



Executive Committee Meeting Summary

APRIL 14, 2021 CALLED TO ORDER: 5:30 PM ADJOURNED: 6:27 PM

QUORUM PRESENT - YES MEETING HELD VIA ZOOM/VIDEOCONFERENCE

Approval of January 13, 2021 Meeting Summary

Director Mark Knudson made a motion to approve the January 13, 2021 Executive Committee meeting summary as presented. Director Tom Lewis seconded the motion. The Consortium Executive Committee unanimously approved the January 13, 2021 Executive Committee meeting summary as presented. (7:0:0)

Director Report

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. Ms. Geisen asked for thoughts/ideas on ways to continue to engage the Board and any topics of interest for future board meeting presentations. Ms. Geisen reminded Executive Committee (EC) member that there was a pre-meeting Consortium overview session for new members, and the meet and greet breakout sessions during 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 was appreciated and enjoyable and helped to break up Zoom fatigue. Ms. Geisen asked EC members to think about other presentation topics that would be of interest to the Board and let her know.

RDPO Provision for Emergency Drinking Water Framework Plan – Ms. Geisen reminded EC members that the Consortium is working with the Regional Disaster Preparedness Organization (RDPO) and other stakeholders on the development of a regional emergency drinking water plan. 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.

Ms. Geisen reported that the first meeting of the RDPO Provision of Drinking Water Framework Plan Task Force took place on 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, started background research and data collection, and is preparing for the first stakeholder workshop scheduled for June 3, 2021. Three workshops are planned over the next 18 months.

Legislative Update – Ms. Geisen mentioned that the 2021 Oregon State Legislative Session convened January 19 for a 160-day short session that is constitutionally required to adjourn sine die on June 27, 2021. Priorities this session include COVID response, racial justice, and wildfire recovery. Friday, April 9 was the final day for bills to move forward. Ms. Geisen reviewed a couple of bills important to water providers including:

HB 3040 – Requires OHCS to conduct comprehensive study of SDCs, including methodologies and impact on overall housing costs and transparency related to fee rates. A task force has been created to study SDC the methodologies and impacts. Timing/deferral mandates in the bill on SDCs are concerning.

HB 2739 – Would establish Public Drinking Water and Sewer Ratepayer Assistance Fund, utility ratepayer assistance. The workgroup meeting on this issue continues to await federal guidance from Health and Human Services on federal funding. There is support for adding state money to the program, but without further information at this time from the federal government, the gap between available funding and need remains unclear.

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. This bill has died.

A full legislative update will be given at the June Consortium Board meeting.

Program Updates

Bonny Cushman, Consortium Program Coordinator advised that this year, Consortium staff combined the indoor and outdoor water conservation campaigns into one campaign that kicked off with Drinking Water Week at the beginning of May and will run through mid-September. In an effort to appeal to different viewers, the campaign will include indoor and outdoor messaging throughout. Three on-air interviews will run during

Drinking Water Week focused on the value of drinking water and what it takes to bring water to homes and businesses.

Ms. Cushman noted that Consortium staff in concert with media partner KATU has been working on updating the conservation television ads to provide a more consistent look and feel in addition to creating a new indoor-focused conservation ad on how to check your toilets for leaks.

Ms. Cushman mentioned that Consortium staff is also working to update the *Our Regions Water* portion of the Consortium website regionalh2o.org. The new section will be released in May during Drinking Water Week. The update includes 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 continuing its sponsorship of the Children’s Clean Water Festival which is being held virtually this year due to the pandemic. Consortium staff assisted the festival planning committee with developing a website and YouTube channel to host the virtual festival which is going on now. The website includes six lesson plans and dozens of resources (some in Spanish) for fourth grade students to learn about water.

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 was available to order in the annual print order and members were provided a startup supply. The piece has been translated in Spanish as well.

Ms. Cushman advised that Consortium staff continues to develop new messaging toolkits for members to use in their monthly outreach to customers. The toolkits contain messaging resources such as social media content, website links, and sample newsletter articles on topics ranging from finding and fixing household leaks, the Weekly Watering Number, regional drinking water number stats, and pet preparedness. Each toolkit is available on the member page or by request.

June Consortium Board Draft Agenda

Ms. Geisen reviewed the June Consortium Board meeting draft agenda. Agenda items included approval of minutes, board elections, director’s report, program updates, a legislative update, and a placeholder presentation.

It was noted that Chair Fagin has completed his two-year appointment as Chair and the Vice-Chair position is currently vacant so both positions will need to be filled. Mayor Walters from South Fork Water Board expressed interest in the Vice-Chair position.

EC members supported a presentation/panel discussion on the winter storm impacts and the benefits of regional coordination.

Meeting Attendees:

NAME	AGENCY
Councilor Mark Fagin – <i>Board Chair</i>	City of Beaverton
Director Mark Knudson	Oak Lodge Water Services
Director Tom Lewis	Rockwood Water PUD
Mayor Jules Walters	South Fork Water Board
Commissioner Gary Barth	Sunrise Water Authority
Councilor Jeanette Shaw	City of Tigard
Commissioner Jim Duggan	Tualatin Valley Water District
Andrew Degner – <i>CTC Chair</i>	City of Gresham
John Collins and Wyatt Parno	South Fork Water Board
Carrie Pak	Tualatin Valley Water District
Riley Berger	Consortium Staff
Patty Burk	Consortium Staff
Bonny Cushman	Consortium Staff
Rebecca Geisen	Consortium Staff

Next Meeting: Wednesday, September 8, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom/videoconference