



**REGIONAL WATER PROVIDERS CONSORTIUM
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
Minutes of April 11, 2007**

Chair Mike McKillip called the meeting of the Consortium Technical Committee (CTC) to order at 1:35 p.m. Other CTC members in attendance included David Winship from the City of Beaverton, Todd Heidgerken from Tualatin Valley Water District, Kevin Hanway from the City of Hillsboro, Greg Drechsler from City of Portland, Brian Stahl from the City of Gresham, Gary Kerr from Clackamas River Water, Mike Grimm from Sunrise Water Authority, and Corianne Hart from the City of Tigard.

Others in attendance included Judi Ranton from the City of Portland and Vance Voyles from Clackamas River Water.

Consortium Staff included Lorna Stickel, Rebecca Geisen, Lindsey Berman and Patty Burk.

Approval of December 13, 2006 and February 14, 2007 Meeting Minutes: The December 13, 2006 and February 14, 2007 meeting minutes were approved as written.

Conservation Committee Report: Lindsey Berman reported that the Children's Clean Water Festival is scheduled for tomorrow. She noted that it is a full day event at Portland Community College (PCC) Sylvania Campus. Lindsey advised that Ecos Marketing, Inc. will be producing a short video following a classroom of children throughout their day. It is anticipated that the video will be used on the Consortium website to showcase this event. The Consortium is one of the major sponsors of the Clean Water Festival.

Lindsey reported that she received authorization to continue to use the musical score in the television gnome advertisement. The drummer from the band *Pink Martini* gave his written authorization and is interested in working with the Consortium in the future to develop a radio advertisement to accompany the television ad. Lindsey reminded the CTC members that the television ad will run on KATU channel 2 and a mix of cable channels. Conservation staff will be participating in two *AM Northwest* sessions over the summer.

Lindsey noted that the Consortium will again be partnering with KPAM radio. Conservation staff will participate in four live radio call in programs with Mallory Lynch's garden program and a featured cable television spot in June to be shot at Lindsey's house. Lindsey mentioned that the Consortium

will again partner with the Portland Water Bureau as a sponsor of the PARC radio conservation advertisements.

Lindsey reported that two new interactive games will be added to the Consortium website's kid's page. Lindsey noted that an Evapotranspiration (ET) vendor has been selected to provide the ET data for the website. An ET number will be posted weekly and well as information about ET and how it can be used.

The Consortium Conservation Committee will participate in four nursery outreach events, two on the east side and two on the west side, this summer as well.

Mike McKillip suggested that the Clean Water Festival video could be shown on cable access channels as well. He said he could provide Lindsey with contact information for the representative at the City of Tualatin's cable access program.

Mike Grimm commented that he has heard from some Board members that it is sometimes difficult to find or extract specific conservation update materials in the Board materials packets and suggested that the conservation activity report could be done as a stand-alone piece within the Board packet.

Emergency Planning Committee Report: Rebecca mentioned that the Emergency Planning Committee (EPC) met in February. Rebecca noted that attendance at the EPC meetings has waned a bit and asked CTC members to encourage their emergency staff to participate. She noted the EPC members discussed their trip to Seattle Public Utilities and the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) grant application process. Rebecca noted that she has not heard anything yet from UASI on the Consortium's grant application.

Rebecca advised that a Request for Proposal (RFP) was sent out to acquire a facilitator for the upcoming interconnections workshop. She noted that the RFP was sent to CH2Mhill, Carollo Engineers, and Trudy Cooper. Carollo Engineers was selected.

Rebecca reported that the final Oregon Water/Wastewater Agency Network (ORWARN) agreement has been completed and is available for entities to sign on to.

Rebecca mentioned that the next EPC meetings is April 20. She noted that for this meeting, they are trying to arrange a demonstration from the National Guard on their portable emergency water system and what services they can provide in an emergency.

2007 Legislative Session Discussion: Lorna Stickel pointed out that included in the meeting materials packet was the *2007 Oregon Legislative Bills* tracking list. Lorna reviewed some of the water related bills including:

- Senate Bill 841 Global Warming – requires the Institute for Natural Resources to study global warming. Appropriates moneys from General Fund to Department of Higher Educations for a study.

Lorna noted that this bill somewhat responded to the letter the Consortium sent to Governor Kulongoski in support of a study of the potential impacts of climate change on the Willamette River Basin. Included in the meeting materials packet was a copy of the bill.

- Senate Bill 0033 Fluoridation – Clarifies responsibility of Department of Human Services relating to drinking water. Requires that water suppliers serving more than 10,000 persons add fluoride to water.
- House Bill 3525/ Senate Bill 483 – Directs the Water Resources Department to issue permits to appropriate water from the Upper Columbia River for use in the Columbia Basin. Allows issuance only to persons who will use water in lieu of using ground water from critical ground water areas, to support business development projects or to provide additional water for use by municipal corporation. Limits appropriation to 500,000 acre-feet per year. Specifies allocation of appropriation between allowed uses. Establishes a Columbia River Water Account. Continuously appropriates moneys to Water Resources Department. Repeals authority of department to issue permits on January 2, 2034. Provides the repeal of authority does not affect permits issued before January 2, 2034.

Lorna noted that these bills have had a hearing and that Waterwatch is opposed to these bills.

- House Bill 2566 Groundwater – Eliminates exemption from requirement for registration, certificate or permit for certain uses of groundwater appropriated on or after effective date of Act.
- House Bill 3245 Tax Credits – Creates personal and business tax credits for water conservation devices and systems.

Lorna commented that Jeff Sandberg from the Portland Water Bureau's Business and Industry Group (BIG) spoke at the hearing for HB 3245. Lorna explained that this bill requires the Water Resources Department (WRD) to certify the water savings devices and installers of these devices.

- HB 2538 Landscaping – Requires State Landscape Contractors Board to establish continuing education requirements for landscape contractors. Requires landscape contractors submitting applications to renew licenses expiring on or after January 1, 2009, to demonstrate compliance with continuing education requirements.

Lorna reminded the CTC members that the Consortium had sent a letter in support of this bill. She noted that HB 2538 has had a hearing and it looks like it may pass.

Rebecca noted that the Consortium was asked again by Northwest Coalitions Against Pesticides (NCAP) to write letters to support two bills, Senate Bill 683 and House Bill 2972. Both bills were included in the meeting materials packet. SB 683 reduces the size of identifying hydrologic unit to be used when reporting pesticide use. Currently, the reporting requirement is by the fourth-level hydrologic unit and the new legislation would change it to the smaller third-level hydrologic unit, which is basin reporting. Rebecca said she had prepared a draft letter of Consortium support for the bill that was included in the meeting materials packet. Rebecca noted that she had heard there will be an amendment to this bill that will require government agencies to report by address but she had not yet seen the language for the amendment.

Rebecca noted that the other bill, House Bill 2972, removes the sunset on pesticide use reporting. She noted that the current program is scheduled to end 2009. Rebecca noted that a draft letter of Consortium support for this bill was also included in the meeting materials packet. Rebecca advised that she has not yet sent either letter and is looking for CTC approval to send the letters.

Kevin Hanway commented that the amendment to SB 683 requiring government agencies to report by address makes him somewhat nervous; however, he is not necessarily opposed to it.

Rebecca advised that she had heard the amendment was going to be introduced at the hearing and suggested that she could wait to send the letters until after the amendment is introduced.

The CTC discussed the two bills and approved the sending of the letters in support of SB 683 and HB 2972.

Kevin Hanway commented that he had heard there was a bill that the Portland Water Bureau was supporting giving the State of Oregon the authority to deal with treatment requirements.

Lorna explained that HB 3469 authorizes the Department of Human Services to grant variances from standards requiring the use of specified water treatment techniques in certain cases. Lorna noted that it is a bill that puts in place for Oregon a positive water variance as opposed to a negative water variance, which is already in the federal statute. Lorna said Dave Leland, Drinking Water Program Manager testified on behalf of this bill. Lorna noted that the Portland Water Bureau has a set of talking points for this bill and will distribute it to the CTC members.

Early Implementation of the adopted FY 07/08 Consortium Budget and Work Plan: Lorna recapped that at the March Consortium Board meeting the Board approved the FY 07/08 Work Plan and Budget which included additional resources to purchase an emergency portable water distribution system, added work for discussion of interconnections, and the addition of several conservation items. Lorna advised that some of this work will be done in this fiscal year and Consortium staff is in need of some direction in order to proceed.

Lindsey reported that for conservation, the two main budgetary items they are working on is obtaining a vendor to supply the ET data information for the Consortium website and the purchase of custom watering gauges that have the Consortium logo and website address on them.

Rebecca reported that Mark Knudson from Carollo Engineering will facilitate the Regional Interconnections workshop she discussed earlier. She noted that she has met with Mark to discuss the logistics of and ideas for the workshop. Rebecca advised the workshop will be held in the Tigard Library and asked the CTC members to decide on possible dates for the workshop. The dates were May 22, May 30, May 31 or June 5. Rebecca noted that those date choices were selected because they did not conflict with any standing meetings or conferences that they knew about. The CTC discussed the proposed dates and determined that May 31 would be the preferred date.

Rebecca noted that the workshop will be a four-hour meeting in the morning from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and lunch would be provided. Rebecca said they will be asking participants to bring any maps or reports they feel are pertinent.

The CTC members discussed whom, other than Consortium members, to invite to participate in the workshop. It was decided to invite neighboring entities including Rockwood, Wood Village, Troutdale, City of Vancouver and Clark County PUD.

Lorna noted that she had a follow up conversation with Councilor Ed Truax from Tualatin in regards to his comments at the March Board meeting about the non-conservation portions of the Consortium website. Lorna advised that Consortium staff will be giving a demonstration of the website at the September Consortium Board meeting. Lorna reminded the CTC members that Councilor Truax's question focused on if twice the proposed funds were allocated to the website, would we get twice the value. Councilor Truax commented at the Board meeting that he would like to see the Consortium website as the "expert" on all sorts of water issues, not just water conservation. Lorna stated that as a group, we need to begin a discussion on what the desired outcome for the non-conservation portion of the Consortium website and would include this discussion at future meetings.

Progress on Seattle Visit for June Board Meeting: Lorna reminded the CTC members that they had discussed the idea of representatives from Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) coming to the June Consortium Board meeting as well as conducting a more detailed workshop with the CTC in the afternoon. Lorna commented that she believes it would be interesting to hear from SPU about their regional supply planning process, the role of conservation and curtailment in meeting future water demands, how they conduct their population and water demand forecasts, current activities being done to address climate change and lessons learned related to regional coordination.

Lorna asked the CTC members if the topics she outlined above were on target and if they were what the CTC and Board wanted SPU to address. The CTC members discussed potential topics and agreed Lorna's list seemed to cover all of the necessary areas.

Todd Heidgerken commented that Waterwatch has protested Tualatin Valley Water District's (TVWD) water permit extension. He noted that they have a variety of issues. Todd said Water Resources Department (WRD) has sixty days to determine if they will have a contested case hearing or if they will reject the protest.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:27 p.m. The next meeting of the Consortium Technical Committee is May 9, 2007 at 1:30 p.m. in the Portland Building, 5th floor, Bull Run Conference Room.

Submitted by Patty Burk, Consortium Staff