Consortium Technical Committee Meeting Summary



APRIL 5, 2023 CALLED TO ORDER: 1:34 PM ADJOURNED: 3:23 PM

QUORUM PRESENT - YES - 12 MEMBERS

MEETING HELD VIA ZOOM/VIDEOCONFERENCE

Approval of January 4, 2023 Meeting Summaries

Sarah Jo Chaplen made a motion to approve the January 4, 2023 meeting summary as presented. Edward Campbell seconded the motion. The January 4, 2023 meeting summary was unanimously approved as presented. (12:0:0)

Strategic Plan Update

Rebecca Geisen, Consortium Managing Director advised that the Consortium working committees (conservation, emergency preparedness, and water communicators network) met yesterday to review Strategic Plan initiatives and brainstorm new strategies and work tasks for the next five-year planning horizon. Rebecca and Bonny Cushman, Consortium Program Coordinator gave a brief overview of the work session and report outs from the three breakout groups.

Rebecca reviewed the Strategic Plan's three major focus areas – meeting water needs, emergency preparedness and regional partnerships. She noted that based on feedback from the Board, Executive Committee and Consortium Technical Committee (CTC), Consortium Staff updated the initiatives for each of the focus areas. The CTC reviewed the updated Strategic Plan initiatives to identify gaps and any new initiatives that should be considered for the updated Plan. There was general consensus that the updated initiatives provide a solid, strategic foundation for the update of the Consortium Strategic Plan.

CTC members participated in breakout groups by major focus area to do a deeper dive into and prioritize the initiatives. Groups were given prompt questions to help facilitate the discussion – what are your priorities within the focus area; how does the Consortium best utilize limited financial and staff resources; and what is the Consortium versus member role for the initiatives. The groups used Jamboard to capture ideas/comments. Each facilitator did a brief report out.

Rebecca advised that Consortium Staff will now work to collate feedback from the working committees meeting yesterday and today's CTC discussions and further refine and update the Strategic Plan initiatives and work tasks to present to the Consortium Board at their meeting in June. Following the meeting, Rebecca will send out the

link to the Jamboard to allow for additional comments. Rebecca encouraged CTC members to utilize the Jamboard to include their comments/feedback for the other focus areas that they did not have the opportunity to participate in during today's breakout groups.

Director's Report

Consortium Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA): The Portland City Attorney completed a revised draft Consortium IGA that was then sent on to Tommy Brooks, council for Oak Lodge Water Services for further review. Rebecca received comments back from Mr. Brooks a few days ago and Consortium Staff is working to incorporate them into the draft. Once that is completed, Rebecca will send out the draft IGA to all Consortium members for their review. The plan is to bring a final draft IGA to the Board at their June meeting with adoption of the revised IGA in October. Following Board approval, each Consortium member will be required to take the IGA to their individual Boards, Councils and Commissions for signature. It was decided that both a redline and clean version of the updated IGA should be made available to the Board in June.

<u>Provision of Emergency Drinking Water Framework Plan (Framework):</u> Rebecca advised that the Consortium may receive an additional \$90,000 in UASI grant funds to implement project recommendations from the Plan. Rebecca presented on the Plan to the Office of Resilience and Emergency Management under the Department of Human Services. A workshop is being planned for late spring/early summer for county emergency managers and water providers on next steps for the Framework. On a related note, the Regional Disaster Preparedness Organization (RDPO) has a new director Mark Ferdig. Beth Crane, interim RDPO Director is no longer with the organization.

Additional Updates:

- Rebecca and Bonny met with Peter Brandom, City of Cornelius City Manager. Rebecca will present to their City Council on May 1 to give an overview of the Consortium and its programs.
- Rebecca presented at the AWWA Utility Management Conference last week on the benefits of the Consortium's 25 years of partnership and collaboration, how the Consortium works together and what makes it unique. There was a lot of great questions and interest after the presentation. Rebecca will present at the AWWA Annual Conference (ACE23) in Toronto in mid-June.
- Rebecca will send out HB 3124 which requires the Oregon Water Resources Department to study drought.

Program Updates

Bonny reminded CTC members that she recently emailed them asking for their input and support to pitch an opinion article to Pamplin Media publications in response to a recent article they ran which detailed the results from a recent Oregon Values and Beliefs Center survey. The survey showed that just over half of Oregonians are confident that they know where their drinking water comes from, and some survey respondents voiced concerns about the future of their water source. The goal of the response article is to highlight the main water source(s) in the publication's service area, highlight how they can find out more about their local drinking water through their provider's CCR, and to highlight the Consortium's regional drinking water educational resources. Bonny

noted that she sent the email out Monday, April 3 and asked CTC members to please respond with their input and support by Friday, April 7.

Bonny advised that Mad Science, the Consortium's school assembly contractor is closing their business which leaves the Consortium without a school assembly program. In addition, the contractor that the Consortium has worked with to plan and coordinate the Children's Clean Water Festival is retiring. Consortium staff and the Consortium Conservation Committee will be looking at ways to adapt the youth education program and what the program could look like moving forward.

Bonny reported that the how-to video project is moving forward quickly. Digital advertising campaigns on YouTube and Facebook are running now in five, soon to be seven languages. Language specific outreach plans, i.e., language specific Facebook groups, outreach to community based organizations and churches and other language specific community festivals and gatherings, etc. were developed in concert with the Community Engagement Liaisons. This targeted outreach will run through May.

Planning for the summer media campaign is moving forward. For the past several years, there has been a push for television interviews and stories during National Drinking Water week in May. This year, the focus will be on water quality and feature interviews and stories during the month of August which is Water Quality month. Bonny asked CTC members to let her know if they have ideas of water quality focused topics or television shoot locations to please let her know.

June Consortium Board Meeting

Rebecca reviewed the June Consortium Board meeting draft agenda. Agenda items include approval of Board meeting minutes, election of Board Chair, Vice-Chair and at-large Executive Committee members, director and committee reports, and a Strategic Plan Engagement discussion. CTC members provided feedback on how to best engage the Board in the Strategic Plan discussion. It was thought that utilizing a Jamboard might not be the best approach. It was recommended that the poll and voting feature would be easier for Board members to navigate. The CTC approved the draft agenda and recommended presenting to the Executive Committee.

Meeting Attendees:

David Winship – City of Beaverton	Beth McGinnis – Clackamas River Water	Greg Robertson – City of Forest Grove
Justin Poyser – City of Gladstone	Jessica Dorsey – City of Hillsboro	Sarah Jo Chaplen – Oak Lodge Water Services Authority
Edward Campbell – City of Portland	Kari Duncan – Rockwood Water PUD	Brian Rager – City of Tigard
Nick Augustus and Sarah Alton – Tualatin Valley Water District	Mike Grimm – West Slope Water District	Rebecca Geisen, Bonny Cushman, Riley Berger and Patty Burk – RWPC Staff

Next CTC Meeting: June 21, 2023, hybrid meeting – in person, City of Portland, Portland Building, Room 216 and via Zoom/videoconference.