



REGIONAL WATER PROVIDERS CONSORTIUM BOARD MEETING Minutes of October 3, 2018

Consortium Board Chair Russ Axelrod called the Regional Water Providers Consortium Board Meeting to order at 6:33 p.m. The meeting was held in the Metro Council Chambers.

Elected representatives from seventeen 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 Gresham, City of Hillsboro, City of Lake Oswego, City of Milwaukie, Oak Lodge Water Services, Rockwood Water PUD, City of Sherwood, South Fork Water Board, Sunrise Water Authority, City of Tigard, City of Troutdale, City of Tualatin, Tualatin Valley Water District and West Slope Water District.

Consortium member agencies not represented by elected officials at this meeting included City of Cornelius, City of Gladstone, City of Portland, Raleigh Water District, and City of Sandy.

Chair Axelrod welcomed new Consortium Board Member Councilor Randy Lauer from the City of Troutdale. Chair Axelrod noted that Commissioner Amanda Fritz from the City of Portland will be new to the Board as well. Commissioner Fritz had a prior commitment from before her appointment to the Board so was unable to attend this meeting.

Introductions: Introductions were made. Those in attendance included Mayor Denny Doyle and David Winship from the City of Beaverton; Commissioner Naomi Angier and Todd Heidgerken from Clackamas River Water; Rob Drake from City of Cornelius; Councilor Peter Truax and Rob Foster from the City of Forest Grove; Councilor Kirk French and Andrew Degner from the City of Gresham; Commissioner Dave Judah and Kevin Hanway from the City of Hillsboro; Councilor Jackie Manz and Kari Duncan from the City of Lake Oswego; Councilor Lisa Batey from the City of Milwaukie; Commissioner Nancy Gibson from Oak Lodge Water Services; Edward Campbell and Mike Stuhr from the City of Portland; Director Tom Lewis and Brian Stahl from Rockwood Water PUD; Councilor Sean Garland and Craig Sheldon from the City of Sherwood; Mayor Russ Axelrod from South Fork Water Board; Commissioner Kevin Bailey from Sunrise Water Authority; Councilor Tom Anderson and John Goodrich from the City of Tigard; Councilor Randy Lauer from the City of Troutdale; Councilor Frank Bubenik and Jeff Fuchs from the City of Tualatin; Commissioner Jim Duggan, Carrie Pak and Andrea Watson from Tualatin Valley Water District; Commissioner Noel Reiersen and Mike Grimm from West Slope Water District; and Rebecca Geisen, Bonny Cushman, and Patty Burk, Consortium Staff.

Approval of Consortium Board Minutes for June 6, 2018: Commissioner Nancy Gibson made a motion to approve the June 6, 2018 Consortium Board meeting minutes as presented. Councilor Kirk French seconded the motion. The Consortium Board unanimously approved the June 6, 2018 Consortium Board minutes as presented. (17:0:0)

Public Comment: None.

Consortium Strategic Plan: Rebecca Geisen, Consortium Project Manager pointed out that the final draft Consortium Five-Year Strategic Plan was included in the meeting materials packet. The final draft incorporated comments from the Consortium Board, updated maps and photos, and minor revisions to fix typographical and grammatical issues. Ms. Geisen noted that both the Consortium Technical Committee and the Executive Committee reviewed and endorsed the Plan and she is now looking to the full Board to approve the Plan. Ms. Geisen thanked the Executive Committee and the Board for their tireless work on the Strategic Plan over the past year as well as the Consortium Technical Committee and other working committees.

Ms. Geisen noted that also included in the meeting materials packet was a handout that outlined the strategic initiatives and work task. Ms. Geisen advised that this is the working document that is guided by the Strategic Plan and will help to shape the Consortium budget and work plan over the next five years.

Chair Axelrod asked for any thoughts, ideas, comments on the Strategic Plan.

Mayor Peter Truax made a motion to adopt the Consortium Five-Year Strategic Plan. Mayor Denny Doyle seconded the motion. The Consortium Board unanimously approved the adoption of the Consortium Five-Year Strategic Plan. (17:0:0)

Project Manager Report: Ms. Geisen pointed out that a detailed tri-annual activity report was included in the meeting materials packet and encouraged Board members to look over the report for information on activities conducted since the last Board meeting in June.

New Member Outreach:

Ms. Geisen advised that Consortium staff met with the new staff member representatives from the City of Troutdale and Cornelius to share program information, answer questions, and welcome them to the organization.

Stranded Worker Agreement: Ms. Geisen reminded Consortium Board members that a Stranded Worker Agreement has been drafted that would allow staff to report to a water provider closer to where they live to provide assistance with the understanding that during a major event like an earthquake, many folks will not be able to report to work, but may be able to get to the city or district nearest to their home. Ms. Geisen advised that Consortium staff has been working with the Oregon Water/Wastewater Response Network (ORWARN) to have the agreement as an amendment to the ORWARN mutual aid agreement as almost all Consortium members are members of ORWARN. Ms. Geisen said a draft Stranded Worker Agreement has been sent to the ORWARN Chair for review and consideration.

Water Quality Advisory – Salem OR: Ms. Geisen reported that in September, the Emergency Planning Committee invited Dwayne Barnes the Utility Operations Manager from the City of Salem to talk about Salem’s 2018 summer water quality event, use of the mobile emergency water distribution systems, and lessons learned.

2018 Public Outreach Overview: Bonny Cushman, Consortium Program Coordinator provided an overview of the Consortium’s 2018 public outreach efforts. Ms. Cushman highlighted the television and radio campaigns; how to videos; enhancements to the Consortium website and expansion of the social media presence – Facebook, Twitter and YouTube; Consortium newsletters; conservation and emergency preparedness promotions; printed materials; and events.

Ms. Cushman reviewed the public outreach work plan for FY 2018/19 which includes an updated look and feel for Consortium materials, logo and documents; an evaluation of the Consortium’s public outreach initiatives and programs; new radio ads in both English and Spanish; new conservation and emergency preparedness how-to videos; additional new printed materials; increased Spanish outreach; and a revamp of the Consortium website.

Ms. Cushman concluded by noting that a clear roadmap for the Consortium’s outreach efforts has been developed – build on past successes; go where the people are; develop targeted messaging; increase the accessibility to the Consortium’s messages and materials; and be responsive to the needs of Consortium members and the public.

The Consortium Board thanked Ms. Cushman for her presentation.

FY 2019/20 Budget and Work Plan Concepts Discussion: Ms. Geisen pointed out that included in the meeting materials packet is a budget memorandum and spreadsheet that outlines budget concepts for FY 2019/20. Ms. Geisen noted that the FY 2019/20 budget and work plan will be quite different than this current year’s budget that utilized a large carry-over (\$188,000) that allowed the funding of our current level of service, one-time projects, and kept dues flat. The carryover that is available as a dues reduction for FY 2019/20 is only \$41,700. Ms. Geisen said, as mentioned during last year’s budget discussions, to maintain the current level of service or grow the program, a dues increase will be needed.

Ms. Geisen advised that the goal of tonight’s budget discussion is for the Board to provide direction to Consortium staff on program priorities and budget parameters. Ms. Geisen gave a brief overview of Consortium programs, administration and public involvement; regional coordination; emergency preparedness; and conservation as well as a review of the current one-time projects that were made feasible because of the large carryover from the previous year.

Ms. Geisen noted that it important to consider the following: the lower carryover will result in higher dues to maintain programs; staffing costs are unknown at this time, but a placeholder of 5% increase was used; there has been no dues increase (over 1.5%) since FY 2013/14; and the updated Strategic Plan outlines new and continuing initiatives moving forward.

Ms. Geisen presented three budget options that reflect different levels of dues increases, the program changes and what strategic initiatives they support. She advised that these options can be modified and were put together to give the Board some scenarios to discuss. Option A, which would include a 5% dues increase, reduces program levels for the summer television and radio campaign; eliminates how to videos; and a reduces the emergency preparedness TriMet bus campaign. Option B, which would come with a 10% dues increase is characterized as a current service level budget and includes the possible reallocation of outreach funds contingent upon the results of the Consortium program evaluation. Option C, which includes a 13% dues increase would include some enhanced service level allowing for the printing of new emergency preparedness and conservation materials, and the continuation of Spanish radio messaging and other Spanish outreach. All three options eliminate the Interconnection Study sinking funds as this work may be brought in house and become member staff driven.

Ms. Geisen noted that both the Consortium Technical Committee and the Executive Committee reviewed and discussed these budget options and directed staff to highlight for the Board how the different options support the newly adopted Consortium Strategic Plan. Neither committee had a specific option to recommend to the Board, but both favor a budget that supports the new strategic plan while being mindful of the costs.

Board members discussed the budget options presented. There was general understanding that Consortium dues have been able to remain flat for the past several years by utilizing large carryover funds and that to maintain and grow programs a more significant dues increase may be needed. It was noted that water providers have a responsibility to their customers to continue with the valued programs, especially the Spanish language outreach programs. The consensus expressed was Option B or C were doable with the understanding that the 10-13% increase would be a one-time adjustment year to “true up” dues to fund and support programs.

Ms. Geisen reminded Board members that the costs and dues estimates may vary depending on the final staffing costs which will be provided by the City of Portland in December. Current budget information assumes an increase of 5% in staffing costs. Ms. Geisen advised that once staffing costs are available, Consortium staff, in concert with the CTC and EC, would finalize a proposed FY 2019/20 budget and work plan for Board consideration and approval at their meeting in February.

Summer Supply Wrap Up: Ms. Geisen reported that nine counties in the State of Oregon declared drought this summer, however, there was no state-wide action on drought this year. Ms. Geisen noted that CTC met in July and August to share information about respective sources, capacity, messaging, and any summer supply challenges. Consortium messaging was updated as needed.

Clackamas River: Todd Heidgerken from Clackamas River Water provided an overview of the water supply situation for the Clackamas River for this past summer. In 2018, there was concern about summer water supply at the beginning of the summer because of below normal snowpack reaching only about 60% of normal, and a very warm May that caused early snow melt. This combination lead to lower than normal river flows in June, and the US Drought Monitor

indicated worsening conditions. Providers who rely on the Clackamas River as a drinking water source watched the river gauges closely over the summer as flow rates hovered somewhat near to some providers' curtailment triggers, but the flows did not dip below those levels. Some voluntary and enhanced conservation messaging was done throughout the summer but in general supply remained adequate.

Trask/Tualatin Rivers: Kevin Hanway from the City of Hillsboro gave an update on the Joint Water Commission (JWC) system. The JWC includes the Cities of Hillsboro, Forest Grove, Beaverton, TVWD, and wholesale customers – the Cities of Cornelius and North Plains. Mr. Hanway reported that the JWC felt very comfortable about their water supply this summer. He noted that Hagg Lake and Barney Reservoir began the summer full. The JWC does not rely on snowpack but rather relies on stored water. Mr. Hanway noted that for most of the summer daily water demand was lower in 2018 as compared to 2015 and reservoir storage in late September 2018 was greater than in 2015. Overall, summer water supply for the JWC system was ample.

Bull Run: Edward Campbell from the City of Portland provided an update on the Bull Run water supply. Mr. Campbell noted that the Portland Water Bureau serves approximately one million customers in the Portland metro area as well as several wholesale customers. Mr. Campbell shared the rate of drawdown and usable storage throughout the summer. He noted that the Portland Water Bureau began running groundwater from the Columbia South Shore Well Field in late June and continued to run it throughout the summer. Drawdown began in May which is very early. Early tracking had water supply below 2015 levels, but supplies rebounded quickly, and usage leveled out and summer supplies held steady and in good shape. Mr. Campbell commented that the work the Consortium did regarding summer supply discussions and check-ins throughout the summer was very beneficial. He noted that the City of Portland often gets a lot of media attention in the summer about water supply. The coordination the CTC did throughout the summer and the understanding of other water sources supply situations helped to shape media messaging and remind the media that the summer water supply story in the region is not individual to Portland.

Willamette River: Carrie Pak from Tualatin Valley Water District (TVWD) gave a review of 2018 Willamette River flows. Ms. Pak reported that the City of Hillsboro, TVWD and the City of Beaverton are currently working on the development of a treatment plant that would utilize water from the Willamette River and provided a forward look to 2026 on how the supplies on the Willamette River will look once the treatment plant is on line. Ms. Pak discussed what the 2018 river flows would look like if the new treatment plant was in use today and concluded that there would be adequate instream flows to meet supply needs and nearly 95% of flows would meet fish persistence criteria. Ms. Pak said the Willamette River is a highly reliable source and their planning for the future begins by managing this resource now.

Troutdale: The City of Troutdale provided information on their summer water supply. They reported that their groundwater wells were able to meet summer demand. One pressure zone required monitoring due to a well being out of service for rehabilitation and they utilized one back-up well to support normal operations for a short period due to heavy construction and irrigation water use in the north industrial area. Overall the supply was adequate and available, and they did not have to consider any substantial curtailment measures.

Regional Water Providers Consortium Board Meeting Minutes
October 3, 2018

The Regional Water Providers Consortium Board meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m. The next meeting of the Regional Water Providers Consortium Board is February 6, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. in the Metro Council Chambers.

Submitted by Patty Burk, Consortium Staff