



Consortium Board Meeting Summary

JUNE 2, 2021 CALLED TO ORDER: 6:30 PM ADJOURNED: 8:30 PM
QUORUM PRESENT - YES - 14 MEMBERS (MEETING WAS HELD VIA
ZOOM/VIDEOCONFERENCE)

Approval of June 2, 2021 Meeting Summary

Director Mark Knudson made a motion to approve the June 2, 2021 Board meeting summary. Mayor Jules Walters seconded the motion. The Consortium Board unanimously approved the June 2, 2021 Consortium Board meeting summary. (14:0:0)

Public Comment

None

Board and Executive Committee Elections

Rebecca Geisen, Managing Director informed Consortium Board members that elections for the Board Chair and Vice-Chair were needed. Article 4 of the Consortium By-Laws contains the procedural requirements for officers. It states that the Board shall have at least a Chair and a Vice-Chair and that they must come from two different counties. The term of both offices is a one-year term with the possibility of a consecutive second year upon re-election. Elections must be done when a quorum is present, and a majority of the quorum must approve each position. Chair Fagin has completed his second year of service and is not eligible to serve another term at this time. The Vice-Chair position is currently vacant.

Chair Fagin opened the meeting for nominations.

Mayor Peter Truax nominated Bridget Brooks for Board Chair. Mayor Jules Walters seconded the motion. There were no other nominations. The Consortium Board unanimously approved the nomination of Bridget Brooks for Board Chair. (14:0:0)

Director Mark Knudson nominated Jules Walters for Board Vice-Chair. Mayor Peter Truax seconded the motion. There were no other nominations. The Consortium Board unanimously approved the nomination of Jules Walters for Board Vice-Chair. (14:0:0)

Ms. Geisen reported that in addition to the Chair and Vice-Chair elections, the Board needs to elect new at-large Executive Committee (EC) members. Membership is entity specific; allowing the entity's Board alternate to attend and vote at EC meetings. The terms of office will be for two years with the Board allowed to appoint consecutive terms for at-large representative members at its pleasure. Ms. Geisen advised that the EC meets three to four times a year in advance of the Consortium Board meetings. The EC identifies major policy issues and makes recommendations to the Board. The EC reviews the annual work plan and budget and provides input and recommendations to the Board.

Director Mark Knudson made a motion to retain the current at-large Executive Committee members Jules Walters from South Fork Water Board, Gary Barth from Sunrise Water Authority and Jeanette Shaw from the City of Tigard. Councilor Carol Wild seconded the motion. The Consortium Board unanimously approve the motion to retain the current at-large Executive Committee members Jules Walters from South Fork Water Board, Gary Barth from Sunrise Water Authority and Jeanette Shaw from the City of Tigard. (14:0:0)

Consortium staff and Board members thanked Councilor Fagin for his time, support, and commitment as Consortium Board Chair for the past two years.

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 February.

Preview of October Consortium Board Meeting: Ms. Geisen advised that at the October Consortium Board meeting, Board members will participate in a Consortium Strategic Plan review. The Consortium is almost three years into the five-year Strategic Plan and now, especially with the events of the past year and a half, is an opportune time to review the Plan to see if adjustments are needed, reflect on how the Consortium's work has

changed, take stock of current programs, and identify what future initiatives and program implementation might look like, if needed.

Provision of Emergency Drinking Water Framework Plan: 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](#). 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.

The first project milestone was completed today with a workshop on agency roles and responsibilities during an emergency. More than fifty participants from water provider agencies, local/county emergency organizations, Army Corp of Engineers and FEMA gathered virtually to discuss respective roles for medium and large-scale events, communication and coordination opportunities and needs, and roles in emergency water distribution. The next workshop is planned for October 4, 2021 and will focus on emergency water resources.

Update on Drought Conditions and Seasonal Streamflow Forecasts: Ms. Geisen shared informational slides about current drought conditions and seasonal streamflow forecasts around the State. Ms. Geisen advised that recently NOAA provided a webinar with an update on drought conditions and seasonal streamflow forecasts. They wanted to make water providers aware of the summer outlook and encourage coordination and communication about potential drought. The Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) also gave a similar presentation at the Oregon Water Utility Council (OWUC) and members emphasized to OWRD the importance of working together on messaging with the understanding that drought and low rainfall will affect water supplies around the State differently.

Ms. Geisen noted that the overall message from National Weather Service is to prepare now. Drought conditions will likely persist if not intensify through September and may increase the likelihood of harmful algal blooms. Fire season will likely be intense, but not like last year – as it is unlikely we will have another East wind event. The Consortium Technical Committee will meet throughout the summer to discuss summer supply and messaging.

Program Report

Children’s Clean Water Festival: Bonny Cushman, Consortium Project Coordinator advised that the Consortium continued its sponsorship of the Children’s Clean Water Festival which was held virtually this spring due to the pandemic. Consortium staff assisted the festival planning committee with developing a website and YouTube channel to host the virtual festival. The website includes six lesson plans and dozens of resources (some in Spanish) for fourth grade students to learn about water. The YouTube channel hosts three videos created for the virtual festival that are captioned in English, Spanish, Vietnamese, Russian, and Chinese. The website and its resources will be kept up all year and will be updated as needed moving forward.

Junior Leak Detective Print Piece: Ms. Cushman reported that this spring, the Consortium created a new print piece geared toward kids in kindergarten through fifth grade called Junior Leak Detective. The new print piece 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 were provided a start-up supply of the print piece as part of the annual print order and members had the opportunity to order additional copies. The piece was recently translated into Spanish as well and will be available to order in the 2022 annual print order.

Drinking Water by the Numbers Infographic: Consortium Staff collected data from members and worked with Wilborn design to create a new infographic that provides a snapshot of what it takes to bring water from its source to your home or business in the Portland, OR metropolitan region. The new graphic is housed on the Consortium’s website and will be used in other outreach applications.

Summer Media Campaign: Ms. Cushman reported that this year the Consortium kicked off its summer media campaign the first week in May with Drinking Water Week. During that week, Consortium and member staff participated in four television interviews: three with KATU, Channel 2 and one with Garden Time television. In addition, on-air mentions were done where content was prepared by Consortium staff and given to the on-air talent from AM Northwest and KATU to deliver. Ms. Cushman shared examples of these on-air mentions. Ms. Cushman also shared a new ad that will run on KATU throughout the campaign that includes a QR code on the screen that viewers can use by holding up their smart devices to the QR code which will take them directly to the Consortium website. All of the media ads and interviews can be found on the Consortium website regionalh2o.org on the [newsroom](#) page.

Website Updates: Consortium Staff completed seasonal updates, monthly site analytics reports, reworked the content on four existing pages in the Our Region’s Water (ORW)

section of the website, began publishing the Weekly Watering Number again, created new content for four new pages, and started work on a new interactive water map that visitors to the website can use to learn more about their water providers and water sources. The four new web pages included a water quality landing page, a hand watering page, a gray water information page, and a resource page for landscape contractors. The Consortium contracted with the Community Engagement Liaisons to review the website's Spanish language content so that it was consistent and up to date for the summer season.

Other Project Updates: Ms. Cushman mentioned that Consortium staff is working on developing a water preparedness PowerPoint presentation which will be used by partners to educate community members about water-focused emergency preparedness. This project's genesis was community partners looking for information to share with community and neighborhood response teams.

Member Tool Kits: The Consortium developed four new messaging toolkits for members to use in their monthly outreach to customers. The toolkits contained 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. The July tool kit will focus on Smart Irrigation month.

10 Tips Review and Development: Ms. Cushman reported that Consortium staff has begun to review the conservation tips it uses on the regionalh2o.org website, in print materials, and in media outreach. The purpose of this review is to look at the content with an equity lens and ensure that there is information for everyone (i.e., not everyone has a dishwasher, can change out a toilet, or has a sprinkler system). Staff is developing a tool to review this information and will be asking members for input on the content in the coming months. Work is also underway to develop 10 tips for emergency preparedness and 10 tips for source water protection.

February Winter Storm Impacts Presentations

Ms. Geisen welcomed Todd Heidgerken from Clackamas River Water; Niki Iverson from the City of Hillsboro/JWC; and Erica Rooney, Bret Bienerth and John Goodrich from the Lake Oswego/Tigard Partnership who shared lessons learned on response and recovery during the February winter storm event.

Todd Heidgerken noted that it seems odd to be talking about winter storms when it is a sunny and warm June evening but that he is happy to be talking about this topic because it is an excellent opportunity to tell a great story of regional collaboration and

partnerships coming together to support each other; and lessons learned that will be applicable to emergencies that will come in the future. Mr. Heidgerken noted that it is important to point out that during this time back in February there were other parts of the country that were experiencing similar storm impacts to their water systems. Their impacts were starkly different than our region as reported in national news. Our story was that there was no story – a testament to our preparation and response.

Mr. Heidgerken reported that the Clackamas County region was hit hard by the February storm. Mr. Heidgerken's presentation focused on four areas- power, partnerships, people, and communications.

Power: During the ice storm much of the Clackamas system, including treatment plants, administration buildings, and system operations and pump stations on the south side of the district, were all out of power. Communications became difficult as the SCADA system which is used to communicate to many of the various facilities was down or had intermittent service. Travel was difficult because of the ice and road conditions. All four intakes on the Clackamas River were out of power. Access to emergency power was critical. CRW was able to continue to provide water their customers throughout the storm by relying on that emergency power. Access to fuel to run the emergency generators/power became a challenge as well. Quickly securing fuel was imperative. Lessons learned from a power perspective included having adequate back-up/emergency power sources and fuel; and to have extra parts available for these emergency systems.

Partnerships: Three of the four water treatment plants on the lower Clackamas have emergency interties. Through established partnerships and interties, several Clackamas water providers; South Fork Water Board, North Clackamas County Water Commission, Clackamas River Water etc. were able to move water around through the emergency interties and get water where it was needed. Without those partnerships and the cooperation and collaboration the impacts of the storm would have been much more significant for customers who were already suffering from power outages and other storm impacts.

People: Staff stepped up. At one point over half of the CRW staff left their own homes that did not have power to be at work, do their job, and keep CRW customers in water. It was a true team effort.

Communications: Communications were challenging. Cell phone coverage was intermittent. CRW had a robust VHF radio system that worked pretty well for communications between locations especially when trying to move water around manually instead of relying on the SCADA system. The Clackamas basin also utilized a Regroup emergency notification system that allowed water providers to send messages – text, email, voicemail to keep everyone updated collectively. This is a new system for the region so it was not used as effectively as it could have been so will be something to train more on for future emergencies.

Mr. Heidgerken concluded that there is an excellent story to be told here about partnerships, collaboration, and working together as a region all while keeping customers in water.

Niki Iverson reported that the Joint Water Commission (JWC) fared well during the February storm and was not in an emergency situation but was able to provide water to others during the storm. The JWC received a call from the City of Tigard asking for

additional water supply. Ms. Iverson received approval from all four JWC partners to deliver water to Tigard and operate under the terms of the 2015 JWC –Tigard Water Supply Agreement. The water was wheeled through Beaverton to Tigard in the same fashion that water has been provided to Tigard in previous years and a total of 7.9 MG was delivered. Ms. Iverson noted that JWC was able to provide water to Tigard because there was a provision in the 2015 emergency water supply agreement that allowed them to enact the agreement for emergencies even though the agreement had expired. Negotiations will begin this spring to update the emergency water supply agreement with Tigard in order to have terms available for any future emergencies.

Ms. Iverson noted that the City of Hillsboro/JWC facilities did not lose power during this particular event but shared information about their backup power facility. The facility project costs were about \$7 million and includes two 2.5 MW generators. These generators can run the water treatment plant at about 38 MGD with enough fuel on site (15,000 gallons) to operate for 48 hours at full capacity. The backup power facility was not used for the winter event but ran for 25.5 hours during the September 2020 fire event.

Erica Rooney, Bret Bienert and John Goodrich shared experiences from the Cities of Lake Oswego and Tigard during the February winter storm. Ms. Rooney reminded Board members that the Cities of Lake Oswego and Tigard have been in a partnership for the past 10 years that culminated in a new river intake on the Clackamas, a new water treatment plant in West Linn and a large supply line across I-5 to Tigard. Water was first delivered to the City of Tigard through this partnership project five years ago.

Mr. Bienert explained how neither the river intake pump stations nor water treatment plants had emergency backup power on site because they had two different PGE substations serve each site. Both power substations at both locations went out during the ice storm. During the event, Tigard was able to receive water from the JWC through Beaverton and then send it on to Lake Oswego. The ability to get water from Tigard to Lake Oswego early on was imperative to keep customers in water. Over several days, very large semi-truck sized generators were obtained and used to power the river intake pump stations and the water treatment plants. These backup generators were used for approximately 10 days until full power could be restored to all locations.

Mr. Bienert noted that they will be commissioning a study to explore back up power options including how much capacity is needed; whether they should continue to rely on dual feeds from PGE; and/or install portable generator connections at both sites; and/or install permanent generators at one or both sites.

John Goodrich noted that if it were not for established regional relationships and

interties moving water around like it was during the winter storm event would not have been possible. Mr. Goodrich commented that relationships that have been built over the past 30 years or so amongst water providers and through the Regional Water Providers Consortium has provided a forum for open discussions and actions that has brought the region where it is today.

Mr. Goodrich noted that during the winter storm the City of Tigard was not as impacted as the Cities of Lake Oswego, West Linn, and Oregon City and as a result was able to help those entities through the difficult storm impacts. Mr. Goodrich closed with key takeaways from the event – regional relationships saved the day; it was a good opportunity to test emergency plans; it is important to plan for the more frequent small events (not just “the big one”); and to continue to invest in small interconnections as they can make a difference.

Ms. Geisen mentioned that the Consortium’s Drinking Water Advisory Tool was utilized by the City of Oregon City to alert their customers to curtail their water usage to extend their water supply. Ms. Geisen fielded many requests from around the region for generators, water trucks and water bags. The Consortium elevated messaging related to emergency water supply, storage and treatment and communicated with media partners that the Consortium was a great resource for any emergency preparedness related stories.

Consortium Board members shared stories and information on how their service areas were impacted by the storm and the importance of emergency preparedness and regional partnerships. It was suggested that the Consortium Water Communicators Network could work on developing a one-page document/press release/white paper on the successful coordination and efforts of water providers during the winter storm event, and the value of regional collaboration and coordination during emergencies.

Consortium Board members, staff and colleagues thanked John Goodrich for his hard work and dedication to the City of Tigard, the water industry and the Consortium and wished him well in his retirement.

2021 Legislative Session Update

Sara Petrocine, Legislative Affairs Coordinator for the Portland Water Bureau joined the Consortium Board meeting to provide an update on the 2021 State legislative session.

The 2021 State Legislature convened January 19 for a 160-day regular session that is constitutionally required to adjourn sine die on June 27. The deadline for bills to move out of second chamber policy committees was May 28 – those that did not will not

advance. These deadlines do not apply to the House and Senate Rules and Revenue committees, or to most Joint committees, including Ways and Means. Ms. Petrocine said at this stage in the session, lawmakers are increasingly focused on crafting and passing the state budget for the 2021-23 biennium. Federal relief funds associated with the COVID-19 pandemic and a strong economic and revenue forecast mean that lawmakers have over \$2 billion dollars more than expected to build the budget. Policy priorities of lawmakers this session include police reform and racial justice, housing, COVID-19 response, and wildfire recovery and response. Ms. Petrocine reviewed several bills related to groundwater, harmful algal blooms, public contracting, system development charges, and water utility rate assistance.

Meeting Attendees:

23 Total Members

Quorum = 12

Councilor Mark Fagin and David Winship – City of Beaverton	Commissioner Sherry French and Todd Heidgerken– Clackamas River Water	Mayor Peter Truax and Greg Robertson – City of Forest Grove
Councilor Mario Palmero, Councilor Dina DiNucci, and Robin Pederson – City of Gresham	Commissioner Debbie Raber and Niki Iverson – City of Hillsboro	Erica Rooney and Bret Bienerth – City of Lake Oswego
Director Mark Knudson, Jeff Page, and Sarah Jo Chaplen – Oak Lodge Water Services	Commissioner Mingus Mapps, Gabriel Solmer, Edward Campbell, and Sara Petrocine – City of Portland	Director Tom Lewis and Kari Duncan – Rockwood Water PUD
Councilor Sean Garland and Rich Sattler – City of Sherwood	Mayor Jules Walters and Wyatt Parno – South Fork Water Board	John Goodrich – City of Tigard
Councilor Bridget Brooks 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, Councilor Ben West, and Delora Kerber – City of Wilsonville	Marrisa Houlberg – Tualatin Resident	Rebecca Geisen, Bonny Cushman, and Riley Berger – Consortium Staff

Consortium members agencies not represented by elected officials at this meeting included the City of Cornelius, City of Gladstone, Raleigh Water District, Rockwood Water PUD, Sunrise Water Authority, City of Sandy, City of Tigard, and the City of Troutdale.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 6, 2021 via Zoom/videoconference