



# Consortium Technical Committee Meeting Summary

JUNE 21, 2023 CALLED TO ORDER: 1:34 PM ADJOURNED: 2:59 PM

QUORUM PRESENT – YES – 13 MEMBERS

HYBRID MEETING HELD VIA ZOOM & PORTLAND BUILDING, 2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR, ROOM 216

## Approval of April 5, 2023 Meeting Summaries

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Mike Grimm made a motion to approve the April 5, 2023 meeting summary as presented. Sarah Jo Chaplen seconded the motion. The April 5, 2023 meeting summary was unanimously approved as presented. (13:0:0)

## Director's Report

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Upcoming Events: Rebecca Geisen, Consortium Managing Director shared the following Consortium-sponsored events:

- July 11 – Emergency Drinking Water Framework Workshop
- September 13 – EPA Cybersecurity workshop and TTX
- September 19 – EPA Water, Public Health, and Healthcare Workshop and TTX
- September 26 – Equipment Drill
- October 17 – EPA Region 10 State Agency Emergency Drinking Water Workshop (need a few water providers to participate). Beth McGinnis from Clackamas River Water expressed interest in participating in this workshop.

Workforce Planning: Rebecca advised that she and Riley have been participating on an ad-hoc career development and workforce planning committee that was originally formed around applying for grant funds for water treatment operator training. The group's work has evolved to developing ideas to attract more people toward a career in water. Rebecca noted that Consortium staff developed a Careers in Water resource page for the Consortium website with information on how and what it takes to become a water treatment operator. She noted that a bit of an impasse has been reached on what Consortium staff can do in this area without additional resources. Discussions on what other types of workforce development outreach and resource development can be done by this group is on-going.

Rebecca mentioned that Robert Scott, from Valley Water in Sacramento and current director of BAYWORK attended her presentation at the AWWA Utility Management Conference in March. He was interested in the

operation and longevity of the Consortium and how lessons learned could be applied to their organization. BAYWORK is a Consortium of providers in the Bay Area of California that focus on workforce development with the understanding that the operational reliability of water and wastewater utilities depends on having sufficient staffing in mission critical classifications. BAYWORK was established in 2009 and has over 50 members. Robert and Rebecca are meeting every month or so to discuss mutual challenges and opportunities and share ideas.

#### Additional Updates:

- Rebecca presented to the City of Cornelius City Council on June 5, 2023. Rebecca gave an overview of the Consortium and its programs.
- Rebecca presented at the AWWA Annual Conference (ACE23) in Toronto in mid-June.
- Rebecca met with the Office of Resiliency and Emergency Management (OREM) which is part of the Oregon Health Authority to learn more about their office and how they operate. OREM is responsible for providing food, water, and shelter during emergencies. They are a “boots on the ground” agency that respond directly to events and operates outside of the Oregon Department of Emergency Management. They will be coming to the July 11 Emergency Drinking Water Framework Plan workshop to talk more about their organization.

## Program Updates

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Bonny Cushman, Consortium Program Coordinator mentioned that the first television shoot of the season was completed today. Two stories, one in English and one in Spanish were filmed at Powell Butte that focused on water quality and the value of water. These segments will run in August. Tomorrow, Bonny will be part of a live television shoot on KATU, channel 2 focused on water conservation and on Friday will film a segment on emergency preparedness that will run in September. Bonny mentioned that it is a challenge to find spokespeople for these shoots and is looking especially for Spanish-speakers.

Bonny reminded CTC members that the Consortium’s media campaign and outreach is one of the largest items in the Consortium’s budget. The Consortium staff need members’ help connecting the stories and messaging to their customers. Bonny encouraged members to link to Consortium videos, print pieces and webpages on their websites; share information about the Consortium media campaign and outreach in their organization’s newsletter or other publications and with their community; and use the content in the Consortium-developed media toolkit to message about the outreach campaign and stories on their social media or through other communication channels.

Bonny advised that Mad Science, the Consortium’s school assembly contractor has gone out of business which leaves the Consortium without a school assembly program. Consortium staff and the Consortium Conservation Committee will be looking at ways to adapt the youth education program and what the program could look like moving forward.

Bonny gave a presentation at the Pacific Northwest Section of the AWWA annual conference and at Waterworks School focused on evolving approaches to the Consortium’s public outreach over the past 25 years and outcomes and lessons learned from the Curtail Your Enthusiasm tabletop exercise.

Consortium staff will soon launch a new multilingual feature for the Drinking Water Advisory Tool. The tool will be available in five languages – Spanish, Chinese, Russian, Vietnamese, and Arabic. New how-to create a drinking water advisory, best management practices and frequently asked questions documents have been created to accompany the new feature. An official launch email will go out soon.

## June Consortium Board Meeting Debrief

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Rebecca asked for general feedback from the June Consortium Board meeting. She noted agenda items seem to go well and there was very little input/feedback from the Board. Rebecca will resend the Strategic Plan initiatives materials to the CTC again.

## Consortium Intergovernmental Agreement

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Rebecca reminded CTC members that the draft Consortium Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) was shared with the Board at their June meeting. The draft included comments from member review and comments/feedback from Tommy Brooks, council for Oak Lodge Water Services. The Board will now be asked to approve the IGA at their October meeting. Following Board approval, each Consortium member will be required to take the IGA to their individual Boards, Councils and Commissions for signature. Next, Consortium staff will begin to review and revise the Consortium by-laws.

## Summer Supply Update

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The CTC decided that scheduling summer supply check-in meetings over the summer would be beneficial. Consortium staff will schedule a half-hour virtual meeting the second Wednesday of July and August.

## Strategic Plan Update

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Rebecca noted that the next steps for the Consortium 5-year Strategic Plan is to write and update the Plan with new tables for the mission/vision/values, SWOT analysis and strategic initiatives. Consortium staff have begun a series of Strategic Plan retreats to develop the structure and implementation of specific work tasks for the initiatives. The Strategic Plan provides an instrumental roadmap for work plan and budget development each fiscal year. In addition, Consortium staff will bring topic-specific issues to the CTC for deeper-dive discussions and additional feedback on member priorities and direction.

The Board will be asked to adopt the new Consortium 5-year Strategic Plan in October.

Meeting Attendees:

David Winship – City of Beaverton	Beth McGinnis – Clackamas River Water	Greg Robertson – City of Forest Grove
Justin Poyser – City of Gladstone	Jessica Dorsey – City of Hillsboro	Bret Bienerth – City of Lake Oswego
Sarah Jo Chaplen – Oak Lodge Water Services Authority	Kari Duncan – Rockwood Water PUD	Wyatt Parno – South Fork Water Board
Wade Hathhorn – Sunrise Water Authority	Rachel Sykes – City of Tualatin	Nick Augustus and Sarah Alton – Tualatin Valley Water District
Mike Grimm – West Slope Water District	Martin Montalvo – City of Wilsonville	Rebecca Geisen, Bonny Cushman, Riley Berger and Patty Burk – RWPC Staff

**Next CTC Meeting: September 6, 2023, via Zoom/videoconference.**