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Drinking Water Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes
February 2, 2022
Conference Call

Members Present

Dwayne Barnes, League of Oregon Cities
Greg DeBlase, Oregon Environmental Health Association
Jason Green, Oregon Association of Water Utilities
Michael Grimm, Special Districts Association of Oregon
Adam Jackson, Privately Owned Water Systems
Ben Klayman, Pacific NW Section, American Water Works Association
Karen Lewotsky, Environmental Advocacy Groups
Beth Myers, Oregon Environmental Lab Association
Amelia Nestler, League of Women Voters of Oregon
Zach Roberts, Conference of Local Health Officials
Travis Tormanen, American Council of Engineering Companies-Oregon
Chris Wanner, Large Water Systems

Members Absent

Ray Johnson, Plumbers/Backflow Testers

Guests

Sarah Honious, City of Hillsboro
Matt Johnson, Oregon Association of Water Utilities
Kim Ramsay, Oregon Environmental Lab Association
Jon Unger, Business Oregon

Staff

Adam DeSemple Kari Salis
David Emme Diane Weis

Welcome/Roll Call:

There is currently no chair, and the vice-chair was unavailable, so Chris Wanner welcomed the group and led introductions. He introduced Ben Klayman, the new Pacific NW Section, American Water Works Association representative.

October Meeting Minutes:

Mike Grimm had concerns over missing information from the minutes, such as PFAS, rule review timeline and AWIA. Mike will send Dave Emme his revisions and the minutes will be voted on at the next meeting.

Member Update:

No one had any updates.

Program Update:

PFAS –

About 150 smaller systems near PFAS sources were targeted for sampling and expect to be completed by the end of February. Samples are being analyzed by the Department of Environmental Quality and the data is being put on Data Online. The process is going well. EPA health advisory levels and MCL's for PFAS will be updated in the future.

EPA Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR) –

The final LCRR rule was adopted January 2021. After stakeholder review, EPA decided to proceed with the lead service line inventory requirements but also announced plans to make changes to other LCRR requirements in a subsequent LCR Improvements rulemaking to be finalized October 2024.

Public water systems are required to conduct an inventory of both sides of the meter to determine service line material. Guidance is coming out this Spring. The service line inventory is also due October 2024. In Oregon, lead has been prohibited in plumbing and distribution systems since 1985.

EPA may approve extensions for filing for primacy of the LCRR rule so that a combined package with both LCRR and LCRI can be submitted.

Chris Wanner is concerned about finding all lead on the private/premise side of the service line. Systems are encouraged to wait for more guidance.

Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill –

The funds will route through the State Revolving Loan Fund program: 1) General supplemental, which will have a lower match and a portion for principal forgiveness, 2) Emergency continuation, with no match requirement, and will focus on PFAS, and 3) Lead service line reduction will have no match and part will be for principal forgiveness.

Budget –

The program will receive at least what was received last year, possibly more, but waiting for the federal budget and grant guidance. Meanwhile, continue working with Business Oregon, create FAQ's, perform outreach. The ongoing issues are the workload and staffing.

Revolving Fund Update:

Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill – This is a 5-year program. Not all funds are a grant, some are loans. This program will not be handled like the current SRF program, which is first come first served. Both the Drinking Water Program and Business Oregon created a webpage with information and resources. The LOI ratings will be reduced from quarterly to semi-annually. Some types of projects will not be impacted.

SDWRLF Financial Status – There is plenty of money to use.

Combined Project Priority List – Received four new projects now totaling 48, bringing the total amount to \$78.58M.

Infrastructure Finance Authority will be receiving \$275M in ARPA funds. There is a lot of interest in the program.

Sustainable Infrastructure Planning Projects (SIPP) – Received three new projects, no new seismic projects.

WIIN Act – These are non-SRF funds and for underserved and systems out of compliance. Oregon's allocation is approximately \$500,000 this year.

EPA Annual Review – The EPA program review is the week of February 14.

Loss of Pressure BMP:

The workgroup was not able to develop a final draft of the BMP. They will meet in the next few weeks and report back to the committee at the next meeting. The

Workgroup is made up of Jason Green, Dwayne Barnes, Mike Grimm, Yone Akage, and formerly Brian Rigwood.

Other:

New DWAC representatives are needed – someone from the Plumbers and Backflow Program, and someone representing water consumers. Recruitment in process.

2022 Meeting Schedule:

April 20, 2022 – Conference Call/Virtual Meeting (Membership process)

July 20, 2022 – Conference Call/Virtual Meeting (vote for chair and vice-chair, Capacity Development Strategy/Asset Management)

October 19, 2022 – Conference Call/Virtual Meeting