

# Consortium Technical Committee Meeting Summary

NOVEMBER 6, 2019

CALLED TO ORDER: 1:37 PM

ADJOURNED: 3:34 PM

QUORUM PRESENT - NO - 11 MEMBERS



## Approval of September 4, 2019 Meeting Summary

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The Consortium Technical Committee did not approve the September 4, 2019 meeting summary as the committee did not meet quorum requirements. Approval of the September 4, 2019 meeting summary was held over to the next CTC meeting.

## Director Report

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**Emergency Water Plan** – Rebecca Geisen, Managing Director mentioned that the Consortium is working with the Regional Disaster Preparedness Organization (RDPO) and other stakeholders on a regional emergency water plan. Work has started on drafting a scope of work for the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) grant. \$54,000 has been allocated. Rebecca noted that she is also working on a proposal to request an additional \$75,000 of 2020 UASI grant funding. Rebecca advised that the objective of the plan is to identify roles, responsibilities and authorities for the provision of emergency water in the UASI region, identify gaps, and propose a framework for entities to develop local plans. A workshop will conclude this work. A more complete proposal will be available to share in January.

**Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) Funds** – Rebecca advised that the Consortium received \$65,000 in 2017 UASI reprogramming grant funds to purchase hose ramps and potable water storage tanks. The need for this additional equipment was an outcome of the recent emergency drill. Consortium staff will begin work on the procurement. Funds must be spent by the end of February 2020.

**Conferences** – Rebecca advised that she presented at the Oregon Emergency Managers Association (OEMA) conference. Her presentation focused on the Consortium’s work in emergency preparedness. Rebecca mentioned that there was an excellent presentation given on fuel storage and critical infrastructure hub for fuel along highway 30 which stores fuel for most of the State of Oregon. The presentation highlighted concerns/issues for this area in the event of a catastrophic earthquake. It was noted that this presentation would be of interest to the Consortium Board.

Rebecca also attended a recent 100-year Water Vision community meeting in Gresham. Many

Consortium member elected officials were in attendance along with State Representative Jeff Reardon. Discussions centered around goals of the program and affordability.

**Member Outreach** – Rebecca mentioned that she recently had the opportunity to meet with Metro’s new Resiliency Program Manager, Sasha Pollack and discussed Metro’s work in emergency management and resiliency and Metro’s role to make the region less vulnerable to natural disasters and climate change. Rebecca noted that she also met with Tim O’Brien who is working on developing a Metro “snapshot” related to climate change. Rebecca advised that both Sasha and Tim suggested talking with Metro Councilor Christine Lewis about the Consortium.

Rebecca noted that she was contacted by Interlachen Water District about potential Consortium membership. Interlachen is a very small water district by Blue Lake Park. They would be a member that would have to pay the minimum dues, \$1,000, established for small water utilities.

Rebecca also met with Delora Kerber and Martin Montalvo from the City of Wilsonville to discuss Consortium membership. Martin worked previously at Oregon City and was actively involved in the Consortium’s emergency planning committee. Both are very supportive of being a member of the Consortium. They will be discussing Consortium membership more with Wilsonville’s City Manager, Brian Cosgrove to see if they can arrange a work session with their City Council.

**Additional Updates** – Rebecca advised that the Consortium Staff recently held a half-day retreat to discuss workloads, roles and responsibilities, and budget reporting options. CTC members suggested the expense report could be simplified and include more graphics.

Rebecca announced that the FY 2018-19 Consortium annual report is being finalized and will be coming soon.

## Meeting Logistics

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The Consortium staff will be moving back into the new Portland Building in February 2020. For the past two years, the CTC has been rotating meetings amongst various member locations. Consortium Staff asked if CTC members would like to continue to rotate meeting locations or move the CTC meeting back into the more centrally-located Portland Building. CTC members concurred that a central, single location is preferred and moving the CTC meeting back to the new Portland Building makes sense.

Rebecca noted that discussion on the location and duration for the Consortium Board meetings are needed due to changes in the building hours at Metro. The Metro building now closes at 8:30 p.m. and all meeting participants and sound crew must be out of the building by 8:30 p.m. Decisions will be needed on either shortening the meeting to 90 minutes, starting the meeting earlier, i.e., 6:00 p.m. or potentially looking for an alternative meeting location. CTC members felt moving the start time to 6:00

p.m. could be problematic for Board members and staff, and shortening the meeting duration was not advisable as the Board only meets three times a year. CTC members supported discussing options with the Board at their meeting in February including potentially moving the Board meeting to the public event space in the new Portland Building. Rebecca advised she will be discussing this with the Executive Committee at their December meeting.

## Program Updates

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**2020 Media Campaign** - Bonny Cushman, Program Coordinator, advised that she will begin the bid process for media partners for the 2020 campaigns. Bonny anticipates staying with the Consortium's current media partners KATU for conservation, KPTV for emergency preparedness and KUNP for Spanish television. Bonny recommended continuing the "Clean Water is our Future" source water protection campaign. The CTC supported continuing the Consortium's partnership in this campaign.

**Conservation** - Bonny mentioned that at their November meeting, the Consortium Conservation Committee (CCC) discussed Water Management and Conservation Plan (WMCP) curtailment and communication efforts. Member shared curtailment triggers and communication process and materials.

Bonny noted that the Consortium is partnering with Mad Science for their Where's the Water, Watson? K- 2<sup>nd</sup> grade school assembly show. A new 3<sup>rd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> grade show will be developed for next school year with Rick Huddle productions.

Bonny advised that Consortium member staff will do four presentations, two in English and two in Spanish at the Oregon Landscape Contractors Association (OLCA) Expo the first week in December. The presentations will focus on backflow and smart controllers.

**Emergency Preparedness** - Bonny advised that she participates on the Regional Disaster Preparedness Organization (RDPO) messaging task force. Multnomah County is looking to partner with the Consortium on writing a UASI grant proposal to translate the Consortium's three emergency preparedness how-to videos into 10 languages. Bonny said she is looking for CTC support for moving forward with seeking grant funding for the project recognizing that the RDPO serves a five-county area as opposed to the three counties served by Consortium members. Bonny noted that county partners are looking to the Consortium as the lead in water-related messaging. Bonny said counties are the ones that interface with the public on emergency preparedness issues and can be the Consortium's ambassadors if the Consortium can provide them the resource to do this, e.g., videos, print pieces, talking points for presentations etc. The CTC supported moving forward with the grant application process.

**Additional Updates** - Bonny reminded CTC members that the Consortium hosted a media

spokesperson training in May which focused on tips, tools, and techniques to successfully deliver an agency's expert perspective in a media interview. At the September CTC meeting discussions were had about having a similar training for managers. Bonny said another training opportunity is in development that focuses on crisis communication that can be tailored to managers as well if CTC members are interested in that type of training. CTC member expressed interest in these trainings, and it was suggested that they could be alternated each year.

Bonny advised that the Consortium's website [regionalh2o.org](http://regionalh2o.org) will undergo a major overhaul. The site will be rebuilt and redesigned with a new look and feel. Members will be asked for feedback on how to present information and what information is important for members to have on the site. The new and improved website will launch in spring 2020.

A Spanish focus group will take place on December 7 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

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Rebecca reminded CTC members that the Consortium Board discussed the FY 2020-21 budget and work plan concepts at their meeting in October and supported the program direction and projects proposed.

Rebecca advised that both at the technical and Board level climate change was indicated as a priority for members. The Strategic Plan has several strategic initiatives around climate change; e.g. providing information and a forum for water providers to communicate about climate change impacts on water supply, supporting studies and data collection to assist in understanding these impacts, etc. Rebecca asked for thoughts/ideas on what the Consortium's role should be with regard to climate change and how the Consortium can best support its members.

Suggestions included educating elected officials with focus on local climate change implications; climate change presentations that extend to member staff and the Consortium Board; partnering more with wastewater agencies; convening multiple agency panel with focus on local climate change; prediction modeling on water sources; providing various levels of presentations depending on the audience – big picture/climate change 101 to personal/local – how will climate change affect us as water providers -real impacts to water providers today; providing a forum on what members are doing in their own agencies around climate change and how climate change ties into other program areas- e.g., emergency preparedness, resilience; year-long series of events focused on climate change; conducting after action analysis of a local climate change event.

It was suggested that a subcommittee could be convened to assist Consortium staff in developing a framework/direction on how to move forward with a climate change work plan. CTC members were

asked to talk to their staff about participating on the subcommittee.

Rebecca pointed out that there would likely not be enough staff resources to do a deep dive into developing a climate change work plan and a major emergency table top exercise or drill in FY 2020-21. CTC members agreed that the exercise should be pushed out to the following fiscal year.

Consortium staff was given direction by the Board to work with the CTC to determine and refine program task priorities. Rebecca noted that Consortium staff took a first pass at prioritizing these work tasks and is now looking to the CTC for further refinement and direction.

CTC members discussed the project list and identified topics including gray water; information for landscape contractors; smart controllers; water by the numbers (highlight the people/infrastructure behind water); equity; fire protection; emerging contaminants; and America's Water Infrastructure Act (AWIA) training and information sharing. Rebecca advised that Consortium staff will continue to refine the budget and work plan and bring it back to the CTC in January for their approval and recommendation to the Executive Committee and Consortium Board.

## October Consortium Board Meeting Follow-Up

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Rebecca commented that there was no real follow-up from the October Board meeting.

Niki Iverson noted that some time back she had been asked to talk to Paul Matthews from TVWD and Lee Lindsay from the City of Hillsboro about giving a presentation to the Consortium Board at their February meeting. Niki stated that if there is still interest in having them present to let her know and she will get it back on their radar. CTC members concurred that this topic would be of interest to the Board.

**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

Kerry Aden – Rockwood Water PUD

Elizabeth Edgar – Sunrise Water Authority

Jeff Fuchs – City of Tualatin

Bill Richmond – Tualatin Valley Water District

Mike Grimm – West Slope Water District

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

**Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 8, 2020 @ Portland Water Bureau, Aspect Building 400 SW 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Portland OR**