



## **REGIONAL WATER PROVIDERS CONSORTIUM BOARD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**Notes of April 6, 2011**

Consortium Board Chair Forrest Soth called the meeting of the Executive Committee (EC) to order at 5:45 p.m. Introductions were made. Executive Committee members present at the meeting included Councilor Forrest Soth from the City of Beaverton, Councilor John Kilian from the City of Gresham, Commissioner Don McCarthy from Rockwood Water PUD, Councilor Jody Carson from South Fork Water Board, and Commissioner Jim Duggan from Tualatin Valley Water District.

Other meeting participants included Brian Stahl from the City of Gresham, Harvey Barnes from Rockwood Water PUD, and John Collins from South Fork Water Board.

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

**Approval of the January 12, 2011 Meeting Minutes:** Commissioner Jim Duggan made a motion to approve the January 12, 2011 Executive Committee meeting minutes. Commissioner Don McCarthy seconded the motion. The Executive Committee approved the January 12, 2011 meeting minutes as written. (4:0:1) Councilor Jody Carson abstained as she was not in attendance at the January 12, 2011 meeting.

**Emergency Planning Committee Report:** Rebecca Geisen reported that the Emergency Planning Committee (EPC) is planning two exercises. The first is a tabletop exercise to test the capabilities of the new regional interconnections geodatabase. She advised that the exercise will be Tuesday, May 17 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Lake Oswego's West End Building. Ms. Geisen reported that the exercise scenario focuses on the Clackamas River and is geared toward Clackamas River water users, however, many of the regional water providers will be impacted or will have the ability to assist in some way. She said the objectives of the exercise are to test the capabilities of the regional geodatabase, test linear systems and supplies from multiple sources, identify gaps in data, infrastructure, policy, and operations, identify off-load risks, and test how quickly water providers can react and provide water where needed.

Ms. Geisen advised that the second is a functional, full scale exercise using the emergency water distribution systems in partnership with the City of Sherwood. She noted that the EPC spent time

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at their March meeting outlining the Consortium's objectives for the exercise that can be folded into Sherwood's plan including to test Emergency Water Distribution System Plan, to see how many people can we can serve, to use the blivets, to practice citizen communication at distribution site, to practice water quality/sanitizing procedures, to observe interagency coordination and interoperable communications, and to carry out mutual aid agreements.

Ms. Geisen advised that at the February EPC meeting, the group had a presentation by Aquapura on their portable water treatment system. On April 13 at 9:00 a.m., there will be a video conference with Global Hydration. Ms. Geisen reminded EC members that the City of Lake Oswego received a \$115,000 Urban Area Security Initiative grant to purchase a portable water treatment system.

Ms. Geisen advised that they are gearing up for the 2011 Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) grant cycle. She noted that they are still waiting for the grant guidance for 2011. Ms. Geisen said things are in limbo because of the federal budget however, once the guidance is issued, there will be a very short turn around for the grant application. Ms. Geisen mentioned that the Portland UASI region does not know how much funding it will receive or if they are even going to get any funding this year. Ms. Geisen advised that the UASI Public Works Group focused their meeting on identifying potential grant projects so that they are ready to go. They identified projects from last year to carry forward which included portable water treatment plant, emergency water distribution system, light plants, VMS trailer, emergency response truck, portable generators, traffic control trailers, overland portable water pipe, and site surveillance equipment.

Ms. Geisen concluded that she included two articles in the meeting materials packet *What We Can Learn from Japanese Disasters* and *Earthquake Disaster Measures* that illustrate lessons learned after the recent Japan earthquake and how those lessons might apply here.

Ms. Geisen reported that she is in the process of updating the Consortium's Emergency Contact List which includes Consortium members and Bull Run wholesalers.

Councilor Kilian asked how far reaching is the Consortium's emergency planning effort with disaster management related to water needs.

Ms. Geisen explained that the Consortium's emergency planning efforts focus on coordination and improving communications between water providers, designing and conducting emergency table top exercises, seeking grant monies for things like the Emergency Water Distribution Systems and Interconnections Study, etc. She noted that individual water providers are responsible for their own vulnerability assessments and emergency response plans. Ms. Geisen advised that the Consortium helps to bridge relationships between the water providers so that providers can use each other as resources for emergency planning.

Chair Soth suggested that Councilor Kilian could review the City of Gresham and Multnomah County's Emergency Preparedness Plans for more information on disaster management.

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Ms. Geisen stated that the water sector has unique vulnerabilities so it is very important to be well connected so that we can support each other. She noted that as a result the Oregon Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network (ORWARN) was formed which provides a mutual aid agreement that helps to facilitate water providers assisting each other in the event of an emergency. Ms. Geisen said almost all of the Consortium entities are members of ORWARN.

Brian Stahl commented that the Regional Water Providers Consortium tries to get water utilities to think regionally about emergency events and how to address them including coordination of resources and how can we move water throughout the region.

**Conservation Committee Report:** Lindsey Berman reported that they've wrapped up the indoor water conservation campaign. She advised the campaign began airing Feb. 1 and ran through the week of March 7. Weather meteorologist Dave Selesky served as the Consortium's spokesperson. Ms. Berman said the indoor Public Service Announcement (PSA) spots served to educate the public on simple and inexpensive ways to conserve water and save money at home. Ms. Berman showed the PSAs and other news segments.

Ms. Berman advised that the Consortium launched a free water savings kit promotion in tandem with the television campaign. This promotion was advertised on the Consortium website and newsletter, along with press releases in community papers and on-line papers.

Ms. Berman commented that as part of the summer campaign, the Consortium will be launching a new set of water conservation ads that will be placed on the sides and tails of Tri-met buses. She noted that there will be a series of three different ad spots that are designed to catch peoples' attention about outdoor conservation and direct the public to the Consortium website. A total of 24 buses will run throughout the summer months featuring water conservation ad spots and our website. Ms. Berman circulated samples of the bus signage.

Ms. Berman reported that both KATU Ch. 2 and Spanish sister station KUNP Univision will be covering the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Children's Clean Water Festival on April 26. Both news segments will be linked to the KATU website under the Green Living link, as well as on the Consortium website.

Ms. Berman noted that the CCC will be going out to bid for web programming and public relations proposals. She advised the current contracts for each category are up for renewal.

Councilor Jody Carson asked if outreach to Consortium members had been done to encourage them to link to the Consortium's website.

Ms. Berman advised that all Consortium members are listed on the Consortium website along with contact information and links to the member's sites. She noted that many of the Consortium members have links on their website back to the Consortium's site as well.

**Ex-Officio Status for Boring Water District #24:** Lorna Stickel advised that Consortium staff recently received a letter from Boring Water District #24 asking to continue their Ex-Officio status for the FY 2011/12 budget year. She noted originally when she talked with Boring Water District staff they had indicated that they would not be coming back to the Consortium but it appears they have changed their mind. Ms. Stickel advised that the Consortium Board will need to consider Boring's request for Ex-Officio status at their May Consortium Board meeting.

Ms. Stickel advised that the Executive Committee could make a recommendation to the Board regarding Boring's status or they can just consider the request at the May Consortium Board meeting and act on the request accordingly.

Harvey Barnes asked with regard to water right extension purpose does the ex-officio status give them something in the eyes of the Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD).

Ms. Stickel commented that she was unsure how OWRD views their ex-officio status but that Boring Water District is water limited so she did not think it plays a big role in their association with the Consortium.

Brian Stahl commented that offering Boring Water District #24 a quarterly payment plan, similar to what Sunrise Water Authority has done in the past, might be an option.

Councilor Jody Carson agreed that a payment plan seems like a reasonable approach.

The Executive Committee recommended offering Boring Water District #24 a payment plan option and if they are unable to pay give them the opportunity to return to the Consortium when their financial situation allows but to not extend their ex-officio status.

**May Consortium Board Meeting Draft Agenda:** Lorna Stickel pointed out that included in the meeting materials packet was the May Consortium Board draft agenda. The agenda included approval of the February 2, 2011 Consortium Board meeting minutes, election of officers, Boring Water District #24 ex-officio membership, Emergency Planning and Conservation Committee reports, and a place holder discussion to be determined.

Ms. Stickel reported that the Consortium Technical Committee discussed a few options for the place holder topics including infrastructure upgrades; i.e., an update from the City of Sherwood on their connection to the Willamette River, an update on the Joint Water Commission (JWC) Hagg Lake project, and an update on the Tigard/Lake Oswego partnership, or a presentation from Adam Davis from Davis, Hibbits and Midghall, Inc. on public opinion on government and politics, or a discussion on water rates and rate structure. Ms. Stickel advised that the CTC recommended the Adam Davis presentation as the place holder discussion item.

The EC members agreed the Adam Davis presentation would be interesting and of value if he is available.

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It was decided that Consortium staff would poll the Consortium Board members to ascertain their availability for the scheduled May 4 Consortium Board meeting as it is the first day of the Pacific Northwest Section (PNSW) American Water Works Association (AWWA) annual conference in Boise, Idaho. Ms. Stickel advised that the same scenario played out last year but the Board elected not to change the meeting date but that staff would poll members to see if a change in date was needed.

**State and Local Updates:** Ms. Stickel reported that State of Oregon Governor's budget came out with a recommendation to remove all the general fund money from the State Drinking Water Program. Ms. Stickel advised that this equates to approximately one-half the program's total budget. She noted that this could create issues of retaining primacy. Ms. Stickel said the Governor's office is recommending that the legislature establish an annual tap fee on water providers to make up the loss of those general funds which would put a budget strain on already tight water provider budgets. Ms. Stickel encouraged EC members to write letters of support for the State Drinking Water Program.

Ms. Stickel noted that there are a few other water bills of interest including:

HB 3165 - Imposes conditions on change of use for water in excess of specified amount if water right authorizes storage of water in federal storage project located in Willamette Basin.

HB 2700 - Expands definition of 'applicant' for purposes of removal-fill permitting program. Specifies procedures by which applicant that proposes removal or fill activity for construction of linear facility may receive and use removal-fill permit. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

SB 490 - Requires utility providing natural or liquid propane gas, electricity or water to notify residential tenant of possible termination of utility or service paid for by landlord. Allows tenant to retain utility or service for up to lesser of three billing periods or 90 days by paying current amounts due.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m. The next meeting of the Executive Committee is September 1, 2011 in the 5<sup>th</sup> floor, Bull Run Conference Room, Portland Building, 1120 SW 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Portland.

Submitted by Patty Burk, Consortium Staff.