



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

Consortium Program Manager Lorna Stickel called the meeting of the Consortium Technical Committee (CTC) to order at 1:40 p.m. CTC members in attendance included David Winship from the City of Beaverton, Gary Kerr from Clackamas River Water, Niki Iverson from City of Hillsboro, Greg Drechsler from City of Portland, Kim Swan from South Fork Water Board, Mike Grimm from Sunrise Water Authority, and Brenda Bateman from Tualatin Valley Water District.

Others in attendance included Marc San Soucie from City of Beaverton Planning Commission.

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

**Approval of April 11 and May 9, 2007 Meeting Minutes:** The Consortium Technical Committee did not have a quorum, therefore, the April 11 and May 9, 2007 meeting minutes were only provisionally approved as written.

**Emergency Planning Committee Report:** Rebecca Geisen pointed out that the June 19, 2007 Emergency Planning Committee (EPC) meeting summary was included in the meeting materials packet. She noted that the June EPC meeting focused primarily on a presentation by the Oregon Army National Guard Company A 141 Support Battalion, Water Section. Rebecca said the Guard set up their Reverse Osmosis Water Purification Unit and pumped water from the Tualatin River into a 3000 gallon onion skin. Rebecca reviewed the summary of information provided by the Guard on the system including:

- One system can treat up to 600 gallons of water per hour (gph), depending on raw water quality.
- They are typically operated in pairs providing 1200 gph, so a system is always performing if one is down for maintenance. Two systems operating in tandem can provide approximately 24,000 gallons per day.
- There are currently four systems in Oregon and there are plans to purchase a 1200 gph system to replace two of the 600 gph systems.
- The Guard has the capability to test the water for a variety of parameters, including biological and chemical contamination. Biological test can be completed in less than two hours. Some noted that it might be worthwhile to have some of these test kits.
- It takes four hours to set up the system and start producing potable water.

- Personnel continuously test water. It is also treated with chlorine at 5 ppm in the treatment system with 1ppm for distribution.
- It cannot be hooked up to a water main to treat distribution water that may have been compromised. The system cannot put water back into a water distribution system because it is not pressurized.
- Water from the treatment plant can be stored and delivered in several ways. The Guard has numerous onion skins, which have a holding capacity of 3,000 gallons. These are stationary and linkable. The Smiffy is a 3,000 gallon water bladder that can be transported on a flatbed. In addition there are 400 gallon water trailers that are configured for air movement and as well as 500 gallon drums which are also airlift capable.
- In an emergency, a water agency must make a call to the Governor to request deployment of the water. The Governor then decides where systems are deployed.
- The four units are in-state 90% of the time.
- Ft. Lewis has a system as well as the Seattle National Guard Unit.
- Recent use in Oregon includes St. Helen's. Also a system from Virginia was used in Vernonia during the 1996 flood. They provided water to Vernonia for two weeks.
- Cost – getting more specific information on costs – we heard a range from \$82,000 to \$1.2 million.
- It takes four technically trained people to operate system. Maintenance is also required.

David Winship commented that the National Guard representatives made it seem like the local availability of these systems is greater than we originally thought. He noted that these systems seem to put out good, clean drinking water but do not have a large capacity.

Rebecca reported that she has not yet heard any news regarding the Consortium's Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) grant application. She noted that the Department of Homeland Security was supposed to make an UASI grant announcement on July 3<sup>rd</sup> but that it has been delayed. Rebecca advised that a subcommittee of the EPC had been formed to begin working on the Regional Emergency Water Distribution Plan.

Rebecca said that the next EPC meeting would be held in August.

**Regional Interconnections Meeting Follow-Up and Debrief:** Rebecca pointed out that included in the meeting materials was the *Regional Workshop on Water System Interconnections* meeting summary. Rebecca noted that the feedback from meeting participants was generally positive and it was deemed a worthwhile exercise. She advised that many ideas were generated and the summary included several pages of suggestion for a plan for moving forward. Rebecca reported that there was general agreement that there would be significant benefit to have systems interconnected, both regionally and locally. Three major steps were identified regarding the issue of interconnections including:

1. Documentation / mapping of existing interconnections. This should include a map with key information (e.g., location, elevation, size, HGL on each side of connection, capacity).
2. Improvement of interconnections and operational relationships at the sub-regional level. This should include additional collaboration and system analysis to identify system-specific interconnection opportunities, planning and construction of local or sub-regional interconnections, updating or establishing mutual aid agreements, and routine coordination between neighboring systems at a sub-regional level (e.g., operational coordination groups).

3. Active collaboration on regional interconnections of major systems. This step would include the long-term, “big picture,” regional coordination for planning and development of transmission system interconnections between sub-regional supply systems.

Rebecca asked the CTC for their thoughts and ideas regarding how to move forward.

Gary Kerr commented that he believed a subcommittee should be formed to discuss the development of confidentiality agreements. He noted that it is difficult to have meaningful discussions if participants felt they were not free to fully discuss sensitive, security related, confidential information i.e., location, size of pipes and interconnections.

Lorna Stickel commented that she remembered Greg DiLoreto mentioning that Tualatin Valley Water District (TVWD) already had developed some sort of confidentiality agreement.

Brenda Bateman said she would talk with Greg to see if TVWD has a template that could be used.

David Winship commented that he agreed that an agreement may be needed. He said individual agencies will want to have assurance that their sensitive information is not being disclose and the Consortium will want assurance that individual entities are not disclosing information they are provided.

David Winship asked could the Consortium Board approve a nondisclosure agreement for the all of the member participants or does each individual entity have to sign a nondisclosure agreement. He noted that if a disclosure has to be signed by each individual entity it could be a very laborious process.

The CTC determined next steps should be:

- Form a subcommittee
- Determine a confidentiality agreement format
- Begin work on regional map of existing interconnections.

Rebecca asked for suggestions for members of the interconnection subcommittee. CTC members suggested City of Beaverton, Sunrise Water Authority, Clackamas River Water, City of Hillsboro, City of Portland, TVWD, and City of Gresham. Rebecca advised that she would send out an e-mail to get sense of interest of members in participating on the subcommittee.

David Winship asked if an invitation should be extended to other non-Consortium providers i.e., City of Vancouver, Clark County PUD, Rockwood, City of Woodvillage, City of Troutdale.

Lorna commented that at this time she believes that the focus should be on Consortium members. The CTC members concurred.

Rebecca advised that she would do more research on what needs to be done to ensure confidentiality of regional interconnections information that is site specific and can be withheld under the public information laws.

**Conservation Committee Report:** Lindsey Berman showed the CTC members the summer media campaign television advertisement. Lindsey said the hope is she will be able to work with the musicians that provided the music for the television ad on a new musical score for an accompanying radio advertisement. Lindsey reminded the CTC that funding for the media campaign was scaled back a bit this year to allow for the overhaul of the Consortium website conserveh2o.org. Lindsey also took the CTC members through the newly revised Consortium website. Lindsey advised that the Consortium Conservation Committee (CCC) has been working closely with Ecos Consulting on the new website. They revised the color palette and the navigation organization so that a user could find the information they are looking for with three clicks of the mouse or less. Lindsey said they added four new pieces to the website. First, the kid's page has a new colorful landing page and two new water conservation games. Second, a new electronic newsletter has been added to the site. People can sign up to receive the newsletter by providing their e-mail address or can view the newsletter from the Consortium website. The newsletter is done quarterly. Third, a new water savings calculator has been added. By answering questions about your household indoor and outdoor water use, one can see how their water usage compares to the average use for your area and also learn water savings tips. Lindsey advised they are still working out some of the kinks in the calculator but feel it will be a valuable tool for visitors of the site. And finally, on the outdoor page, information has been added on Evapotranspiration (ET) including what ET is and how the ET number can be used to customize your watering practices. A new ET number will be posted weekly.

Lindsey encouraged the CTC members to visit the Consortium website and spend some time looking at the site. Lindsey advised that she would be doing a similar presentation of the website at the September Consortium Board meeting.

David Winship suggested that a home button, that would take visitors back to the home page of the website, be added to the top navigation bar.

Lindsey showed the new outdoor conservation kits, which included a welcome letter, several outdoor conservation related brochures, a watering gauge, seed packet, hose nozzle and a hose timer. Lindsey advised that these kits will be given away at all the summer events. She said those entities that expressed interest, will be getting their 25 kits purchased out of the Consortium budget and also had the opportunity to order additional kits that they paid for out of their individual provider budgets.

**2007 Legislative Session Wrap Up:** Lorna reported that a legislative wrap up report from the Oregon Water Utilities Council (OWUC) or the Special District Association of Oregon (SDAO) was not yet available. She commented that to her knowledge there were no bills that passed that would be problematic for water providers.

Lorna reported that the HB 2538 requiring continuing education for landscape contractors passed and has been signed. She also noted that HB 3469, introduced by the City of Portland, to authorize the Oregon Department of Human Services to grant positive variances with regard to specified water treatment techniques passed as well. Lorna said that bills related to fluoride did not pass. Lorna advised that the Board would receive a comprehensive legislative wrap up at the September Board meeting.

Lorna advised that OWUC voted to provide a challenge fund to develop a conservation certification workshop at the annual Pacific Northwest Section, American Water Works Association conference.

Brenda Bateman gave a brief overview of the Statewide Drug Take Back Program. She explained that in general, there are inadequate options for the disposal of unwanted and unused medicine, which can lead to serious problems including water quality degradation from flushing unwanted medicines down the toilet. She said the hope is that such a program would allow citizens to take their unwanted or expired medications to a collection place so that they could be incinerated. She noted that the Oregon Drug Take Back Stakeholder Group is proposing that the pharmaceutical manufacturers and over-the-counter drug companies be requested to devise and implement a convenient and effective program for consumers to dispose of unwanted medicine. She said one hurdle to the program is that under current rules only law enforcement personnel can handle controlled substances which would put the burden on our already stretched law enforcement agencies. Brenda said there is a lot of work to do to get a statewide program off the ground but in the meantime local communities are looking at what they can do to develop local programs.

Brenda Bateman reported that the Willamette River Water Coalition (WRWC) has received its Final Order from the Oregon Water Resource Department (WRD) on the Willamette River water permit extensions. The extensions are through 2047 and the water can start being used after a 60-day comment period. (Following the meeting Brenda sent an e-mail to clarify comments made at the meeting: *The Final Order WRWC received from WRD is finished and done. There is no ongoing 60-day comment period. The 60 days of comment actually refers to the Proposed Final Order (PFO) that will come out for each subsequent Water Management and Conservation Plan associated with this water right. After WRD issue a PFO for each WMCP, the Dept. will leave the comment period open for 60 days; after that, the water provider can begin to use the new increment of water.*)

Niki Iverson reported that the Joint Water Commission (JWC) will be launching a new website at the end of July.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:25 p.m. The next meeting of the Consortium Technical Committee is August 8, 2007 at 1:30 p.m. in the Portland Building, 5<sup>th</sup> floor, Bull Run Conference Room.

Submitted by Patty Burk, Consortium Staff