



Consortium Board Meeting Summary

OCTOBER 7, 2020 CALLED TO ORDER: 6:34 PM ADJOURNED: 8:35 PM

QUORUM PRESENT - YES - 15 MEMBERS (MEETING WAS HELD VIA ZOOM/VIDEOCONFERENCE)

Rebecca Geisen, Consortium Managing Director advised that both Chair Mark Fagin and Vice-Chair Jackie Manz were unable to attend this evening's meeting. Ms. Geisen explained that per Consortium by-laws, the Consortium Board can appoint a Chair Pro-Tem for the meeting. Ms. Geisen advised that she inquired with Executive Committee members and Mayor Russ Axelrod volunteered to chair the meeting.

Director Mark Knudson moved to approve Mayor Axelrod as the Chair Pro-Tem. Commissioner Carol Wild seconded the motion. The Consortium Board unanimously approved Mayor Axelrod as the Chair Pro-Tem. (15:0:0)

As this was her last Consortium Board meeting, Commissioner Amanda Fritz took a few moments to thank Consortium Board members for their tireless commitment to working together to provide safe drinking water to the region.

Ms. Geisen thanked Commissioner Fritz as well as Mayor Axelrod and Councilor Anderson for their support and dedication to the work of the Consortium and their participation on the Consortium Board and Executive Committee. This meeting was their final meeting as well.

Approval of June 3, 2020 Meeting Summary

Director Tom Lewis made a motion to approve the June 3, 2020 Board meeting summary. Councilor Bridget Brooks seconded the motion. The Consortium Board unanimously approved the June 3, 2020 Consortium Board meeting summary. (15:0:0)

Public Comment

None

City of Wilsonville Membership

Ms. Geisen reported that the City of Wilsonville City Council approved rejoining the

Consortium and have signed the Consortium Intergovernmental Agreement. A letter from the City of Wilsonville requesting to rejoin the Consortium was provided in the materials sent to the Board. The City of Wilsonville's dues would be about \$16,000. Ms. Geisen explained that the Consortium by-laws state that "Upon a majority vote of the Board, a defaulting participant or a participant that has previously withdrawn from membership may be reinstated in the Consortium upon its agreement to pay its dues for the year during which it wishes to rejoin. Upon receipt of such dues by a rejoining member, the Board shall recalculate the dues owed by other entities and provide a credit on next year's dues to Participants who paid more than their total dues as recalculated." Ms. Geisen suggested that the Board could simply agree to carry these funds over to next year's dues calculation which will benefit everyone proportionately.

Director Mark Knudson made a motion to approve the City of Wilsonville's request to rejoin the Regional Water Providers Consortium. Mayor Denny Doyle seconded the motion. The Consortium Board unanimously approved the City of Wilsonville's request to rejoin the Consortium. (15:0:0)

Oregon Water/Wastewater Response Network (ORWARN) Membership

Ms. Geisen advised that the Consortium has been invited to join the Oregon Water/Wastewater Response Network (ORWARN) as a member. Ms. Geisen noted that the Consortium has been a valuable partner with ORWARN and being a member would allow the Consortium to utilize ORWARN resources. The Consortium developed a shared worker addendum to the ORWARN agreement but is unable to access the member-only part of the website and resources. Membership would allow the Consortium to access the same resources other members do. Ms. Geisen explained that there is no cost or obligation to membership and membership would strengthen the partnership. Ms. Geisen said both the Consortium Executive and Technical Committees have endorsed joining ORWARN.

Mayor Peter Truax made a motion to approve the Consortium joining ORWARN. Councilor Bridget Brooks seconded the motion. The Consortium Board unanimously approved the Consortium joining ORWARN. (15:0:0)

Director 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.

America's Water Infrastructures Act (AWIA) Brown Bag – Ms. Geisen mentioned that in September the Consortium hosted a virtual brown bag presentation on AWIA

requirements. Clackamas River Water, Portland Water Bureau, and Tualatin Valley Water District shared their experience putting together risk assessments and emergency response plans, valuable resources and lessons learned. The presentations were recorded and sent out to Consortium members and are available on the [member page](#) of the Consortium's website.

ORWARN Shared Worker Addendum – Ms. Geisen reported that the ORWARN Shared Worker Addendum is completed and encouraged those members interested to consider signing onto the addendum. Nine agencies in the region have signed on to the Shared Worker Addendum to date. Consortium staff finalized the standard operating procedures for the addendum and developed tracking sheet templates for responding and receiving agencies.

Consortium Website Wildfire Page – Consortium Staff has developed a webpage on regionalh2o.org on the recent wildfires with messaging focused on your water is safe to drink. Talking points and social media posts were created and shared with members.

FY 2019-20 Consortium Annual Report – Consortium Staff is working to complete the FY 2019-20 Consortium Annual Report. New this year, a PowerPoint presentation will be developed to complement the report that can be used by individual entity Board members or staff to share with their Boards/Councils/Commissions. Ms. Geisen briefly reviewed some year-end highlights.

Provision of Emergency Drinking Water Framework Plan – Ms. Geisen mentioned the UASI-funded Provision of Emergency Drinking Water Framework Plan proposals have been reviewed and evaluated. Ms. Geisen noted that they hope to have a consultant on board next month. \$204,000 in UASI grant funds have been allocated for this work and Ms. Geisen will manage the project.

Alliance for Water Efficiency (AWE) Letter – Ms. Geisen explained that the Department of Energy (DOE) has announced new rulemaking that will change the definition of showerheads to allow different components within the device to count as individual fixtures, sidestepping requirements that allow no more than 2.5 gallons to flow through per minute. DOE also proposes to eliminate the terms "body spray" and "safety shower showerhead" from the showerhead definition so they would not be subject to flow requirements. This would result in showers potentially using much more water and energy and undermining current water and energy efficiency standards. Ms. Geisen commented that the Consortium has often lent its voice to these issues in support of water efficiency. Ms. Geisen reported that with Executive Committee approval, the Consortium sign onto the AWE letter of opposition to the redefinition of showerheads.

Program Updates

Bonny Cushman, Consortium Program Coordinator gave a brief overview of the FY 2019-20 Consortium Outreach Campaign. The campaign included a year-long partnership with KPTV television to promote the importance of source water protection. The Emergency Preparedness campaign ran in September 2019 and included television advertisements, TriMet bus signage and a digital advertising with the Oregonian. The Water Conservation campaign began in March on KATU with the indoor water conservation campaign and concluded with the outdoor-focused campaign that ran from May through September 2020. In response to the pandemic, a Your Water is Safe to Drink campaign was developed – flyers/posters were created in 15 languages, a social media campaign was translated into 11 languages and radio ads were done in English, Spanish and Russian. Ms. Cushman reported that in regard to the traditional media mix – television and radio both in English and Spanish and TriMet bus ads, the Consortium invested \$127,049 and received \$223,523 in in-kind contributions for a total media campaign value of \$350,572.

Ms. Cushman noted that in FY 2019-20, the Consortium expanded its digital advertising campaign. The campaign included radio, YouTube, Facebook, the Oregonian, KUNP Spanish newsletters, and Over the Top television. The campaign investment was \$26,362 and aligned with the results of the Consortium program evaluation to reach a more varied audience.

Looking toward FY 2020-21, Ms. Cushman outlined projects in development for the new fiscal year. In September, the emergency preparedness campaign was completed and included a new feature, a 4 x 4 email campaign where customers could sign up to receive four emails throughout the month of September, each containing four emergency preparedness tips.

Ms. Cushman mentioned that Consortium staff is currently looking at how to continue the school assembly program in this new remote learning school scenario. It is unclear at this time how the programs can be adapted but Consortium staff will be working with the Consortium Conservation Committee and the program creators to develop a new approach to bringing these shows to students. This same group is also looking at how the Children's Clean Water Festival can be adapted virtually as well.

Ms. Cushman noted that a great deal of work has gone into updating content for the Consortium's website regionalh2o.org. Many of the webpages have now been translated into Spanish. Work will continue on refreshing/revising the content and adding new, relevant content to bring more people to the website. This summer, Consortium Staff and a small work group developed a new "smart controllers" webpage.

Ms. Cushman concluded that she will begin working on the 2021 media campaign in the coming months.

Councilor Batey asked with regard to the new digital advertising tools, is there any tracking being done of how many people go to the Consortium website after viewing the digital ad.

Ms. Cushman advised that Consortium staff tracks 'click-thrus', interactions and engagement. Consortium staff is currently working on reviewing the analytics for the various platforms and will use that information to help develop next year's campaign.

Mayor Truax asked how effective the TriMet advertising is compare to other forms of advertising the Consortium does.

Ms. Cushman reminded Consortium Board members that the TriMet campaign includes 45 buses that travel throughout communities in the tri-county area. It is a visual way to get messaging out in the community and seen by a variety of people including low-income community members that often rely on public transportation. Ms. Cushman noted that the TriMet campaign investment has decreased over the past couple of years, but it still is a valuable tool.

FY 2021-22 Consortium Budget and Work Plan Concepts Discussion

Ms. Geisen reported that Consortium Staff has discussed budget and workplan concepts with the Consortium Technical Committee (CTC) and Executive Committee (EC). The goal is to keep dues flat in recognition of the financial constraints members may face due to COVID-19, while maintaining core programs. Consortium staff hopes to achieve this due to an anticipated carryover of \$127,000 resulting from furloughs, reduced work schedules, unspent contingency, savings from reduced travel and other programs due to COVID-19.

Ms. Geisen explained that the workplan concepts reflect a focus on equity and preparedness and the potential work tasks/concepts have been organized by Strategic Plan initiatives.

In addition to maintaining current programs, below is an outline of new work plan concepts for FY 2021-22 by focus area:

Focus Area – Meeting Water Needs

- Identify 2-3 outreach messages to focus on for the year (build resources/webpage/social media)
- Update PSU Population Research Center IGA and current and historic population and housing/household forecasts with new census data – this will have budget impact estimated at \$20,000
- Russian radio ad (conservation/emergency preparedness)

- Translate Drinking Water Advisory Tool and other outreach messaging or materials

Focus Area: Emergency Preparedness

- Provide project management for UASI funded reproduction of Consortium’s three emergency preparedness videos in up to 15 safe harbor languages using native speakers – UASI funding dependent
- Repurpose Emergency Water Treatment and Distribution Plan/Manual to support individual equipment owners’ plans (e.g. stand-alone modules, best management practices)
- Leverage, integrate, and share what we have learned from COVID-19, Wildfires, and America’s Water Infrastructure Act document preparation (Risk Assessments and Emergency Response Plans)
- Table top exercise and sector specific training
 - A table top is planned as part of the Provision of Emergency Drinking Water Supply Framework
 - Additional training as identified
- Provide project management for RDPO/UASI funded Provision of Emergency Drinking Water Supply Framework

Focus Area: Strengthening Regional Partnerships

- Translate Drinking Water Advisory Tool into other languages
- Develop member to member/peer to peer “welcome” program for new Consortium members and staff

Consortium Board members discussed the concepts presented. It was noted that the PSU population work was of great value to members when developing their demand forecasts. There was support for more targeted advertising to under-represented communities and spending more time and resources in the Consortium’s equity efforts.

Board members were supportive of the budget and work plan concepts as proposed and directed Consortium Staff to move forward with building the FY 2021-22 budget and work plan for Board adoption in February 2021.

2021 Legislative Session

Ms. Geisen noted that the 2021 State of Oregon Legislative Session will begin in January. It is likely that session will focus heavily on the state biennium budget, police accountability and pandemic and wildfire response. Ms. Geisen advised that there may be cuts to state agencies as a result of budget shortfalls. Ms. Geisen monitors bills closely with her participation with the Oregon Water Utility Council and will pass on any bills/issues related to water to the Consortium Technical Committee and Board.

Ms. Geisen asked if there are any specific bills Board members would like her to track to please let her know.

Wildfire and Water Provider Response

Pro-Tem Chair Axelrod commented that given the recent unprecedented wildfires throughout the State of Oregon and the impacts it has had on our communities and water systems, on top of a pandemic, has been remarkable. As a result, three Consortium member representatives have been invited to offer perspective on the wildfire impacts on their water systems and communities.

Ms. Geisen introduced Niki Iverson from the City of Hillsboro/Joint Water Commission (JWC), Gabriel Solmer from the Portland Water Bureau and Kari Duncan from the City of Lake Oswego who shared their organization's experience with impacts from the wildfires and lessons learned.

Ms. Iverson's presentation covered the loss of power at the JWC water treatment plant and their partnership agreement with PGE. Ms. Solmer discussed the activation of the Water Bureau's Emergency Operations Center to coordinate their operational response and communications related to the extreme wildfire conditions in and around the Bull Run watershed. Ms. Duncan provided an overview of the wildfires in Clackamas County and the impacts on the water systems in the county including power outages and evacuations. The presentations were recorded and are available on the Consortium's [YouTube channel](#).

The presentations were followed by a question/answer session and an opportunity for other members to share their experiences with wildfire impacts.

Commissioner Angier commented that during the wildfires Clackamas River Water (CRW) had several main breaks in a short period of time and repairs were made with fires nearby in very smokey conditions. 20% of employees at CRW live in homes in level three evacuation zones but continued to report to work. Power was lost and some operations were run on generators. Commissioner Angier noted the wildfire event was extremely challenging and praised the CRW staff for rising to the challenge.

Commissioner Raber gave kudos to the JWC/Hillsboro staff for their tireless work and coordination during the wildfire event, the foresight to have the provision of back-up generators and cultivation of their extraordinary relationship with PGE.

Mayor Doyle commented that the wildfire event highlighted how extremely well water providers in the region work together. He noted that the Consortium needs to share with

the public these examples of regional coordination and strong relationships between all regional water providers.

Mayor Truax commented that in addition to the excellent coordination between regional water providers was the dedicated work and coordination with other utilities- electric and gas, and the fire/rescue departments.

Director Lewis commented that Consortium members need to take the lesson learns from the wildfire event and use them in planning and preparing for other types of disaster events, e.g., earthquakes.

Meeting Attendees:

22 Total Members

Quorum = 12

Mayor Denny Doyle and David Winship – City of Beaverton	Commissioner Nancy Angier and Todd Heidgerken– Clackamas River Water	Mayor Peter Truax and Greg Robertson – City of Forest Grove
Andrew Degner – City of Gresham	Commissioner Debbie Raber and Niki Iverson – City of Hillsboro	Kari Duncan – City of Lake Oswego
Councilor Lisa Batey – City of Milwaukie	Director Mark Knudson and Sarah Jo Chaplen – Oak Lodge Water Services	Commissioner Amanda Fritz and Gabriel Solmer – City of Portland
Director Tom Lewis and Brian Stahl – Rockwood Water PUD	Councilor Sean Garland – City of Sherwood	Mayor Russ Axelrod – South Fork Water Board
Councilor Tom Anderson and John Goodrich – City of Tigard	Councilor Randy Lauer – City of Troutdale	Councilor Bridget Brooks and Nick Westendorf – City of Tualatin
Commissioner Jim Duggan and Carrie Pak – Tualatin Valley Water District	Commissioner Carol Wild and Mike Grimm – West Slope Water District	Rebecca Geisen, Bonny Cushman, Riley Berger, and Patty Burk – Consortium Staff

Consortium members agencies not represented by elected officials at this meeting included the City of Cornelius, City of Gladstone, City of Gresham, City of Lake Oswego, Raleigh Water District, Sunrise Water Authority, and City of Sandy.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, February 3, 2021 via Zoom/videoconference