



Consortium Technical Committee Meeting Summary

JUNE 16, 2021 CALLED TO ORDER: 1:30 PM ADJOURNED: 3:12 PM
QUORUM PRESENT - YES - 15 MEMBERS
MEETING HELD VIA ZOOM/VIDEOCONFERENCE

Approval of April 7, 2021 Meeting Summary

Kari Duncan made a motion to approve the April 7, 2021 Consortium Technical Committee (CTC) meeting summary. Todd Heidgerken seconded the motion. The CTC unanimously approved the April 7, 2021 Consortium Technical Committee meeting summary as presented. (15:0:0)

Director Report

Portland State University Population and Household Forecasts – Rebecca advised that Portland State University’s Population Research Center completed the 2020 population and household estimates for each Consortium member (and PWB Wholesalers). The information is on the Consortium’s file share site. Summaries and instructions for how to access the files can also be found on the member page of the Consortium website. Rebecca noted that if a member requested information by structure type, this information is also on the file share site.

Emergency Contact List - The annual update of the regional emergency contact list is complete. The Emergency Contact list includes water providers around the region, county, state, and federal contacts. It also includes participants in mutual aid agreements, equipment, and public information contacts. The contact list was emailed out to Consortium members and can also be found on the member page of the Consortium website.

Workforce Succession Planning – Rebecca mentioned that she continues to meet monthly as part of the State Succession Planning sub-group. As developments and information becomes available, she will share with CTC members.

FY 2021-22 Consortium Dues Letters and Invoices – Consortium dues letters and invoices for FY 2021-22 will be sent to Consortium members in early July and will be due by September 1.

Metro Technical Advisory Committee – Rebecca advised that Metro had contacted her about finding an alternate to serve on their Metro Technical Advisory Committee (MTAC) in the Service Provider: Water and Sewer capacity. They currently have someone from Clackamas Water Environmental Services to serve as the primary representative, so they are now looking for a water provider from Washington or Multnomah County to serve as the alternate. MTAC is a dynamic committee with not only land use and development as the main topic, but planning involving transportation, infrastructure, housing, and service agencies are involved with the discussions. Their recommendations on actions is taken to MPAC (policy makers) and Metro Council.

Carrie Pak volunteered to serve on the MTAC.

Drinking Water Advisory Tool – Rebecca noted that Consortium staff has begun testing the Drinking Water Advisory (DWA) Tool before every major holiday to ensure the tool is performing correctly in the event it is needed. This has been incorporated into the DWA Tool’s SOPs.

Oregon Water/Wastewater Response Network (ORWARN) – The 2021 Annual ORWARN conference is scheduled for October 20-22 in Newport OR. The conference will be held in-person. Rebecca has been asked to give a presentation about the Consortium. Rebecca asked if there were specific Consortium programs/topics that members would like her to be sure to include to let her know.

Strategic Plan Check-In - Rebecca met recently with Board Chair Mark Fagin and CTC Chair Andrew Degner to discuss the Consortium Strategic Plan. Rebecca explained that regular meetings with the Board Chair, CTC Chair and Managing Director are one of the implementation strategies for the Strategic Plan with the goal of providing a sounding board and support for the Managing Director in implementing the Plan. During this discussion, it was noted that the Consortium is now three years into the Strategic Plan during which time significant major events have taken place that have affected all Consortium members, e.g., COVID, wildfires, winter storms, etc. and that it would be good to look at the Plan through the lens of those events and see if there is a need for any course correction or updates that need to be made. Rebecca advised that she would like to use part of the September CTC meeting to discuss a few things to highlight and pull out of the Plan for Board discussion/review at their meeting in October. Rebecca will send out a link to the Strategic Plan for those that may want to reacquaint themselves with the initiatives and task included in the Plan.

Program Updates

Bonny Cushman, Consortium Program Coordinator reported that she is working with the Regional Disaster Preparedness Organization (RDPO) Disaster Messaging Workgroup to develop a regional language access list that will help inform equitable translation and language decisions for various Consortium projects. The list should be available late summer/early fall.

Bonny noted that a small workgroup comprised of members from the Communicators Network is

looking at the Drinking Water Advisory Tool to determine what it will take to do translation of the Tool itself and if there are “standard” advisory messages that can be translated into multiple languages and ready for use by members. Bonny commented that the Consortium staff is working with the Portland Bureau of Emergency Management to have the tool and existing advisories reviewed for accessibility.

Consortium staff is currently working on an interactive map that will be displayed on the Consortium website and include information garnered from recent member surveys, member websites, etc. There will be two different map views – one focused on water provider information and the other on water source information. Bonny gave a preview of the map. Once completed, the map will be sent to appropriate member representatives for their review and feedback. The map should be available for review toward the later part of July or early August.

Bonny advised that Consortium staff in concert with the Emergency Planning Committee is working on the development of a presentation focused on personal preparedness. The goal is to help CERT/NET organizations, Consortium members, and community partners share water preparedness information with members of the community.

Bonny reported that Consortium staff along with the Conservation Committee and the Water Communicators Network are reviewing their individual curtailment plans and talking about regional messaging needs and using those plans and discussions to help shape any regional summer supply messaging. Several media interviews are scheduled for July and August that for now are focused on outdoor water conservation tips but could easily be pivoted if needed for supply and/or curtailment messaging.

Bonny mentioned that she is participating in a larger regional communications group that is focused on messaging around wildfires. At next week’s Water Communicators Network meeting, wildfire messaging will be the focus of discussion, e.g., water provider role, messaging needs and timeline, etc.

Chlorine Supply Shortage

Niki Iverson and Bret Bienerth gave an update on a recent developing chlorine shortage issue. Oregon Health Authority -Drinking Water Services (DWS) and utilities just learned that a major producer of chlorine-based disinfectants used in utility systems has notified its customers that it may be unable to fulfill orders because of damage to its facility that is causing ongoing interruption of disinfectant production. The producer, Westlake Chemical, located in Longview, Washington, supplies chlorine to most of the Northwest, including to other chemical suppliers that use the chlorine to produce sodium hypochlorite. The Westlake facility is expected to be back in production by June 28, although supply disruptions may take weeks to resolve.

Niki advised that there was a meeting with the Governor’s office yesterday as it quickly became clear that a state-wide coordination effort was needed. Participants included OEM, DEQ, OHA, Homeland

Security, several water/wastewater organizations, and key utilities. Mobilization has begun to support this issue especially with regard to regional and state-wide communications. Organization at the State level has begun and OHA and DEQ will be the lead agencies. A state-wide JIC has been stood up.

Niki advised that OHA will be sending out a survey to agencies to get an inventory of how much chlorine providers have on hand. Draft talking points have been developed and are now being reviewed by the State. Niki will send the talking points to Rebecca to send out to the CTC. It was noted that a regional conversation about potential curtailment may be needed depending on how long the shortage event lasts.

June Board Meeting Debrief

Rebecca thanked Niki Iverson, Erica Rooney, and Todd Heidgerken for their winter storm event presentations to the Consortium Board. Board members were really engaged and suggested that Consortium staff and committees develop a way to tell the story of events and benefits of regional coordination and collaboration that can be shared at conferences, with the media and/or in AWWA journals. Consortium staff will be working with the Water Communicators Network to draft a white paper, article or write up of some sort and discuss how this collaborative work can be incorporated into social media and other types of messaging.

Rebecca noted that at the October Board meeting discussions will focus on the FY 2022-23 Consortium work plan and budget, Strategic Plan, and other potential summer events.

Summer Supply Discussion

CTC members supported having brief check-in meetings in July and August to discuss summer supply and messaging. There was overall support for maintain the standard outdoor water conservation messaging for now and revisit messaging needs as the summer goes on.

Todd Heidgerken reported that the Clackamas river flows are currently higher than they were in 2015 so for now summer supply is looking ok. The Clackamas River Water Providers (CRWP) meet monthly to do check-ins on summer supply and coordination. The CRWP "Fish on the Run" messaging will likely begin in mid to late August.

Niki Iverson reported that Hagg Lake did not fill all the way but filled enough that the drinking water providers were not curtailed. Supply from Barney and Scoggins reservoirs are good. The release season began on May 7, earlier than in past years. Concerns lie more with length and duration of the season.

Edward Campbell reported that drawdown has not yet begun in Bull Run. Drawdown is expected to begin in the next 7 to 14 days, significantly later than 2015. There is also sufficient groundwater capacity to supplement Bull Run if needed so they are not anticipating a supply shortage.

Delora Kerber reported that the Willamette river supply looks good. No anticipated supply shortages.

Andy Bryant from NOAA/National Weather Service joined the CTC meeting to give a summer weather outlook for Oregon and the Pacific Northwest. Andy explained a lot of the State of Oregon, specifically southern and central Oregon have been experiencing drought conditions for the past few years. Record dry springs have expanded and intensified drought concerns for Oregon and the Pacific Northwest. Summer temperatures are likely to be above average and streamflow forecasts are expected to be at near record low levels for Western Oregon, with the exception of river that drain from the high cascades, e.g., Sandy and Clackamas. Andy reviewed recent precipitation, temperature, and streamflow data. Andy noted that it appears that the Pacific Northwest will continue to experience warmer than average temperatures through the summer and early fall until precipitation picks up in the October – November months and beyond.

CTC members shared with Andy summer supply scenarios for their water sources/systems and thanked Andy for his presentation.

Meeting Attendees:

Priya Dhanapal – City of Beaverton

Todd Heidgerken – Clackamas River Water

Greg Robertson – City of Forest Grove

Niki Iverson and Heather Knapp – City of Hillsboro

Erica Rooney and Bret Bienerth – City of Lake Oswego

Sarah Jo Chaplen **and Jeff Page** – Oak Lodge Water Services

Edward Campbell, Felicia Heaton and Jaymee Cuti – City of Portland

Kari Duncan – Rockwood Water PUD

Wyatt Parno – South Fork Water Board

Tim Janssen – Sunrise Water Authority

David Schaffer – City of Troutdale

Jeff Fuchs – City of Tualatin

Carrie Pak – Tualatin Valley Water District

Mike Grimm – West Slope Water District

Delora Kerber – City of Wilsonville

Andy Bryant – NOAA/National Weather Service

Kevin Calcagno – Eurofin (public)

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

Next CTC Meeting: Wednesday, September 1, 2021 via *Zoom/videoconference*.