

# Consortium Technical Committee Meeting Summary

SEPTEMBER 4, 2019      CALLED TO ORDER: 1:30 PM      ADJOURNED: 3:25 PM  
QUORUM PRESENT - YES - 14 MEMBERS



## Approval of June 19, 2019 Meeting Summary

---

Mike Grimm made a motion to approve the June 19, 2019 meeting summary as presented. Todd Heidgerken seconded the motion. The Consortium Technical Committee unanimously approved the June 19, 2019 meeting summary as presented. (14:0:0)

## Election of Officers

---

Nominations for Consortium Technical Committee (CTC) Chair were opened. John Goodrich made a motion to nominate Andrew Degner for CTC Chair. Mike Grimm seconded the motion. There were no other nominations. The CTC unanimously approved Andrew Degner as CTC Chair. (14:0:0)

Nominations for Consortium Technical Committee Vice-Chair were open. Carrie Pak nominated herself for CTC Vice-Chair. Dave Winship seconded the motion. There were no other nominations. The CTC unanimously approved Carrie Pak as CTC Vice-Chair. (14:0:0)

## Director Report

---

**2019 Bloom Doom Table Top Exercise** - Rebecca Geisen, Managing Director mentioned that the after-action report for the 2019 Bloom Doom table top exercise was completed and along with all the exercise materials can be found on the member page of the Consortium website [regionalh2o.org](http://regionalh2o.org).

**Equipment Drill** - Rebecca reminded CTC members about the regional emergency equipment drill on September 26, 2019. To date, 50 participants have registered. Last date to register is Thursday, September 19. Continuing Education Units (CEUs) have been applied for and the drill planning committee will find out next week if CEUs have been granted.

**Drinking Water Advisory Tool** -The annual water provider boundary update was completed.

**City of Newberg Membership** – Rebecca mentioned that the City of Newberg signed the memorandum of understanding (MOU) to become a non-regional Consortium member. Rebecca noted that she was contacted by representatives from the City of Estacada regarding Consortium membership. Rebecca encouraged members in the Clackamas area to reach out the Estacada.

**Events** – Rebecca advised that Washington State University is working on a fire study funded by NASA that will identify concerns that water utilities in the Pacific Northwest have due to increasing wildfire risk to their water sources. They will be conducting focus groups in October and November and are looking for water provider representatives to discuss wildfire threats to water operations, and how utilities are dealing with them and planning for fire threats. Rebecca advised the focus groups will likely be half-day or full-day events and asked anyone interested in participating in the focus groups to let her know so she can provide them the contact information for the WSU researcher on the project.

Todd Heidgerken expressed interest in CRW participating.

Rebecca reported that NASA is also funding a Columbia River Needs Assessment workshop. The workshop will prioritize basin needs and match them to NASA resources.

Portland General Electric (PGE) is participating in a nation-wide emergency preparedness exercise called GridEx. GridEx is designed for utilities and government partners to exercise coordinated responses to simulated cyber and physical security attacks, strengthen crisis communications relationships, and provide input for lessons learned. PGE’s emergency manager is looking for water providers partners to participate along side them in this exercise. Rebecca mentioned that she sent out information on the exercise to the Emergency Planning Committee.

## Program Updates

---

Bonny Cushman, Program Coordinator, mentioned that the summer water conservation campaign is now complete, and the emergency preparedness campaign has now begun. Bonny advised that during the summer campaign, 26 television shoots were done, 18 new ads were developed, and 24 on-air interviews were given. Bonny advised that she will send out an e-mail with links to the Consortium website where the interviews are stories can be found.

Bonny mentioned that this spring Garden Time ran a story on how to get the irrigation season started and in October a story will be done on how to close down an irrigation system for the year.

In August, Tacy Steele from the City of Hillsboro participated in a story at the Fern Hill Reservoir that focused on how summer water use mainly for outdoor irrigation connects to water supply

throughout the region. Amy Meaut also from the City of Hillsboro did a story at her new home – I’ve purchased a new home with an irrigation system, now what?

Bonny noted that next week KUNP will run a story that will highlight the Listos program which is the Spanish version of NETS/CERT programs. Listos is a grass-roots disaster preparedness program that can be tailored to meet the individual needs of Spanish-speaking communities. Listos provides disaster preparedness information. With a basic understanding of ICS (Incident Command Structure), Listos can instruct the participants in the command structure of first responders, ensuring communication between Listos graduates and firefighters and police in the event of an emergency.

Bonny advised that she is still evaluating the results of some new social media initiatives that the Consortium took on this summer. New ads were done in partnership with KATU that highlighted the weekly watering number and were featured on YouTube and Facebook. Bonny mentioned also new this year were Spanish and digital radio campaigns.

Bonny noted that the “Clean Water is our Future” source water protection campaign began in July. The campaign is on KPTV and will go throughout the year. To date, 250 ads have been played. Consortium staff helped with the development of the ad copy.

Bonny mentioned that the “Get Ready, Get Water” TriMet bus ad campaign will run throughout the month of September.

Bonny advised that the Consortium hosted a Media Spokesperson Training in May for more than 30 attendees. The workshop was presented by Dave Thompson who has more than 40 years of experience working as a television reporter and as public information staff with the Oregon Department of Transportation. Attendees learned about tips, tools, and techniques to successfully help them deliver their agency’s expert perspective in a media interview. Bonny asked if CTC members were interested in having Mr. Thompson do a similar training for managers? CTC members were interested in learning more about what a manager training would encompass. Bonny will go back to Mr. Thompson for more information on what that training would look like and bring it back to the CTC for further discussion and consideration.

Bonny said in December the Consortium will partner with the Oregon Landscape Contractors Association (OCLA) at their Expo to give four presentations, two in English and two in Spanish, focused on smart controllers and backflow. Bonny advised that she is looking for Spanish speaking presenters.

A Spanish focus group will be convened this year to review Consortium materials and information to get feedback from community members on the relevance and usefulness of the materials and thoughts/ideas for additional outreach pieces.

## FY 2020-21 Budget and Work Plan Concepts Discussion

---

Rebecca noted that it is the start of the budget planning season. Consortium staff met to review the work tasks outlined in the Five-Year Strategic Plan and identified a list of potential FY 2020-21 project for CTC consideration. A handout was included in the meeting material packet that outlined the strategic initiatives and work tasks. Work tasks were color-coded to illustrate on-going projects and potential FY 2020-21 projects.

Rebecca advised that Consortium staff is proposing to take a break on video production and would like to explore options to contract out conservation and emergency preparedness kit assembly as well as reducing the frequency of the Consortium's external and internal e-newsletters from bi-monthly to quarterly. Rebecca explained that these small changes will help free up staff time to take on new tasks and grow programs.

CTC members were asked to work in small groups to discuss and help prioritize the potential FY 2020-21 work tasks identified by Consortium staff recognizing not all tasks identified can be accomplished. CTC members were also given the opportunity to suggest other projects for consideration.

Projects/themes that emerged from the prioritization exercise included resource development – identifying key messages for outreach campaign and developing resources on topics of interest for members; more training and exercises; communication and education – hiring a Spanish language intern to attend events and promote partnerships, engage with community emergency teams; climate change; emergency plans and resources – participate in the RDPO emergency water plan, maintain interconnections geodatabase; strengthening partnerships – meet with legislators, develop strategies for member sharing and communications.

Rebecca concluded that the emerging themes would be presented to the Executive Committee at their meeting next week for their consideration and recommendations.

## Update of Consortium Staffing IGA

---

Rebecca reported that the current Consortium Staffing Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between the Consortium and the City of Portland expires in June 2020. Rebecca asked if there were any other Consortium members interested in providing staffing for the Consortium. It was the consensus of the CTC that the relationship between the Consortium and the City of Portland was solid and there was no need to change the staffing arrangements. The CTC recommended that the Staffing IGA with the City of Portland be extended for an additional five years. Rebecca noted that she will bring the CTC recommendation to the Executive Committee for their consideration and recommendation to the full Board.

## Summer Supply Discussion

---

**Clackamas River Water Providers** – Todd Heidgerken mentioned that September 15 is the date that triggers a number of fish flow issues, but river flows are well above the triggers, so the Clackamas did not have any summer supply problems this year.

Sarah Jo noted that a focus group will be convened in late fall to discuss the new Fish on the Run, Irrigation Done campaign to ascertain its effectiveness and what changes might be needed. She noted that the intent is to continue the campaign next year.

**Joint Water Commission** – Niki Iverson reported that Hagg Lake/Scoggins Dam is 53% full and Barney Reservoir is 68% full. She noted collectively they have 60% of stored water remaining.

**City of Portland** – Sarah Santner reported that the Portland Water Bureau (PWB) ran groundwater from the Columbia Southshore Wellfield from July 10 to August 27 at about a 25-35% groundwater/Bull Run blend. As of August 27, there was 5 billion gallons of stored water in Bull Run.

CTC members concluded that having summer supply check in meetings were beneficial and the phone in option was a nice way to connect.

## October Consortium Board Meeting Draft Agenda

---

Rebecca pointed out that included in the meeting materials was the October Consortium Board meeting draft agenda. Agenda items include approval of Board meeting summary, project manager and committee reports, a FY 2020/21 budget and work plan concepts discussion, Consortium Staffing IGA renewal, and a placeholder presentation. Potential topics for the presentation for the October meeting and future Board meetings were discussed including a recap of the emergency equipment drill, strategic plan check-in, WIFIA overview, American Water Infrastructure Act (AWIA) requirements, Oregon's 100-year Water Vision, fire vulnerability response – impact on watersheds, and climate change.

Rebecca noted that the Consortium Executive Committee meets next week at which time she will present the options for their consideration and approval.

**Meeting Attendees:**

David Winship – City of Beaverton

Todd Heidgerken – Clackamas River Water

Andrew Degner – City of Gresham

Niki Iverson – City of Hillsboro

Kari Duncan – City of Lake Oswego

Sarah Jo Chaplen – Oak Lodge Water Services

Sarah Santner – City of Portland

Brian Stahl – Rockwood Water PUD (phone)

Rich Sattler – City of Sherwood

Elizabeth Edgar – Sunrise Water Authority

John Goodrich – City of Tigard

David Shaffer – City of Troutdale (phone)

Jeff Fuchs – City of Tualatin

Carrie Pak and Tom Hickmann – Tualatin Valley Water District

Mike Grimm – West Slope Water District

Rebecca Geisen, Bonny Cushman, Riley Berger and Patty Burk – RWPC Staff

**Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 6, 2019 @ Rockwood Water PUD**