



**REGIONAL WATER PROVIDERS CONSORTIUM  
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING  
Minutes of May 9, 2007**

Chair Mike McKillip called the meeting of the Consortium Technical Committee (CTC) to order at 1:34 p.m. Other CTC members in attendance included Brion Barnett from the City of Beaverton, Gary Kerr from Clackamas River Water, Brian Stahl from the City of Gresham, Niki Iverson from City of Hillsboro, Joel Komarek from City of Lake Oswego, Dan Bradley from Oak Lodge Water District, Greg Drechsler from City of Portland, Kim Swan from South Fork Water Board, Mike Grimm from Sunrise Water Authority, and Corianne Hart from the City of Tigard.

Others in attendance included Mike Stuhr from the City of Portland.

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

**Emergency Planning Committee Report:** Rebecca Geisen introduced Mike Stuhr, Portland Water Bureau Chief Engineer, who presented the CTC information on the Oregon Water and Wastewater Emergency Response Network (ORWARN).

Mike noted that the original primary drivers behind WARN agreements were California, Florida and Texas because these areas experience repetitive big natural disasters. Mike commented that the idea of establishing an Oregon WARN came out of the Portland Water Bureau's experience with disaster relief in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina. Events such as Hurricane Katrina identified a need for water and wastewater utilities to create intra-state mutual aid and assistance programs. Mike said these types of agreements are so important because:

- Utilities require specialized resources to sustain operations.
- Government response agencies and other critical infrastructure rely on water supplies.
- Utilities must provide their own support until state and federal resources are available.
- Large events impact regional areas, making help from nearby utilities impractical.
- Disasters impact utility employees and their families, creating greater need for relief.
- Agreements must be established pre-event for federal reimbursement.
- Promoting mutual aid/assistance meets the FY 06 Department of Homeland Security requirements.

In February 2006, Portland Water Bureau staff along with several other local water provider staff including City of Hillsboro, Tualatin Valley Water District, and City of Salem attended a Joint Management Conference presentation on WARNs in both Texas and Florida. This group was excited about what they heard and wanted to explore the idea of establishing an Oregon WARN. Mike noted that upon their return the idea grew to include entities from City of Bend, City of Eugene and others. Mike advised that these entities began meeting and in February 2007 a *Mutual Aid and Assistance Agreement for the Provision of Emergency Services Related to Water and Wastewater Utilities* for Oregon was completed. Mike said many agencies have already signed the agreement including the City of Bend, City of Gates, City of Hillsboro, City of Salem, and Tualatin Valley Water District. Those members still pending include City of Eugene, City of Gresham, City of Mill City, Eugene Water and Electric Board, Portland Water Bureau and Bureau of Environmental Services.

ORWARN is designed to provide quick and professional assistance in any situation that overwhelms the capabilities of a water or wastewater utility. No formal declaration of emergency is needed, and the assistance can take the form of personnel, equipment, materials, or services. Member utilities may request mutual-aid deployment of emergency support to restore critical operations at the affected water/wastewater utility. Member agencies are never obligated to respond.

Mike advised that they would be spending the summer going out to all water/wastewater utilities around the state to promote ORWARN and encourage agencies to join. Mike explained that reasons for joining ORWARN include increased planning and coordination; enhanced access to specialized resources; provides access to all member utilities statewide; expedites arrival of aid; is consistent with the National Incident Management System (NIMS); reduces administrative conflict; agreement contains indemnification and worker's comp provisions to protect participating utilities, and provisions for reimbursement of costs; provides list of emergency contacts and available resources; response to any incident is voluntary; and improves the probability for quick recovery. Mike noted that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and FEMA are looking into how to do inter-state mutual aid agreements.

Mike mentioned that the first statewide ORWARN meeting is scheduled for September 21, 2007 in Bend.

Rebecca Geisen asked if training and exercises would be part of ORWARN. Mike said that it is the hope that training and exercises are eventually included.

The CTC members discussed ORWARN and thanked Mike for his presentation.

Rebecca Geisen reported that she e-mailed information for the interconnections workshop to the CTC members and also included the information in today's meeting material handout. The information included a draft agenda and an information list which itemized items water providers are being asked to bring to the workshop. Rebecca reviewed both items and asked the CTC members for their thoughts. The CTC approved the information as presented.

Rebecca advised that she had heard that the City of Damascus was interested in attending the workshop and asked if extending an invitation to Damascus was appropriate.

Lorna commented that the other non-Consortium members that have been invited to the workshop are water providers, Damascus is not. She said although she does not have a preference one way or another, she did not see the value of Damascus attending.

Rebecca said she was unsure why they wanted to attend. She said Damascus had heard from a third party about the workshop and told this person they wanted to attend the workshop.

Mike Grimm suggested that he could talk with representatives from Damascus to ascertain why they are interested and their reasons for wanting to attend. He said he would then get back to Rebecca and let her know.

Joel Komarek asked what will happen after the workshop in term of communicating what was discussed with Consortium Board members.

Rebecca explained that she will be giving a brief report back to the Consortium Board at their June meeting and hoped to have a more detailed follow up discussion at the September Board meeting. She noted that the consultant hired to do the meeting facilitation will also be preparing a detailed meeting summary that will be distributed to the workshop participants.

Rebecca reported that Consortium staff has talked in detail with the City of Portland Attorney's Office regarding compliance of Oregon Public Meeting Law for the workshop. Staff was advised by Ruth Spetter; City Attorney that the workshop does need to be noticed but due to the sensitive and security related issues that may be discussed, can be held in an executive session and closed to the public. A draft executive session notice was included in the meeting materials packet.

Niki Iverson asked if the City of Portland considers all staff meetings public meetings.

Lorna advised that the workshop cannot be considered a staff meeting if a quorum of the CTC is present, therefore, must meet Oregon Public Meeting laws.

Rebecca advised that she will be sending out invitation to both Consortium members and non-members tomorrow and will need meeting participants to RSVP.

Rebecca pointed out that a copy of the April EPC meeting summary was included in the meeting materials packet. Rebecca noted that they had great attendance.

Niki said that it seems that smaller agencies are adding emergency staff so more people seem to be coming to the meetings.

Rebecca noted she still does not have an update on the Consortium's UASI grant application. She said she will probably not hear anything until some time this summer.

**Conservation Committee Report:** Lindsey Berman reported that the summer media marketing campaign will kick off in about 2 weeks. The *Sprinkler Cha Cha Cha* television advertisement will be shown on Channel 2, KATU and a mix of cable TV stations from June through August.

Lindsey advised that staff is working hard on the redevelopment of the Consortium website. She noted that the revised site will include a new kid's page, new Evapotranspiration (ET) information, an interactive water savings calculator and new navigation and better organization. Lindsey said they hope to launch the new website on June 1.

Lindsey noted that conservation staff will participate in *2 AM Northwest* television interviews, several KPAM radio interviews and a landscape segment on cable television. The Consortium Conservation Committee (CCC) will be hosting nine summer events.

**June Consortium Board Meeting Draft Agenda and CTC Seattle Workshop Agenda:** Lorna Stickel reported that Consortium staff has been spending time working with Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) on their presentation for the June 6 Consortium Board meeting and the afternoon workshop with CTC members and staff. She noted that there will be four or five representatives from SPU coming down for the day. They include Joan Kersnar, Drinking Water Planning Manager, Julie Burman, Drinking Water Planning Advisor/Water Conservation, Bruce Flory, Principal Economist/Demand Forecasts, and Paul Fleming, Strategic Advisor/Climate Change Initiatives. Lorna pointed out that based on the set of questions discussed at the last CTC meeting, SPU has developed a preliminary plan for both presentations and a copy was provided in the meeting materials packet.

Lorna reviewed the plan as outlined by SPU. She noted that SPU asked if at the evening Board meeting, their presentation could go first so that they could get an earlier start home. The CTC elected to move the public comment and committee report portion of the agenda to after the SPU presentation. The SPU presentation was moved to agenda item four behind introductions, approval of minutes and the election of officers.

Lorna said for the evening Board meeting session the preliminary agenda includes an overview of Seattle Public Utilities, Demand Forecast and Conservation Planning, Adaptation Strategies for Climate Changes, Regional Planning and Coordination for Water Supply and a wrap up question/answer period. She noted that the evening session would be a broader overview of these topics. The afternoon session would be more detailed. The CTC discussed the evening session agenda. It was decided to shorten the discussion on climate change and add time to the regional planning and coordination portion of the presentation. It was also suggested to include the question/answer time throughout the presentation not just at the end. The CTC suggested that a u-shaped table configuration be used for the Board meeting.

Lorna advised that the SPU afternoon session agenda included introductions, an overview of Seattle Public Utilities, Demand Forecast, Conservation Planning, Adaptation Strategies for Climate Change, Regional Planning and Coordination for Water Supply and a wrap up question/answer period. Lorna mentioned that the afternoon session has garnered interest from other areas around the State including City of Bend and City of Salem. Lorna advised that staff was unable to find a meeting space for the afternoon session close to Metro so it would be held in the Portland Building, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, Room C.

Lorna mentioned that she plans to invite Waterwatch to attend the workshop.

The CTC directed Consortium staff to give the SPU presenters a gift of appreciation and provide them dinner between the afternoon session and the Board meeting. Lorna asked that the CTC members encourage their elected officials to attend. She said SPU is coming a long way as our invited guest so we want to make sure they have a large, engaged audience.

**2007 Legislative Session Discussion:** Lorna reported that it appears the State legislative session will end in June as scheduled. She noted included in the meeting materials packet was the most recent 2007 Oregon Legislative Bills tracking list. Lorna advised that there is still some work going on with House Bill (HB) 2564- Measurement of Water Use. She said this bill requires all water users to measure amounts of water withdrawn or stored. The bill applies to new water users on and after the effective date of the Act and existing water users on and after January 1, 2012. Lorna advised that she has not yet seen amendments on this bill.

Niki Iverson commented that she received the amendments and would forward them to Lorna.

Lorna advised that Senate Bill (SB) 0602 –Storage Facilities on the Upper Columbia River legislation was supposed to be dead but appears to be resurrected for more discussion.

Lorna reported that SB 0600, which directs Water Resources Department to conduct statewide water supply and conservation opportunity assessments and appropriates moneys from the General Fund to pay costs of the assessments, seems to be moving forward.

Lorna advised that the Fluoride bill still has some legs.

Dan Bradley advised he heard the fluoride bill will not make it through the Senate.

Lorna concluded that Senator Gordon Smith's office is interested in receiving letters of support for federal SB 1101 on Energy Standards for Home Appliances. Lorna advised that the Oregon Water Utilities Council (OWUC) has distributed a draft letter of support for this bill. Lorna said she would review the draft and work on developing a similar letter of support from the Consortium.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:11 p.m. The next meeting of the Consortium Technical Committee is June 13, 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