessica Dorsey, Joint Water Commission
Robert Funk, OCT Academy
Janna Graham, Infrastructure Finance Authority
Jason Green, Oregon Association of Water Utilities
Tracy Loew, Statesman Journal
Anne Scheck, The Linking Letter, Independence OR

Staff

Adam DeSemple Dave Leland
Tony Fields Diane Weis

To Do:

- Review final report from Ozone Workgroup and make rule revision recommendation:
Subcommittee

Welcome/Roster Update:

DJ Ezell welcomed the group and led introductions.

Dave welcomed the two new members: Chris Wanner representing Large Water Systems, and Jason Canady representing League of Oregon Cities.

The roster was reviewed. The organizations that need to nominate representatives and the vacant positions were highlighted.

April Meeting Minutes:

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

Member Update:

Beth Myers brought to the attention of the group that EPA vacated the Maximum Contaminant Level some years ago.

Ray Johnson reported that the Cross Connection Advisory Board had a meeting on June 29. There are 1,697 certified backflow testers and inspectors. Most of the Annual Summary Reports have been received with the required fee. The advisory board will be meeting quarterly.

Anne Scheck from Independence said there was a discrepancy between the information on the Drinking Water website and the city's Consumer Confidence Report. She wanted to indicate the importance of checking the data for accuracy, and thanked DWS for following up.

Program Update:

Chronology of lead in drinking water in Oregon –

Dave Leland shared an Oregon chronology, prepared in response to state and national attention on both the Flint MI and Portland Public Schools lead crises. The chronology extends from the mid-1980s to present, showing efforts over the years to reduce lead components in plumbing and public water systems, install and operate corrosion control treatment in public water systems, and encourage testing of drinking water in schools. The July 2016 issue of the AWWA Journal has an article on the Flint MI water crisis written by a member of the Flint Task Force.

Media reports on lead in school drinking water –

There has been substantial statewide media coverage on the lead in schools statewide. The articles are posted on the Drinking Water website.

DWS “Next due” list –

The list shows the recurring tasks associated with maintaining the administrative infrastructure of DWS, including budget/legislature, grants, rules/primacy, contracts, audits/performance reviews, and reports and reporting, and data systems. These reflect the operation of a complex program with multiple partners and federal oversight that is required to support the statewide effort to assure safe

drinking water. Dave also noted the ongoing effort to align total program staffing with available budget resources; staffing has declined from 44 to 35 over the past several years, and we will likely need to continue not filling vacancies this biennium.

Legislature and Budget Forecast –

Drinking Water Services has no budget option packages or legislative concepts for the upcoming 2017-19 legislative session.

Revolving Fund Update:

SRF Quarterly Report –

The quarterly report was distributed.

FFY2016 DWSRF-Grant Application –

The grant application is completed. The Intended Use Plan and Project Priority List are on the website.

SFY2015 DWSRF-Program Evaluation Report –

The report was received from EPA and there were just a couple of questions that had to be addressed.

2016 Sustainability Infrastructure Planning Program –

The list of 16 approved projects is attached to the handout. The annual process will start in the fall.

End of 4Q2016: Combined Infrastructure Project Priority List –

There are 36 total projects. Systems can now apply for non-health related projects. There are five criteria to be considered emergency eligible, and so far two have applied. Presently there are \$90M in request for loans. The public comment period is July 18 to August 18.

2016 Drinking Water Source Protection –

There are 14 new Letters of Interest.

SFY2016 National Information Management System –

Previous fiscal year data has been put in database to create report. EPA uses the information for reporting to federal level.

Operator Certification White Paper/Inquiry:

Robert Funk teaches environmental water sciences in Oregon and California. He submitted a proposal to DWAC to change the certification process to education, then exam, and then experience and CEUs. He said that Washington and California follow this proposed route and it works well. He is asking the advisory committee to create a subcommittee to discuss this and if one is formed, he would like to be on the committee.

Dave Leland clarified that currently the Oregon certification process is “education, then experience, and then exam”, with exam as the last step after fully meeting the education and experience qualifications as advised by OHA legal counsel. He also noted that state certification must also meet EPA guidelines to avoid withholding of SRF funding. Improvements in the Oregon certification program can be made, but within those two constraints. He said that DWS recently determined that several specific Oregon community college programs currently include hands-on practice, and therefore can supply students with both the education and experience needed for the Level 1 exam upon graduation.

Brian Rigwood made a motion to end the discussion of changing the process, Ed Butts seconded. It was voted on and approved. The Chair thanked Bob for his input.

Ozone Subcommittee Update:

The subcommittee has not had an opportunity to meet so this discussion has been tabled until the next meeting.

Statewide Plan to Assess Lead in School and Child Care Facility Drinking Water:

The Oregon Health Authority and the Department of Education issued a plan on June 8 to assess lead in school and child care drinking water statewide. The statewide plan recommends all school districts and child cares test for lead at taps and use accredited labs. OHA will develop a database and method for transferring lead test records from labs to OHA, and OHA will provide drinking water technical expertise to schools and child cares as they test their water.

The agencies recommend that schools and child cares take the following actions: 1) test for lead at taps using the EPA 3Ts manual and accredited labs, 2) stop access to taps containing for than 20 ppb lead, 3) communicate test results of lead samples to students, parents, and community quickly, and 4) mitigate and correct the lead sources in plumbing. Dave passed the 3Ts manual around to members.

2016 Meeting Schedule:

October 19, 2016 – Keizer (Ozone)