



Drinking Water Advisory Committee
Draft Meeting Minutes
October 16, 2019
Keizer

Members Present

Ed Butts, Oregon Association of Water Utilities
Greg DeBlase, Oregon Environmental Health Association
Bruce Hellebuyck, Privately Owned Water Systems
Beth Myers, Oregon Environmental Lab Association
Kim Ramsay, Oregon Environmental Lab Association
Brian Rigwood, Pacific NW Section, American Water Works Association
Chris Wanner, Large Water Systems

Members Absent

Dwayne Barnes, League of Oregon Cities
DJ Ezell, Special Districts Association of Oregon
Brian Ginter, American Council of Engineering Companies-Oregon
Ray Johnson, Plumbers/Backflow Testers
Karen Lewotsky, Environmental Advocacy Groups
Amelia Nestler, League of Women Voters of Oregon
Annette Pampush, Conference of Local Health Officials

Guests

Dave Barnett, Business Oregon
David Sell, Business Oregon
Jon Unger, Business Oregon

Staff

Adam DeSemple Kari Salis
David Emme Diane Weis
Tony Fields

Welcome/Agenda Check:

Brian Rigwood welcomed the group and led introductions. The Ozone Waiver will be added to the agenda.

July Meeting Minutes:

Bruce Hellebuyck made motion to approve the minutes, Chris Wanner seconded. They were voted on and approved.

Member Update:

Beth Myers said she received a survey about arsenic in wells from the Public Health Division but did not know specifically who the survey came from. It was determined it originated from the Environmental Public Health section for a study they are doing.

Program Update:

Ozone Waiver – A coalition of water systems asked Drinking Water Services and the Drinking Water Advisory Committee for a rule change or a waiver on the requirement to disinfect after filtration and to allow credit for pre-filtration ozonation. Drinking Water Services and a DWAC workgroup considered between the two and decided on a waiver. City of Wilsonville is the first to be granted a waiver, but there are conditions. More systems may apply and if the conditions are consistent there may be a rule change in the future.

Federal Updates –

Federal Budget – A Continuing Resolution will go until November 21, 2019. The president's budget called for a 25-30% cut, but bills may increase funding.

WIIN Act – The grant program will fund small or disadvantaged communities. Oregon was allocated \$556,000 with the hope to fund three to four projects and possibly Warm Springs.

America's Water Infrastructure Act (AWIA) – This law requires risk and resilience assessments of systems serving over 3,300. Some requirements: 1) A certification of completion needs to be sent to EPA, then reviewed and updated every 5 years. 2) Emergency Planning Committee Right-to-know Act revisions. Drinking Water Services must notify water systems of hazards released into their system. The State Fire Marshall must maintain hazard material list in database. 3) Water Restructuring rules will require Consumer Confidence Reports be reported twice per year for systems serving over 10,000.

Perchlorate – Proposed new Perchlorate Standard at 56 ug/l. Courts have extended the deadline for rule revision to June 19, 2020.

PFOA/PFOS Regulations (a group of man-made chemicals) – Regulatory determination by end of 2019. Under bills in Congress, EPA is required to promulgate MCL's in 2 years and include PFAS in the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule. A Department of Environmental Quality/Oregon Health Authority workgroup is working to prepare public information.

Proposed Lead and Copper Rule Revision – A new lead trigger level will be established. Systems that exceed the trigger level but not action level will have additional requirements and will be outlined in the rules. Final rule is expected late 2020.

State Program Updates –

Staffing:

Technical Services Unit (TS) –

- Emerging Preparedness vacancy, recruitment underway
- Three new Natural Resource Specialist positions will be filled

Data Management Compliance & Enforcement Unit (DMCE) –

- Samina Panwhar is the new unit manager
- New compliance specialist and research analyst positions will be filled

Protection Planning & Certification Unit (PP&C) –

- Partner Services vacancy is being filled

Program Priorities:

Management –

- Hire and train new staff
- Support SOS Audit
- Support Legislative Workgroup on HABS

DMCE –

- Work with labs on electronic reporting
- Support PHD Data Visualization initiative
- Enforce priorities and process

PP&C –

- Continue streamlining Operator Certification Program
- Prepare DWSRF Needs Survey
- Electronically filing records
- Develop small and disadvantaged grants program

TS –

- Continue working on ozone waiver

- Emergency Preparedness
- Redo Source Water Protection Program
- Work with small systems on compliance, monitoring and reporting

Proposed Fee Rules:

Repeals survey fee and establishes annual water system fee. There will be a public hearing on October 17 and final rules filed with Secretary of State December 20. Based on member comments, the fee invoices will be mailed April 15 with a July 1 due date. Late fees will be assessed after 30 days.

Oregon's 100 Year Water Vision –

To address changes in climate and population, Oregon has set goals for the future of water in health, economy, environment and safety. Business Oregon will have workshops to address infrastructure needs and financing.

Preliminary Legislative Concept Idea for 2021 –

Improved consolidation incentives – There are many small systems within larger systems. Reduce consolidation barriers to enable the small systems to have better water quality.

ORWARN Program:

Oregon Water & Wastewater Agency Response Network – This organization is utilities helping utilities. To be qualified for reimbursement from FEMA after large disasters, a system must be involved in ORWARN. A training exercise is scheduled for November 7, 2019, at Eugene Water & Electric Board.

Revolving Fund Update:

SDWRLF Financial Status – Of the \$48.3 million available to loan, most is allocated for upcoming contracts. Repayments are coming in. There were many Letters of Interest received last quarter.

Oregon's Inaugural Infrastructure Summit – The summit will be October 20-21 in Salem. This is an opportunity for discussing and exchanging ideas on the basic infrastructure with communities and economic development.

2019 DWSRF Appropriation & Capitalization Grant Award – \$14,478,000 was awarded in August which includes \$9.49 million for the Loan Fund and \$4.98 million for Set-asides. The 20% State Match requirement is for \$2.89 million. First Quarter 2020 Combined Infrastructure Project Priority List (PPL) – There were six new projects added to the list totaling 38, amounting to over \$72 million. The public comment period is from October 23 to November 1.

First Quarter 2020 Sustainable Infrastructure Planning Projects (SIPP) PPL – Six new projects and three new seismic projects were added to the list. The public comment period is from October 23 to November 1.

2019 Annual Report & National Information Management System (NIMS) Reporting – Thirty-eight new signed contracts totaling \$34,917,202, benefitting 71,616 people. The report is due October 31, 2019. The NIMS report was submitted prior to the August 30 deadline.

Small System Equipment Assistance Concept – To fund small scale projects (less than 300 connections) for public health protection. The goal is to prepare a website and start program by February 20, 2020. Member support is needed to proceed. Ed Butts made motion to move forward, Chris Wanner seconded, it was voted on and approved.

Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Act – This is a non-SRF related grant program. Authorize EPA to award grants to states to serve underserved, small and disadvantaged systems. Priority will be to non-compliers and Warm Springs; SRF projects only as a fall back.

Operator Certification:

- * Program is revising Operator Certification and Backflow classifications. Small water system DRC will also be revised.
- * The two certification program websites will be combined.
- * Post high school education – DJ Ezell and Jason Green offered to be on workgroup to look at process and identify corrective actions but there has been no meeting yet.
- * The Certification administrative support is working out well.

2020 Meeting Schedule:

January 15, 2020 – Keizer
April 15, 2020 – Keizer
July 15, 2020 – Keizer
October 21, 2020 – Keizer