



## Consortium Board Meeting Summary

FEBRUARY 7, 2024 CALLED TO ORDER: 6:32 PM ADJOURNED: 8:10 PM

QUORUM PRESENT – YES – 13 MEMBERS

(MEETING WAS HELD VIA ZOOM/VIDEOCONFERENCE)

### Approval of October 4, 2023 Meeting Summary

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Councilor Bridget Brooks made a motion to approve the October 4, 2023 Consortium Board meeting summary as presented. Director Tom Lewis seconded the motion. The Consortium Board approved the October 4, 2023 Consortium Board meeting summary as presented (13:0:0).

### Public Comment

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None

### Election of Executive Committee At-large Member

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Rebecca Geisen, Consortium Managing Director noted that the election of an additional at-large member is needed to fill out the Executive Committee (EC).

Chair Kevin Williams opened the meeting for nominations.

Commissioner Naomi Angier nominated Councilor Kevin Teater as an at-large Executive Committee member. Commissioner Mingus Mapps seconded the nomination. The Consortium Board unanimously approved Councilor Kevin Teater as an at-large Executive Committee member. (13:0:0)

### Lake Grove Water District Membership Request

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Chair Williams reported that the Lake Grove Water District is requesting membership to the Regional Water Providers Consortium. A letter from Lake Grove was included in the meeting materials packet.

Commissioner Mingus Mapps made a motion to approve the request from Lake Grove Water District to become a full member of the Regional Water Providers Consortium. Mayor Tim Rippe

seconded the motion. The Consortium Board unanimously approved the request from Lake Grove Water District to become a full member of the Regional Water Providers Consortium. (13:0:0)

## Consortium Strategic Plan

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Ms. Geisen reminded Consortium Board members that at their meeting in October, they reviewed the draft Consortium Five-Year Strategic Plan and discussed Board implementation actions. The Plan was then sent to Board members for any final edits/comments. No additional comments were received so the Consortium Five-Year Strategic Plan has been finalized and is now ready for adoption.

Commissioner Mingus Mapps made a motion to adopt the Consortium Five-Year Strategic Plan as presented. Commissioner Deborah Raber seconded the motion. The Consortium Board unanimously approved the adoption of the Consortium Five-Year Strategic Plan as presented. (13:0:0)

## FY 2024-25 Consortium Budget and Work Plan

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Ms. Geisen advised that in the meeting materials packet is the proposed FY 2024-25 Consortium work plan and budget based on discussion and direction from the Board at their October Board meeting. Ms. Geisen noted that the City of Portland has provided staffing costs which have been incorporated and are slightly less than what was expected. Ms. Geisen recommended that this opportunity be used to gradually increase staffing resources. The Consortium has been operating with the same staff for 10 years while growing programs. As part of succession planning, it is the intent to build some staff capacity within the organization by transitioning the Management Assistant position from .7 FTE to 1.0 FTE over the next couple of years. Ms. Geisen proposed that the capacity of that position be increased to .8 FTE in FY 2024-25 which would be an increase of \$10,000.

As shared at the October Board meeting, two new funding initiatives have been added to the “English Media Campaigns, Digital Campaign, Public Outreach and Public Relations” line item in the budget to include \$15,000 to support multi-cultural events and ad buys and \$20,000 for a public relations contract. With a carry-over of \$125,796 the dues increase is approximately 7.0%. Ms. Geisen concluded that both the Consortium Technical Committee and Executive Committee were supportive of the FY 2024-25 budget and work plan as presented.

Commissioner Mingus Mapps made a motion to approve the FY 2024-25 Consortium budget and work plan. Commissioner Naomi Angier seconded the motion. The Consortium Board unanimously approved the FY 2024-25 Consortium budget and work plan. (13:0:0)

## Director Report

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Tri-Annual Activity Report: A detailed tri-annual activity report was included in the meeting materials packet. Board members were encouraged to look over the report for information on activities conducted since the last Board meeting in October.

Board Meetings: Board members responded to a poll about their interest in having a hybrid meeting and their preference for the timing of such meeting. There was some, but not overwhelming interest in a hybrid meeting with a mixed result of a preference for June or October. Consortium staff will discuss the idea of a hybrid Board meeting with the CTC and EC and move forward accordingly.

It was noted that the October 2, 2024 Board meeting was on the eve of Rosh Hashanah therefore will be rescheduled. Board members participated in a poll for meeting preference dates of October 9 or October 16. The Board meeting will be moved to October 9, 2024.

Consortium IGA Adoption Reminder: To date, Consortium staff has received signed IGAs from eight members. Ms. Geisen reminded Board members that the goal is to have all signed IGAs by June 30, 2024.

Annual Consortium Data Requests: Ms. Geisen shared information about the various data requests Consortium staff makes annually from members. She noted that the information collected and managed is used to help facilitate information sharing, collaboration, and project needs. Most of the information is shared with members and is also housed on the member page of the Consortium website. The requests include:

- Dues information (annual water use and retail accounts)
- Water rate information
- Water system boundaries (for updates to Drinking Water Advisory Tool – population estimates and forecasts)
- Emergency Contact List
- Conservation Rebates
- Water by the Numbers data (for website)
- Committee rosters (as needed)
- Surveys (as needed to help inform projects and planning)

Consortium Plans and Studies: A handout was included in the meeting materials packet that provided a summary of water supply planning documents, studies, and frameworks that the Consortium has completed over the past 28 years. In January, the CTC participated in a deep dive discussion on this work and discussed how the plan documents are relevant to the Consortium's current work, what to do with this work moving forward, and how this work fit into the implementation of the Consortium Strategic Plan.

Ms. Geisen gave a brief overview of the studies and plans including the Regional Water Supply Plan, the Regional Transmission and Storage Strategy, Interconnection Map and Geodatabase, Source Water Protection Plan, and the Emergency Drinking Water Framework Plan.

## Program Report

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Bonny Cushman, Consortium Outreach Program Manager shared the following updates:

### Water Conservation:

- Youth Education - A group of Consortium and member staff will work together from January to June to conduct research and develop recommendations for the Consortium's youth education programming (e.g. conduct focus groups, propose new programming or materials). The group is expected to share recommendations with the Consortium Conservation Committee (CCC) and Consortium Technical Committee (CTC) in late spring 2024.
- Print Pieces – Two new indoor-outdoor water conservation print pieces have been done. Graphics and text were updated to include plain language.
- Children's Clean Water Festival – April 30, 2024 at the PCC Sylvania campus. Always looking for volunteers. This is a great way to connect with your community's youth.

### Emergency Preparedness:

- How-To Video Project - Meeting with community partners this week to orient them on how to review video drafts. Videos are on track to be released this spring in Russian, Farsi, Lao, and Somali. Videos are already available in English and seven other languages. Consortium Board members were asked to help get the word out to their constituents. A partner toolkit is available to help spread the word.
- UASI Grant Funds – Received \$5,000 grant to translate two emergency preparedness print pieces.

### Public Outreach Overview:

- Benefits - Regional messaging, economies of scale, dedicated staffing, and content creation
- Makes up approximately 77% of the Consortium's materials & services budget
- Includes - 2024 media campaigns; online resources (regionalH2O.org, social media, newsletters, Weekly Watering Number); other resources (member outreach toolkits, print materials, how to videos, displays) and tabling at multicultural events

### Campaign Overview:

- Timeline – Most of the media campaign runs from July – mid October. Some presence throughout the year with source water protection campaign, KUNP newsletters, and digital ads.
- Includes – English and Spanish television, English radio, English and multilingual digital advertising, Tri Met and public relations.
- Reach - Spread across media partners e.g. four broadcast television partners, cable and streaming audio; two broadcast radio partners with 13 stations and streaming audio.

### Board Role:

- Promote the Consortium and its work to your peers and constituents
- Share information on social media

## Legislative and Regulatory Update

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Ms. Geisen shared the following legislative updates:

- SB 1537 Governor’s Housing Bill – some funding available for infrastructure
- HB 4099 - System Development Charges - voluntary program related to SDCs and guaranteed payment
- SB 1566 - Right of Way Fees - fees for work in County rights of way
- Lots of bills with “relating to” clauses

Kari Salis, Technical Unit Manager from the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) Drinking Water Services Program joined the Consortium Board meeting to give a presentation on OHAs drinking water services regulations and programs.

Ms. Salis provided an overview on the regulatory framework which includes the roles of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) who create the standards/regulations for safe drinking water; state/county public health and partner agencies that assure standards are met by adopting, implementing and enforcing regulations; and public water systems who provide safe drinking water and comply with the regulations.

An update on drinking water rules, lead and copper rule improvements, and proposed consumer confidence report revisions were provided. Ms. Salis provided updates on PFAS, cybersecurity and the State Revolving Fund and Bipartisan Infrastructure bill.

The OHA Drinking Water Services Program is comprised of 34 staff and provides regulatory oversight to 3,300 public water systems in Oregon. A wealth of information and data can be found on the program’s website including information about water systems; sources and treatment; water quality results; violations; enforcement and documenting discussions. This site is available for operators, regulators, and the public.

Ms. Salis mentioned that Drinking Water Services is contributing to OHA’s goal of eliminating health inequity by 2030 by identifying areas facing drinking water insecurity; conducting proactive outreach; providing technical and financial assistance; encouraging consolidation/regionalization; creating public notice templates in different languages; and collaborating with the Oral Health program on fluoridation.

A question and answer session followed the presentation. Board members thanked Ms. Salis for the information and updates.

Meeting Attendees:

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**23 Total Members**  
**Quorum = 12**

Councilor Kevin Teater – City of Beaverton	Commissioner Naomi Angier – Clackamas River Water	Councilor Tim Rippe and Greg Robertson – City of Forest Grove
Mike Whiteley – City of Gresham	Commissioner Deborah Raber and Jessica Dorsey – City of Hillsboro	Councilor Robert Massey – City of Milwaukie
Chair Kevin Williams and Director Heidi Bullock – Oak Lodge Water Services	Commissioner Mingus Mapps, Jacq Tjaden, and Edward Campbell – City of Portland	Director Tom Lewis and Kari Duncan – Rockwood Water PUD
Councilor Renee Brouse and Rich Sattler – City of Sherwood	Councilor Jai Rai Singh – City of Tigard	Councilor Bridget Brooks – City of Tualatin
Commissioner Jim Duggan and Paul Matthews – Tualatin Valley Water District	Commissioner Paul Schuler and Mike Grimm – West Slope Water District	Kari Salis – Oregon Health Authority
Rebecca Geisen, Bonny Cushman, Patty Burk, and Riley Berger – Consortium Staff		

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Consortium members agencies not represented by elected officials at this meeting included the City of Cornelius, City of Gladstone, City of Gresham, City of Lake Oswego, Raleigh Water District, City of Sandy, South Fork Water Board, Sunrise Water Authority, City of Troutdale, and City of Wilsonville.

**Next Meeting: Wednesday, June 5, 2024, via Zoom/videoconference**