



# Consortium Technical Committee Meeting Summary

MARCH 3, 2021 CALLED TO ORDER: 1:33 PM ADJOURNED: 2:55 PM  
QUORUM PRESENT - YES - 14 MEMBERS  
MEETING HELD VIA ZOOM/VIDEOCONFERENCE

## Approval of January 6, 2021 Meeting Summary

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Todd Heidgerken made a motion to approve the January 6, 2021 Consortium Technical Committee (CTC) meeting summary. Mike Grimm seconded the motion. The CTC unanimously approved the January 6, 2021 Consortium Technical Committee meeting summary as presented. (13:0:0)

## Director Report

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February Consortium Board Meeting Follow-Up – Rebecca Geisen, Consortium Managing Director noted that Consortium staff is always looking for feedback after a Board meeting on the flow, content, and engagement by members. Rebecca asked for thoughts/ideas on ways to continue to engage the Board and any topics of interest for future board meeting presentations. Rebecca reminded CTC member that there was a pre-meeting Consortium overview session for new members, the meet and greet breakout sessions during the meeting and asked if they heard anything from their Board representatives about the meeting.

It was noted that the presentation on the CEI Hub was very interesting, timely and relevant. The opportunity for Board members to network and chat in smaller groups seemed to be appreciated and enjoyable. Rebecca asked CTC members to think about other presentation topics that would be of interest to the Board and bring them to the April CTC meeting. It was suggested that a presentation on AWIA requirements similar to the brown bag session held last fall would be of interest to the Board.

Request for Information/Surveys – Rebecca acknowledged that recently Consortium staff has made many requests for information from members for a variety of projects, e.g., surveys for the water by the numbers project and emergency prep, updating the boundary map for the DWA tool, water rate information, etc. Rebecca asked if there were any concerns about the number and pace of requests

being made by Consortium staff. It was mentioned that the number and pace of requests was not an issue but was suggested that because the requests often go to multiple people in a single agency, an internal process would be helpful to let members know if the request has been completed and received; some sort of feedback indicator that would let CTC members know that their agency has submitted the requested information.

Oregon Shake Alert System – Rebecca reminded CTC members that the USGS Shake Alert Earthquake Early Warning System will be available in Oregon on March 11, 2021, a date that coincides with the 10th anniversary of the magnitude 9.1 Great Tohoku, Japan earthquake. The alert uses science and technology to detect significant earthquakes quickly and sends a real time alert to people on compatible cell phones and other mobile devices through text-like messages, and through apps as they become available.

PSU Population and Household Forecast Update – Rebecca mentioned that Consortium Staff continues to work on the Portland State University Population and Household Forecast IGA. Rebecca talked with Charles Ryerson from PSU and learned that the forecast will likely be pushed out to spring of 2023 when updated data will be available to inform the forecasts.

Regional Disaster Preparedness Organization (RDPO) Update: – Rebecca mentioned that the Portland Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) region was allocated \$3.8 million in grant funds. Most of the projects that will utilize these funds have already been vetted and are in the pipeline, however there is reprogramming money still available. CTC members were asked to let Rebecca know if they have any ideas for potential funds.

Rebecca mentioned that the Emergency Transportation Routes (ETRs) for the region have been updated and are currently out for review. The final version will be available in July 2021. Rebecca will send out a link to the report following the meeting.

Rebecca advised that UASI funded fuel plans have been completed for all five UASI counties. A tabletop training exercise is in the works with the Oregon Department of Energy that will be incorporated into the 2022 Cascadia exercise. The Cascadia Rise training exercise is scheduled for June 13 – 17, 2022 and picks up at hour 96 post earthquake with a focus on a catastrophic hazardous spill that impacts the transportation and energy sector and the need for mass shelters and feedings. The exercise will be led by the EPA and DHS/Coast Guard.

Rebecca reported that the first meeting of the RDPO Provision of Drinking Water Framework Plan Task Force is scheduled for March 10, 2021. Task Force Committee members include Jeff Fuchs from City of Tualatin, Kim Swan from Clackamas River Water Providers, Carrie Pak from Tualatin Valley Water District, Priya Dhanapal from the City of Beaverton, Robin Pedersen from City of Gresham, and Scott Johnson from Clark Emergency Services. The Task Force is working on developing interview and

survey questions for water providers. The consultant, Hart Crowser, is starting background research and data collection, is are preparing for the first stakeholder workshop in late May.

## Program Updates

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2021 Media Campaign Update – Bonny Cushman, Program Coordinator reported that she is in the midst of completing the contracting for the 2021 media campaigns. The 2021 media campaign budget is \$168,000. Funds that were earmarked for events, that have been put on hiatus as a result of the pandemic, were rolled into digital outreach in hopes of engaging with that audience with similar messaging but on a different platform. A new element in this year’s campaign is the inclusion of QR codes in the television advertising which will enable viewers to hold their mobile device up to the television screen and the QR code will take them to a specific page on the Consortium’s website. Bonny advised that the Consortium is partnering with a single media partner for digital advertising. This will allow Consortium staff to target an audience and measure more specifically what happens as a result of a coordinated digital effort. Digital advertising, i.e., Facebook and YouTube will be rolled into this year’s Spanish outreach campaign as well. Bonny noted that the campaign will continue to include tip driven news stories and ads both for the conservation and emergency preparedness campaigns.

Program Updates – Bonny thanked CTC members and staff for their participation and completion of the recent surveys that were sent out. The information gathered from both surveys will be shared on the Consortium website, in social media, and other external communications and outreach efforts. Infographics will also be developed based on the information gathered that will be displayed on the Consortium website and used in social media.

Bonny mentioned that Consortium staff is working to update the *Our Regions Water* portion of the Consortium website [regionalh2o.org](http://regionalh2o.org). The new section will be released in May in concert with Drinking Water Week. The update will include an interactive map and infographics that will display a regional perspective of the information provided by members in the ‘water by the numbers’ survey.

The Consortium is running a new promotion, Junior Leak Detective for kids ages 5 – 10 years old. The kit contains information on how to check toilets for leaks and encourages kids to look around the house for other places where leaks can happen. Upon completing their mission, they will get an activity book. This new print piece is available to order in the annual print order and members will be provided a startup supply. The piece has been translated in Spanish as well.

Bonny noted that the annual print order is happening now, and orders are due tomorrow, Thursday, March 4 by 5:00 p.m.

Posting of the Weekly Watering Number (WWN) on the Consortium website will begin again in mid-April. Consortium members have the ability to put the WWN widget on their individual websites as well. The WWN is published each Thursday from mid-April through mid-October. The WWN provides

how much to water lawns and plants by zip code area and is sent out via e-mail or text to those people who have signed up to receive this information. Along with the WWN, a seasonal watering tip is included as well. The WWN is a great way to message to Consortium member customers for approximately 20 weeks out of the year. Anything members can do get the word about the WWN out to customers is helpful and contributes to the success of the program.

## Winter Storm Debrief

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### City of Gresham:

- Approximately 10 inches of alternating snow and ice
- Water Division provided support for a large number of frozen water service pipes
- All hands on deck
- Waste water pump station ran on generator
- Came through storm relatively unscathed

### Clackamas River Water:

- Clackamas County very challenging
- All four water treatment plants did not have power; no power at the pump stations; had to rely on emergency power
- Many staff did not have power but managed to get to work
- Lessons Learned
  - The value of emergency power; think about staging of emergency power before event
  - Fuel supply planning is important; top off tanks prior to event
  - Working off storage highlighted the importance of interties that allowed water to be moved around
  - Value of having qualified operators
  - Communications extremely important; cell service was terrible, lost communications with facilities, used VHF radio system – need to explore/plan for using radios more comprehensively

### City of Tualatin:

- Lost power to pump stations for a few days – used emergency backup power
- Lost communications in a few spots for short time
- Lost hundreds of trees – stood up EOC to deal with clean up
- Activating EOC was important – had multiple agencies/departments working together

### Lake Oswego/Tigard:

- Lost power at intake and at treatment plant
- Brought two semi-truck trailer sized generators in for emergency power system, was up and running in approximately 2 ½ - 3 days at both the intake and the treatment plant
- Important to have on-call contract and good relationship with large electrical company who brought in the generators
- Received some water from Beaverton/JWC- have never run water this way

#### Tualatin Valley Water District:

- Power outages throughout service area
- Employees at pump stations 24/7
- Stood up “light” EOC before event

#### JWC:

- Emergency water to Tigard; working to finalize new agreement this year to provide emergency water but would provide water even if agreement not in place; value of interconnections
- No power outages at any of the facilities

#### City of Sherwood:

- Power outages throughout service area; important to run/exercise backup power generators
- Sent generator, fuel, and wood chipper to Aurora Oregon.

It was suggested that a press release could be issued on the successful coordination and efforts of water providers during the winter storm event or at a minimum share and highlight the story of the value of collaboration and coordination during emergencies with the Consortium Board.

## **Workforce Development and Planning Discussion**

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Rebecca reminded CTC members that workforce development and planning was identified as a potential topic for the Consortium to take a deeper dive into. Rebecca advised that Consortium staff is interested in learning more from members about what this looks like; what sort of advocacy role might make sense for the Consortium to take on; and what the Consortium’s role might be in this arena. Rebecca noted that this might be a good agenda item for the April CTC meeting and suggested that members that have been working on developing intern/apprenticeship programs could share what they are doing to develop their programs and lessons learned.

CTC members were supportive of adding this topic to the April CTC meeting agenda. Rebecca will reach out to those members, i.e., South Fork, Sunrise, JWC, etc. to invite them to share their experiences. It was noted that this topic is timely and important especially with new treatment facilities in the region coming on line over the next several years.

## Legislative Update

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Rebecca highlighted a couple of water related bills that are making their way through the legislature.

HB 2310 – “Plastic Pipe Bill” Pre-empts local governments from restricting evaluation or comparison of pipes used for water projects if pipes meet certain standards. Rebecca advised this bill is likely to get a hearing but has not been scheduled yet. Amendments have been prepared but not officially entered that have to do with changing the material prohibition to preparing a justification of why using the materials that are being used.

HB 3039 – Establishes public drinking water and sewer ratepayer assistance fund. Rebecca noted that this bill is moving through the process and should have a work session soon. A work group has been put together to work on language development.

Rebecca noted that she will continue to track the legislative session and asked CTC members to let her know if there is anything specific they would like her to keep an eye on.

**Meeting Attendees:**

David Winship – City of Beaverton

Todd Heidgerken – Clackamas River Water

Greg Robertson – City of Forest Grove

Andrew Degner – City of Gresham

Niki Iverson – City of Hillsboro

Bret Bienerth – City of Lake Oswego

Sarah Jo Chaplen – Oak Lodge Water Services

Sarah Santner – City of Portland

Kari Duncan – Rockwood Water PUD

Rich Sattler – City of Sherwood

Jeff Fuchs – City of Tualatin

Carrie Pak – Tualatin Valley Water District

Mike Grimm – West Slope Water District

Delora Kerber – City of Wilsonville

Eric Leatham – Southwood Park Water District (public)

Rikki Oden – Public

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

**Next CTC Meeting: Wednesday, April 7, 2021 via *Zoom/videoconference*.**