



REGIONAL WATER PROVIDERS CONSORTIUM BOARD MEETING Minutes of June 1, 2011

Consortium Board Chair Forrest Soth called the Regional Water Providers Consortium Board Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was held in the Metro Council Chambers.

Elected representatives from sixteen Consortium member agencies were present at the meeting (which is a quorum), including City of Beaverton, Clackamas River Water, City of Forest Grove, City of Hillsboro, City of Lake Oswego, Metro, City of Milwaukie, Oak Lodge Water District, Raleigh Water District, Rockwood Water PUD, City of Sandy, City of Sherwood, South Fork Water Board, City of Tigard, City of Tualatin, and Tualatin Valley Water District.

Consortium member agencies not represented by elected officials at this meeting included City of Fairview, City of Gladstone, City of Gresham, City of Portland, Sunrise Water Authority, West Slope Water District, and City of Wilsonville.

Introductions: Introductions were made. Those in attendance included Councilor Forrest Soth and Brion Barnett from the City of Beaverton; Commissioner Kami Kehoe from Clackamas River Water; Councilor Victoria Lowe and Rob Foster from the City of Forest Grove; Councilor Ray Jaren from the City of Gladstone; Brian Stahl from the City of Gresham; Commissioner John Rosenberger and Kevin Hanway from the City of Hillsboro; Councilor Bill Tierney and Guy Graham from the City of Lake Oswego; Councilor Shirley Craddick from Metro; Councilor David Hedges from the City of Milwaukie; Commissioner Jim Knapp and Dan Bradley from Oak Lodge Water District; David Shaff from the City of Portland; Councilor Aaron O'Donnell from Raleigh Water District; Commissioner Larry Dixon and Harvey Barnes from Rockwood Water PUD; Councilor Carl Exner from the City of Sandy; Councilor Dave Grant and Rich Sattler from the City of Sherwood; Councilor Jody Carson from South Fork Water Board; Councilor Nick Wilson and John Goodrich from the City of Tigard; Councilor Ed Truax and Mike McKillip from City of Tualatin; Commissioner Jim Duggan from Tualatin Valley Water District; and Lorna Stickel, Rebecca Geisen, Lindsey Berman, and Patty Burk from the City of Portland/Consortium Staff.

Approval of Consortium Board Minutes for February 2, 2011: Councilor Ed Truax made a motion to approve the Consortium Board minutes for February 2, 2011 as presented. Councilor Victoria Lowe seconded the motion. The Consortium Board unanimously approved the February 2, 2011 Consortium Board minutes as presented. (16:0:0)

Public Comment: None.

Election of Officers: Chair Forrest Soth pointed out that a memorandum on the election of the Consortium Board Chair and Vice-Chair positions was included in the meeting materials packet. Article 4 of the Consortium By-Laws contains the procedural requirements for officers. It states that the Board shall have at least a Chair and a Vice-Chair and that they must come from two different counties. The term of both offices is a one-year term with the possibility of a consecutive second year upon re-election. Elections must be done when a quorum is present and a majority of the quorum must approve each position.

Chair Soth opened the meeting for nominations for Consortium Board Chair. Commissioner Jim Knapp nominated Councilor Jody Carson from South Fork Water Board. Councilor Shirley Craddick seconded the nomination. There were no other nominations. The Consortium Board unanimously approved the nomination of Councilor Jody Carson from South Fork Water Board as Chair of the Consortium Board. (16:0:0)

Chair Soth opened the meeting for nominations for Consortium Board Vice-Chair. Councilor Ed Truax nominated Commissioner John Rosenberger from the City of Hillsboro. Commissioner Jim Duggan seconded the nomination. There were no other nominations. The Consortium Board unanimously approved the nomination of Commissioner John Rosenberger from the City of Hillsboro as Vice-Chair of the Consortium Board. (16:0:0)

Boring Water District #24 Ex-Officio Membership: Lorna Stickel advised that included in the meeting materials packet was a letter from Boring Water District #24 Chair Pat Bigelow requesting that the Consortium Board allow them to continue their Ex-Officio status for the 2011/12 budget year. It was noted that Boring Water District #24 continues to be significantly impacted by the current down turn in the economy and therefore is unable to budget for their 2011/12 Consortium dues.

Councilor Ed Truax asked what it meant for an entity to be an Ex-Officio member.

Ms. Stickel explained that an Ex-Officio member does not get to vote on items brought before the Consortium Board nor do they receive any materials i.e., conservation devices or brochures afforded to dues paying members. Ms. Stickel noted that the Ex-Officio status keeps a member interested and “at the table”.

Councilor Ray Jaren commented that the difference between being an Ex-Officio member as opposed to a member of the public is that as an Ex-Officio member they can participate in issues brought before the Board but do not having voting rights.

Councilor Victoria Lowe asked if their dues would be coming out of the contingency budget again this year.

Ms. Stickel explained that for the FY 2011/12 Consortium budget, Boring's dues were not included as they had originally stated that they would not be able to continue their participation with the Consortium.

Commissioner Jim Knapp suggested that the Board could approve Boring Water District #24's request for Ex-Officio status for one more year but that they should be assessed a nominal fee for incidental such as postage and printing costs.

Councilor Nick Wilson commented that all members are having financial challenges. He stated that Boring Water District #24 has had two years of Ex-Officio status and perhaps when their budget situation has turned around they could rejoin the Consortium at that time.

Councilor Jaren suggested that the Consortium might want to look into creating a different membership category, i.e., associated member to make it easier for smaller water providers to join or participate in the Consortium.

Councilor Truax commented that he is not in favor of an Ex-Officio status but would be willing to discuss a different way of calculating a dues formula to accommodate smaller members.

Ms. Stickel suggested that the Consortium Board make a decision on Boring Water District #24 request for Ex-Officio membership for FY 2011/12 and then if still interested direct the Consortium Executive Committee to work with staff to brainstorm ideas for different types of memberships and what that would entail.

Commissioner Kami Kehoe made a motion to approve Boring Water District #24 request for Ex-Officio membership for FY 2011/12. Councilor Victoria Lowe seconded the motion.

Commissioner Jim Duggan requested to amend the motion to also include that this would be the final year of Boring Water District #24 Ex-Officio membership.

Commissioner Jim Knapp requested to further amend the motion to include that Boring Water District #24 would be assessed a \$100 fee to pay for postage and printing costs, etc.

Commissioner Kehoe and Councilor Lowe agreed to the amendments.

The Consortium Board approved Boring Water District #24 request for Ex-Officio membership for FY 2011/12 with included amended language stating this would be the final year of Ex-Officio status and an assessment of \$100 for incidental postage and printing costs. (12:4:0)

Emergency Planning Committee Report: Rebecca Geisen reported that she has been attending the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) Public Works meetings where they have been focusing on the 2011 grant cycle. She said there has been no guidance issued from the federal government on the grant process, all of the UASI working groups have been working to identify projects in anticipation of the guidance and likely very short turn-around time to submit the application. Ms. Geisen advised that the Public Works group identified many projects. Water

related projects include an additional emergency water distribution system for Beaverton, another portable water treatment plant, and the purchase of portable overland water pipe.

Ms. Geisen advised that the Portland UASI area received approximately \$5 million in funding which is less than has been received in previous years. Ms. Geisen said they won't know how the funding will be distributed until later this year.

Ms. Geisen reported that an update of the Emergency Contact List has been completed and distributed to members. This list includes both Consortium members and Bull Run Wholesale customers.

Ms. Geisen reported that on May 17, the Emergency Planning Committee (EPC) conducted a Regional Interconnections Table Top Exercise at the City of Lake Oswego's West End Building. Ms. Geisen advised that the purpose of the exercise was to test the capabilities of the geodatabase that was put together as part of the Regional Interconnections Study. Ms. Geisen reminded Board members that the Portland Water Bureau (on behalf of the Consortium) received a \$90,000 Urban Area Security Initiative grant in 2009 to fund a study of regional interconnections. She noted that a product of that study was a GIS database that contains water provider system information along with all of the regional interconnections between providers. She noted that 47 people from 21 agencies attended the exercise. Ms. Geisen advised that the scenario for the exercise included a tanker truck crash off of the Carver bridge spilled 8,000 gallons of biodiesel into the Clackamas River on a hot August day when water demand was at its peak.

Ms. Geisen said she is in the process of writing up the after action report which will be sent to all Consortium members when completed. Ms. Geisen advised that some highlights, based on the exercise evaluation and hot wash questions, included:

- ◆ An increased knowledge of interconnections and capacities.
- ◆ Maps were a great hands-on, useful tool.
- ◆ Geodatabase validated institutional knowledge and provided new information.
- ◆ An increased awareness of neighboring water provider agencies and their facilities.
- ◆ Great to have information all in one place.
- ◆ Data needs to be continually verified and updated.
- ◆ Need to exercise and maintain valves more frequently and to do more testing and exercises.
- ◆ Need more temporary pumps and piping to move water around.

Ms. Geisen advised that next steps identified included testing interconnections and valves, updating the geodatabase, encouraging members to sign the data sharing agreement, continual annual exercises, and a need for more pumps and temporary piping.

Ms. Geisen concluded that she believed that the exercise went very well and the EPC will continue to put together these types of exercises.

Councilor Jody Carson asked if the after action report will include an attendee list and which entities have signed the data sharing agreement.

Ms. Geisen advised that an attendee list would be included in the after action report. She advised that a data sharing agreement has not yet been approved. Ms. Geisen said she hopes to have the agreement ready and approved by the Consortium Technical Committee at their next meeting.

Councilor Shirley Craddick asked if various water sources are really connected and can water really be moved between sources during an emergency.

Ms. Geisen advised that the physical interconnections are available but that they do have some limitations to their use i.e., pipe size, pressure differences.

Councilor Craddick asked if water providers are looking at upgrading interconnections so that they can more readily be used during an emergency.

Ms. Geisen commented that neighboring water providers may be looking at interconnection improvements. She noted that the exercise helped to identify some of the interconnection limitations and one of the take away messages is that more work needs to be done on making these interconnections more viable.

Councilor Craddick suggested that the Consortium could give direction to Consortium member water provider staff on a plan to provide water in an emergency and how to improve water connections.

Councilor Wilson commented that he would like to see more exercises done that involve different types of scenarios and sources.

Ms. Geisen reiterated that it is the Emergency Planning Committee's intention to continue to conduct these types of exercises.

Councilor Victoria Lowe commented that the purpose of pursuing work in the area of regional interconnections and developing the geodatabase was so that important information could be found and housed all in one place to run various emergency scenarios. Councilor Lowe noted that these tools provide an opportunity to look at the big regional picture with regard to water supply and to make recommendations on how to best ensure water is available during emergencies.

Conservation Committee Report: Lindsey Berman mentioned that at the October Consortium Board meeting she will provide her annual year-end conservation report but tonight wanted to take the opportunity to share with Board members Public Service Announcements (PSA) and stories that focused on an indoor water conservation messaging. Ms. Berman reminded Consortium Board members that PSA's (Indoor tips) began airing Feb. 1st and ran through the week of March 7th. KATU, Channel 2 weather meteorologist Dave Selesky served as the RWPC spokesperson. The indoor PSA spots served to educate the public on simple and inexpensive ways to conserve water and save money at home. The tips covered several of our free conservation devices: high efficiency showerheads, leak detection tabs and faucet aerators. The

indoor campaign included three water conservation news stories including (Ms. Berman showed the following news stories):

- ◆ 2/11/11: AM NW segment topic: “Easy to install water conservation devices that save water and money” - KATU AM NW (Jim Meierotto, RWPC media representative)
- ◆ 2/22/11: 6:00 pm KATU Ch 2 news segment topic: “In home Water saving appliances/devices and savings” (Jesse Engum, RWPC media representative)
- ◆ 3/7/11: 6:00 pm KATU Ch 2 news segment topic: “Shopping for water saving appliances and devices” (Tacy Steel, RWPC media representative)
- ◆ 4/26/11: 6:00 pm KATU Ch 2 news segment topic: “The 18th Annual Children’s Clean Water Festival” – KATU Ch. 2 5:00 pm news coverage and Spanish sister station KUNP Univision 6:00 news coverage. Both segments are linked to the KATU website under the Green Living link, as well as on the Consortium website.

Ms. Berman reported that the Consortium launched a free water savings kit promotion in tandem with the television campaign. The free promotion launched February 1 and ran through end of March. This promotion was advertised on the RWPC website and newsletter, along with press releases in community papers and on-line papers. Additionally, the promotion was advertised in NW Renovation magazine as well on KINK radio and KXL radio programs – featuring (3) live radio interviews with RWPC staff. KINK radio also featured the RWPC and logo on their Green Team webpage. A total of 254 free water savings kits were distributed to Consortium service customers for this promotion.

Public Opinion about Government & Politics in the Portland Metropolitan Area: Adam Davis from Davis, Hibbits and Midghall Inc. joined the meeting to give a presentation on Public Opinion about Government and Politics in the Portland Metropolitan Area. Mr. Davis is a founding partner of DHM Research, a non-partisan and independent opinion research and consulting firm based in Portland, Oregon. Mr. Davis is a nationally recognized authority on survey research design and an expert focus group moderator.

Mr. Davis prepared a PowerPoint presentation that illustrated public opinion about government and politics in the Portland Metropolitan area including negativity, low awareness and knowledge levels, media changes, changing demographics, anxiety about the economy, and other problems.

Mr. Davis explored specific public opinion issues including job creation and economic development, government spending and taxation, K-12 education, health and human services, and drinking water.

Mr. Davis advised that with regard to public opinion issues specific to drinking water that unprompted, drinking water is not of the radar screen of the general public but prompted it is a very different story. Mr. Davis noted that drinking water is considered an important government service whose priority should be focused on infrastructure development where maintenance

trumps new construction. He said that public health is the prime motivator for the public and that clean water is a major value. Mr. Davis said the link between drinking water service and economic development/jobs is not recognized by the public. He concluded that user fees and other funding mechanisms are of concern to the public as rates for water service continue to rise.

Mr. Davis touched on the importance of effective communication with the public and how it must be linked to values and beliefs. He said public communication must link to concerns and issues, linked to what these mean positively for small business, be kept basic, not use “government”, show public involvement, show accountability and transparency, show partnerships, tell a great story (concrete, surprising/unexpected, simplicity, credibility, emotion), use effective messengers, use multiple communication sources, have a parallel track for Spanish-speaking Oregonians (others?)-know your changing demographics and psychographics, and must be a sustained effort.

The Consortium Board thanked Mr. Davis for his presentation. The presentation was sent electronically to all meeting participants and is available upon request.

The Regional Water Providers Consortium Board meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m. The next meeting of the Regional Water Providers Consortium Board is October 5, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in the Metro Council Chambers.

Submitted by Patty Burk, Consortium Staff