



**REGIONAL WATER PROVIDERS CONSORTIUM
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
Minutes of February 14, 2007**

Chair Mike McKillip called the meeting of the Consortium Technical Committee (CTC) to order at 1:36 p.m. Other CTC members in attendance included David Winship from the City of Beaverton, Greg DiLoreto 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, Jerry Arnold from West Slope Water District, Kari Duncan from the City of Lake Oswego, Vance Voyles from Clackamas River Water, Corianne Hart, Christine Hollenbeck from Oak Lodge Water District.

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

Approval of October 11 and November 8, 2006 Meeting Minutes: The October 11 and November 8 meeting minutes were approved as written.

Conservation Committee Report: Lindsey Berman, Conservation Program Coordinator introduced the new Assistant Program Specialist for conservation, Bonny Cushman to the CTC members. Lindsey noted that Bonny began working with the Consortium at the beginning of January and has already made a big contribution to the program. Bonny comes with 9 ½ years of experience with Northwest Service Academy.

Lindsey reminded the CTC members that the Yard, Garden and Patio Show is taking place on February 23rd through the 25th at the Oregon Convention Center. The Consortium will again have a booth at the show and staffing for the event has been completed. Lindsey thanked the CTC members for allowing their staff to participate in this event.

Lindsey commented that for this year's summer marketing campaign, the new tagline is *Save a little. Help a lot.* The Consortium Conservation Committee (CCC) will be using a television advertisement from several years ago in their media campaign. Lindsey said the *Sprinkler Cha Cha Cha* ad with the gnome is a timeless piece and by using a previously developed ad saves money on development and allows them to spend those resources elsewhere.

Lindsey reported that Tualatin Valley Water District (TVWD) will be hosting the March 7 Property Managers Workshop. Lindsey thanked Steve Carper from TVWD for his help in putting together the workshop. Lindsey said Lorna would be opening the workshop with a short overview presentation on the Consortium. Lindsey noted that a vendor fair would take place at the workshop in which landscape industry merchants will set up booths with their conservation technology and devices.

Lindsey mentioned that the Recycleman school assembly program continues. She advised that there are approximately five more shows to be conducted this year.

Lindsey concluded that the CCC has met with Ecos Consulting, the new marketing firm, and is encouraged by the willingness of Ecos to open up the marketing update process to the CCC and their desire to really listen and include CCC input into the campaign.

Emergency Planning Committee Report: Rebecca Geisen pointed out that she had included in the meeting materials packet two handouts. One handout was a summary from her recent trip to Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) visit to garner more information on the emergency portable water distribution system; the other handout outlined a demonstration of the portable water distribution system itself.

Rebecca reported that on February 1, 2007, members of the Emergency Planning Committee (EPC) including Niki Iverson from the City of Hillsboro, Scott Tabor from the City of Gladstone, Marty Wegner from the City of Gresham, Neil Kennedy and Dale Fishback from TVWD and Rebecca went to visit SPU to see a demonstration of their portable water distribution system. Rebecca reported that SPU has four full time people who work specifically on emergency management. She said SPU devoted a lot of resources to the acquisition of their emergency portable water distribution system and developing training manuals for the system.

Rebecca advised that she had asked SPU what other portable emergency distribution systems they may have considered. Rebecca reported that SPU looked at other systems but in the end had their system custom designed by a pipe manufacturer. Rebecca noted that in their UASI grant, SPU asked for \$100,000 for a portable treatment plant but discovered it was a bit too premature to go down that path and that the treatment plants that were available needed a certified treatment plant operator.

Rebecca said she did some research on Lifestraws. The Lifestraw is a little longer than a toilet paper tube, and about the same diameter. Inside the tube, a series of mechanical screens, carbon particles, and resin beads filter and kill most pathogenic bacteria and microorganisms common in water systems throughout the world. Using a patented material called PuroTech Disinfecting Resin, the filters are rated for 700 liters of water -- approximately one year's use for a single individual. They require no training to use (just suck) and minimal maintenance (parent company Vestergaard Frandsen recommends periodically blowing the straw clear of water to clean the filters). The Lifestraw is not commercially available in the United States. They are being sold in other parts of the world.

Rebecca showed a short video from their trip to SPU that demonstrated how the portable emergency water system worked. She reminded the CTC members that the sterile bag used with the system has a seven-year shelf life.

Rebecca reported that she had received a call from Dennis Koellermeier from the City of Tigard who had expressed some concerns about the purchase of the portable emergency water distribution system. He said he was concerned that the Consortium was not doing a good job collaborating with state and county emergency management systems and feared that we were working in a vacuum. Dennis recommended more conversations should take place with the National Guard who has portable emergency water systems as well and that the Consortium's purchase of this type of system should be postponed. Rebecca stated that she did not completely agree with Dennis. She said she learned that currently the National Guard's portable water treatment and distribution systems are in Afghanistan. She said the National Guard couldn't guarantee that their systems would be available during an emergency. Rebecca said she sees any system the Consortium acquires to be a complement to whatever services the National Guard could provide. She concluded that she presented this information at the Regional Emergency Managers Technical Committee (REMTEC) meeting and they did not seem to have any concerns. Rebecca commented that the City of San Francisco also has the same system.

Rebecca noted that the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) grants are due tomorrow. She said she had e-mailed to all the CTC and EPC members a draft UASI grant application for the emergency portable water systems for their review. Rebecca noted that she received some feedback about the UASI grant process and learned that they are not as focused on equipment this year but are more into planning, however, she felt the Consortium had a good chance to get some funding.

The CTC directed Rebecca to proceed with the UASI grant funding process. Rebecca advised that the UASI grant review period is 90 days.

Rebecca reported that there are two Senate Bills(SB), SB 330 and SB 334 both regarding interstate mutual aid agreements that she is keeping an eye on.

Rebecca noted that the National Infrastructure Advisory Council is recommending that water sector field workers get priority for vaccinations in the event of a pandemic flu outbreak.

FY 07-08 Budget Discussion: Lorna reported that this year's budget has been one of the most difficult to develop because of the budget carryover from last year and a projected carryover from this fiscal year. Lorna pointed out that included in the meeting materials was a budget package that included a memorandum that outlines the add packages, a core budget matrix that maintains our current service level, a draft spreadsheet based on doing all of the add packages, and dues comparison sheet. Lorna asked the CTC for their thoughts on how to put the budget package together in a clear and concise manner so it is easy for the Consortium Board members to navigate and understand.

Lorna reminded the CTC members that the add packages included increasing the contingency line to prior levels, water supply interconnections, purchase of an emergency portable water distribution system and a new conservation program activity. Lorna reviewed these programs as follows:

1. Contingency Fund – The Proposed Budget matrix increases the contingency fund from \$4,000 to \$10,000, which is the level that was utilized in earlier years. This is the one funding source that allows the Consortium to take on work tasks or projects that were not contemplated in the several months in advance of the actual fiscal year. If additional tasks were added to the Consortium activities as listed below, then having a more robust contingency fund would be advisable.
2. Water Supply Interconnections - Facilitate the development of critical interconnections between providers by:
 - Conducting a workshop to provide a forum for water providers to identify current interconnections, discuss priorities and coordinate (to be completed in the current fiscal year within existing resources);
 - Facilitate the discussion of opportunities for the future role of the Consortium in encouraging, informing and providing decision support tools for water providers to use in areas of identified need, which could include a Consortium and water provider staff driven update of the 2000 Regional Transmission and Storage Strategy. The scope of this task may well be more fully informed by the outcome of the workshop held in the current fiscal year of 2006/07.
3. Portable Water Distribution Systems - The Portland region will begin to purchase portable water distribution systems, which will be distributed to the major areas of the region. Staff is pursuing USAI grants to fund the purchase of three systems, however, the Board directed that at least one system could be included in the budget for FY 07/08 in case grant funds are not available. If the Consortium is unsuccessful in getting UASI funding in future years, the Consortium may want to consider funds to purchase additional systems after this next fiscal year, as well as individual water providers who may choose to finance individual systems.
4. The Trade Ally committee and Ecos (our new marketing firm) identified an educational outreach plan which would include a combination of education, promotions and an interactive component that could be implemented and tracked over the next two years. This overall educational ET package will allow us to educate the public on ET, while at the same time provide the necessary tools to engage the user in a simple, interactive application which promotes the RWPC website. The timing for this project is good since efforts are currently underway to rework our website.

Lorna pointed out that with all of the add packages, including the increase in the contingency fund there would still be a small reduction in the overall budget due to the carryover funds.

Kevin Hanway commented that we need to keep in mind the clear message from the Board that they were excited about the add package activities and wanted to do things that are producing tangible results.

Lorna commented that she had understood Consortium Board to say they were not interested in having the dues roller coaster up and down.

Lorna recommended that the CTC approve and recommend to the Executive Committee (EC) a single budget package so that in turn the EC could recommend a single budget package to the Consortium Board.

The CTC members discussed the budget pieces and agreed that a single budget package should be presented to the EC. The CTC recommended that all add packages, the increase in the contingency and the core maintenance budget be presented to the EC as a single budget package.

Lorna reminded the CTC members that in June the Consortium Board will elect a new Chair and Vice-Chair, however, as a result of the current Vice-Chair, Tom Lemons no longer being with the SFWB, the Board needs to elect a new Vice-Chair now. She said this election should take place at the March meeting.

Rebecca noted that she is beginning to work on the coordination of the interconnection workshop. She said she envisioned members coming together, bringing their maps and having a facilitated discussion on interconnections. Rebecca advised the EPC suggested that a facilitator be identified to keep the discussions going. Rebecca asked for recommendations for a facilitator. The CTC members discussed this issue and directed Rebecca to contact Dale Jutila from CH2MHill to ascertain his interest and cost in facilitating this workshop. Rebecca said she would work on selecting a date and location for the workshop.

Climate Change Research Discussion: Lorna reported that on February 7, 2007, the Consortium hosted a workshop on climate change research to help us understand the status of research and where it is being conducted in the Pacific Northwest, particularly in the universities. Two guest speakers, Dr. Richard Palmer from the University of Washington (UW) and Dr. Michael Campana from Oregon State University (OSU) gave presentation followed by question and answer period. Lorna reported that 33 people attended the workshop.

Lorna pointed out that included in the meeting materials packet was an e-mail exchange she had with Gail Achterman from OSU regarding the Governor's directive to OSU to look at the establishment of a climate change research center at OSU.

Lorna noted also included in the meeting materials is a proposal from the Citizens for Safe Water and Friends asking the state for funding and support of a study about the impacts of global warming/climate change on the Willamette River. In addition, a letter was included from the City of Tualatin Mayor Lou Ogden in support of research on the climate change impacts on the Willamette River Basin.

Lorna stated that she believes that the Consortium should continue to focus on this issue and be prepared to be involved in any state efforts to look at climate change study, particularly in the Willamette Basin. Lorna noted that if the state is willing to participate and fund such a study, the Consortium contingency funds could be used to support this effort.

The CTC directed Consortium staff to develop a letter to the Governor of Oregon in support of a climate change study on the Willamette Basin to be submitted to Board for their approval. The CTC members concurred that the letter should be directed to Governor Kulongoski, and copies sent to the Water Resources Department, the Department of Environmental Quality, and the Corp of Engineers.

It was decided a link to the Dr. Palmer and Dr. Campana climate change presentations would be added to the Regional Water Providers Consortium website.

Lorna proposed that Seattle Public Utilities be invited to a future Consortium Board meeting to talk about the climate change building block work that they have done. The CTC thought this was a great idea.

Board Agenda for March: Lorna reviewed the March Consortium Board draft agenda which included the approval of minutes, the election of a Board Vice-Chair and EC member appointment, a Conservation Committee and Emergency Planning Committee report, the adoption of the FY 07-08 work plan and budget and a place holder discussion. Lorna prepared a memorandum of options for this discussion, which included a discussion on infrastructure cost and the Metro *New Look* analysis, a climate change and impacts on municipal supplies discussion and a discussion on the municipal water rights extension process.

The CTC discussed the placeholder discussion options and determined that the timing was right for a discussion on the Metro *New Look* process and infrastructure costs. Lorna said she has talked with Tim O'Brien and Malu Wilkinson from Metro and they said Metro Councilor Hosticka is willing and excited to discuss and get input from water providers on this issue.

2007 Legislative Discussion: Lorna pointed out that included in the meeting materials packet was a *2007 Oregon Legislative Bills Tracking List*. Lorna advised that thus far there was not a lot that water providers had concerns about. Lorna noted however, Senate Bill 483, did have some interesting implications for precedence setting. The bill directs the Water Resource Department to issue permits to appropriate water from the Upper Columbia River for use in the Columbia Basin. The bill allows issuance only to persons who will use water in lieu of using ground water in critical ground water area, to support business development projects or to provide additional water for use by municipal corporation.

Lindsey Berman advised that the CCC was contacted by Patrick Griffith from the City of Bend to ask for the Consortium support for House Bill 2538. This bill requires continuing education units (CEU) for landscape contractors. She noted that the Oregon Landscape Contractors Association (OLCA) is the sponsor of the bill. The CCC is recommending that a letter of

Consortium Technical Committee Meeting
Minutes of February 14, 2007

support for this bill be sent. A sample support letter was included in the meeting materials packet. The CTC gave their approval to recommend to the EC to send a letter of support.

Mike McKillip suggested that the letter of support sent from the Consortium could be customized to the Consortium's strategic goal of regional conservation and water efficiency.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:37 p.m. The next meeting of the Consortium Technical Committee is March 14, 2007 at 1:30 p.m. in the Portland Building, 5th floor, Bull Run Conference Room.

Submitted by Patty Burk, Consortium Staff