



Consortium Board Meeting Summary

FEBRUARY 3, 2021 CALLED TO ORDER: 6:30 PM ADJOURNED: 8:15 PM
QUORUM PRESENT - YES - 14 MEMBERS (MEETING WAS HELD VIA
ZOOM/VIDEOCONFERENCE)

Approval of October 7, 2020 Meeting Summary

Director Mark Knudson made a motion to approve the October 7, 2020 Board meeting summary. Mayor Peter Truax seconded the motion. The Consortium Board unanimously approved the October 7, 2020 Consortium Board meeting summary. (12:0:2)

Public Comment

None

Meet and Greet

Rebecca Geisen, Consortium Managing Director noted that the Consortium Board has several new members and wanted to provide time on the agenda for new and current Board members to break out into small virtual groups and introduce themselves and share information with some ice-breaker questions.

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 October.

Urban Area Security Initiative Grant (UASI) Projects: Ms. Geisen reminded Consortium Board members that in partnership with the Regional Disaster Preparedness Organization (RDPO), the Consortium is working on the Provision of Emergency Drinking Water Framework Plan. \$204,000 in UASI grant funds were awarded for the development of the Plan that will explore how the region can provide drinking water in the event of an emergency. The Plan will also provide tools for individual water providers to do planning

around emergency water supplies. Consultant Hart Crowser was selected to work with the RDPO and Consortium on this project. A kickoff meeting took place a couple of weeks ago. Stakeholder engagement will be a key component of the development of the Plan including interviews and surveys with Consortium members.

The Consortium also received UASI grant funding for the second phase of the Water Framework Plan and funding for translating its three emergency preparedness how-to videos into 10 languages. Both projects are part of the FY 2021-22 Consortium work plan. \$67,000 in reprogrammed UASI grant funds was also awarded to the Consortium to purchase super-quiet generators. These will be housed with the mobile water treatment and distribution systems to make water distribution safer and quieter.

Portland State University Population and Household Estimates and Forecast IGA: Ms. Geisen advised that the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with Portland State University that provides population and household estimates and forecasts for Consortium members is due to expire at the end of this fiscal year, June 30, 2021. Consortium staff has begun work on renewing the IGA with PSU for another five years.

Consortium Resources: Ms. Geisen mentioned that Consortium staff developed a more user-friendly expense report which more clearly highlights expenditures and staff hours. A copy was provided in the Board meeting materials packet. Consortium staff also prepared an annotated PowerPoint presentation for Consortium members to share with their Council and Board peers and staff. The presentation gives a brief overview of the organization and highlights accomplishments from the last fiscal year. This was completed in support of the Consortium strategic goal to “expand awareness of the Consortium’s value, mission, programs, and the benefits of membership to water providers”.

Suspension and Resumption of Payments and Shut-Off of Customer Accounts: Ms. Geisen reported that in late October, the Consortium surveyed members (and members of the Oregon Water Utility Council) about plans for the resumption of payment collection and shutting off delinquent accounts. Twenty-five water utilities responded from around the state. Ms. Geisen provided a brief overview of the survey results.

Legislative Update: The 2021 State Legislative Session convened January 19 for a 160-day session that is constitutionally required to adjourn sine die on June 27, 2021. Priorities of lawmakers this session include COVID response, racial justice, and wildfire recovery. Water-related bills that are up for consideration focus on agency budgets; community engagement; financial assistance; harmful algal blooms; public contracting; public records; system development charges; regional water planning; and landscape contracting. Ms. Geisen highlighted a few of the proposed bills and advised that she would send out a legislative summary following the meeting.

Program Updates

Bonny Cushman, Consortium Program Coordinator, reminded Consortium Board members that the Consortium conducted its annual emergency preparedness campaign during National Preparedness month, September 2020. The multimedia campaign included messaging in English and Spanish and was comprised of television ads, on-air interviews, TriMet bus ads, Oregonian advertorials ads, and other online messaging. A detailed campaign report was included in the meeting materials packet. In addition, a detailed FY 2019-20 public outreach campaign re-cap report was developed and sent to members in December.

In December, the Consortium published another newsletter in partnership with KUNP-Spanish television titled, “Antes de comenzar a hornear sus galletas navideñas, haga esto” (Before you start baking your holiday cookies, do this) all about how to check your toilets for leaks. The newsletter went to 27,272 recipients, had a 17% open rate and a 3% click rate. Ms. Cushman advised that these newsletters have been a great way to do outreach in Spanish to community members.

Consortium staff is in the thick of planning the 2021 conservation, source water protection, and emergency preparedness media campaigns and other messaging strategies. The Consortium is moving its indoor conservation television campaign from March to May this year so that it coincides with National Drinking Water Week. The outdoor conservation campaign will run May through mid-September with an emphasis in July and August. Ms. Cushman is in the process of negotiating 2021 media contracts with the following television and radio partners: KATU, KUNP, and Garden Time Television; Alpha Media, Audio+, Bustos, and El Rey. The Consortium will continue its participation in the “Clean Water. It’s Our Future” campaign for FY 2021-22 promoting source water protection. Ms. Cushman is also in the process of negotiating 2021 media contracts for the fall 2021 emergency preparedness campaign.

Ms. Cushman reported that as part of this year’s work plan, Consortium staff created two surveys that were sent to members to gather high level information on the people and infrastructure that make up the region’s water system ‘water by the numbers’, and regional resiliency and preparedness efforts. Data gathered from both surveys will be shared on the Consortium website, in social media, and other external communications and outreach efforts.

Ms. Cushman noted that the school assembly program will not happen this year. With school being exclusively remote and one of the vendors no longer able to fulfill their contract, it was decided that this program would be put on hiatus for the year. Instead, focus has shifted to planning and supporting a virtual Children’s Clean Water Festival (CCWF).

Consortium Staff worked with Wilborn Design to develop a new print piece that engages kids in leak detection activities at home including checking toilets for leaks and faucets for drips. Kids can then “report their findings to headquarters” on a page that has been developed on the Consortium’s website. Consortium members will receive a start-up supply of the print piece as part of the annual print order and will be able to order additional copies. This activity will be rolled out this spring.

FY 2021-22 Consortium Budget and Work Plan

Ms. Geisen reported that since the October Board meeting, Consortium staff has worked with the Consortium Technical Committee (CTC) and Executive Committee (EC) to refine the FY 2021-22 Consortium workplan and budget. The CTC worked together to brainstorm topics for targeted outreach to use in social media and on the Consortium website. Proposed topics include:

- Water quality – develop messaging content on emerging topics or as identified by Consortium members
- Drinking water 101 – continue to develop content and resources that educate the public about regional water systems and the infrastructure and people that make it work
- Multifamily outreach – continue to identify ways to reach multifamily customers
- Value of water and water rates – Similar to Drinking Water 101, but with more information about the benefits of a robust, resilient, and regionally interconnected water network and how rates support this work.

Other topics were also identified for internal collaboration including workforce planning, regional partnerships, rate relief, and legislative review. Consortium staff will continue to work with the Board, CTC, and EC to identify which topics are a priority and can be accomplished next fiscal year with existing staff resources.

Ms. Geisen noted that in October, it was anticipated the Consortium’s FY 2021-22 work with Portland State University’s Population Research Center (PRC) would include costs to prepare an updated forecast using the new 2020 census data. As part of this work, PRC relies on Metro for its regional data. Consortium staff recently learned that Metro is not updating their small area forecasts until 2026 and Ms. Geisen recommended that the Consortium delay the forecast update until the spring of 2023 as this gives PRC time to access other data to complete the forecasts. This action will defer some costs until FY 2022-23. In the meantime, PRC will update water provider boundaries and continue to provide annual population and household estimates.

\$10,000 was added to the budget for the Provision of Emergency Drinking Water Framework Plan in order to support any additional tasks associated with this project. The project is funded by a \$204,000 Urban Area Security Initiative grant.

Ms. Geisen concluded that the total proposed budget is \$1,060,459. Once the carryover from FY 2019-20 is applied, the budget for calculating dues is \$932,601. This is a dues increase of 1.4% from the FY 2020-21 adopted budget. However, the Consortium has since collected \$16,057 from the City of Wilsonville resulting in a dues decrease of .3%. A dues spreadsheet was included in the meeting materials that included each providers' dues amount. Note that dues change in proportion to member account and water use information.

Councilor Brooks asked for more details regarding the consultant's recommendations for additional work on the Provision of Emergency Drinking Water Framework Plan. Ms. Geisen noted that they are just finishing up the project work plan. Some of the consultant recommendations involved additional mapping, tools for water providers, and potentially increasing the number of member surveys and interviews. Specific tasks have not yet been identified but it would be helpful have additional funding to implement some of the recommendations to add value to the project if needed.

Councilor Bridget Brooks made a motion to approve the FY 2021-22 Consortium budget and work plan as presented. Councilor Sean Garland seconded the motion. The Consortium Board unanimously approved the FY 2021-22 Consortium budget and work plan as presented. (14:0:0)

Critical Energy Infrastructure (CEI) Hub Presentation – Aligning seismic and climate adaption policies

Ms. Geisen introduced Jay Wilson, Resilience Coordinator from Clackamas County Disaster Management. Mr. Wilson joined the Consortium Board meeting to give a presentation on the region's Critical Energy Infrastructure (CEI) Hub and finding the nexus between seismic risk and climate change adaptation.

Mr. Wilson advised that the CEI Hub is six miles of fuel storage tanks along the lower Willamette River with over 350 active storage tanks, the majority of which were built prior to the 1960s. The CEI Hub has 360 million gallons of storage tank capacity and sits squarely in a liquefaction hazard zone. Downstream from the Hub is 100 river miles of the lower Columbia river. Three percent of the CEI Hub equals 10.8 million gallons, which is the same size as the Exxon Valdez spill, and there is no immediate post-earthquake spill response capacity.

After describing the CEI hub, Mr. Wilson discussed the challenges and opportunities of aligning seismic risk, infrastructure vulnerability, reliance on liquid fuels with climate change policy, environmental impacts, the Oregon Resilience Plan, climate action plans,

transportation planning, etc. all which aim to reduce dependency on fuel like that stored in the CEI Hub.

A question and answer period followed the presentation. The Consortium Board thanked Mr. Wilson for the presentation. The presentation can be found on the regionalh2o.org/resources page.

Meeting Attendees:

23 Total Members

Quorum = 12

Councilor Mark Fagin and David Winship – City of Beaverton	Commissioner Naomi Angier and Todd Heidgerken– Clackamas River Water	Mayor Peter Truax and Greg Robertson – City of Forest Grove
Robin Pederson – City of Gresham	Commissioner Debbie Raber and Niki Iverson – City of Hillsboro	Mayor Joe Buck – City of Lake Oswego
Councilor Lisa Batey – City of Milwaukie	Director Mark Knudson and Sarah Jo Chaplen – Oak Lodge Water Services	Commissioner Mingus Mapps, Matt Glazewski, Edward Campbell, and Gabriel Solmer – City of Portland
Kari Duncan – Rockwood Water PUD	Councilor Sean Garland – City of Sherwood	Mayor Jules Walters and Wyatt Parno – South Fork Water Board
John Goodrich – City of Tigard	Councilor Bridget Brooks, Councilor Christen Sacco, Jeff Fuchs, and Nick Westendorf – City of Tualatin	Commissioner Jim Duggan, Tom Hickmann, and Carrie Pak – Tualatin Valley Water District
Commissioner Carol Wild and Mike Grimm – West Slope Water District	Councilor Kristin Akervall and Martin Montalvo – City of Wilsonville	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, Raleigh Water District, Rockwood Water PUD, Sunrise Water Authority, City of Sandy, City of Tigard, and the City of Troutdale.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, June 2, 2021 via Zoom/videoconference