



# Consortium Technical Committee Meeting Summary

APRIL 2, 2025

CALLED TO ORDER: 1:34 PM

ADJOURNED: 2:58 PM

QUORUM PRESENT – YES – 15 MEMBERS

MEETING HELD VIA ZOOM/VIDEOCONFERENCE

## Approval of March 5, 2025 Meeting Summary

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Mike Grimm made a motion to approve the Consortium Technical Committee (CTC) March 5, 2025 meeting summary. Sarah Santner seconded the motion. The CTC unanimously approved the March 5, 2025 CTC meeting summary as presented (15:0:0).

## Director's Report

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Rebecca Geisen, Consortium Managing Director shared the following updates:

- Rivergrove Water District – Submitted letter to join the Consortium. Dues would be approximately \$2,800. CTC members were supportive of welcoming Rivergrove as a new Consortium member beginning July 1, 2025. Membership request will be brought to the Board for their approval at their meeting in June.
- Legislative Update –
  - SB 1153 & 427 – Water rights transfer bill – watching closely; could have big impact for water providers; both OWUC and LOC opposing.
  - HB 3634 – Consortium wrote letter in support. This bill would create a water workforce program to help address the critical water operator shortage in Oregon. Bill is moving forward.
- Emergency Drinking Water Framework (Framework) Tabletop Exercises: The first tabletop exercise is scheduled for May 27 with Clark County. Next up will be Columbia County; followed by the Multnomah, Clackamas, and Washington counties exercises. The project will conclude in March 2026.

- EPA tabletop training exercise has been postponed. More participation from the wastewater sector is needed before it can move forward.
- The Consortium Interconnection workshop is scheduled for Tuesday, May 20. The workshop will include information on past work the Consortium has completed on the interconnections geodatabase and studies; a panel discussion on exercising interconnections; and breakout groups by subregion to discuss intertie ownership, agreements, and mapping; brainstorming standard operating procedures (SOPs) and best management practices (BMPs) for maintaining, exercising, and managing interconnections; and identifying next steps.
- Rebecca will attend the AWWA fly-in in Washington DC next week.

## Consortium Staffing IGA

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Sarah Murphy Santner, Resource Protection and Planning Director at the City of Portland noted that the Staffing IGA subcommittee met and provided feedback to the City of Portland on the draft Staffing IGA. Sarah noted that the major changes include the following:

- A scope of work has been added for clarity and transparency of services provided under the agreement.
- The length of the IGA has been updated from five years to a 10-year term.
- The methodology used by the City of Portland for calculating the overhead charge is now included as an exhibit in the IGA.
- The IGA termination language has been updated to one year if either party no longer is interested in continuing with the IGA, was previously 30 days.
- Language was included that gives the Consortium Technical Committee a voice in the hiring and termination of Consortium staff.

CTC members discussed the revised draft Staffing IGA. It was the consensus of the CTC to move the draft Staffing IGA on to the Executive Committee for their review and input at their meeting next week.

## Program Updates

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Bonny Cushman, Program Manager shared information on where the Consortium is with their youth education program reboot efforts. Bonny noted that creating a new school program is one of the Consortium's largest conservation projects for this fiscal year. She noted that the work started last year with a focus on learning about different programming options and getting member input and priorities. Bonny reminded CTC members that the Consortium's youth education program is an important way that some members meet WMCP requirements or other public outreach. Consortium-lead contracting is an important service that is provided to members as it offers economies of scale with cooperative pricing.

Bonny shared that the cost of youth education programming has increased significantly since COVID. Many small firms went out of business. Since costs are more than what was budgeted, Bonny shared some options for consideration by the CTC.

Bonny provided the following background information:

- Consortium had the same youth education school programming and contractors for 10+ years
- Program costs averaged 10k/year FY 18-19 (last year offered)
- Both contractors went out of business during pandemic
- Deliverables typically included one show per member and included cooperative pricing so that members could purchase additional shows at a set cost
- Previous input from members: Coordination of contracting and cooperative price agreements are important services that the Consortium provides for members
- Youth education is an important way that some members meet WMCP requirements or their public outreach goals. This is especially true for members that do not have their own youth education programs.

Currently, Consortium staff is working with educators to collect input through surveys and focus groups to learn more about what they want in a school program; to better understand the current and future needs of teachers/schools; how well current processes meet the needs of teachers/schools; the ways in which the school and community are changing; and the challenges that teachers/schools face that limit use of the Consortium's school-based programs as an educational resource. Bonny shared the results from the survey and focus groups completed to date.

A request for proposal (RFP) was sent out for a new school program that will build on the feedback received from the educator groups. Five proposals were received. Cost ranged from \$40,000 to \$100,000 annually. A selection committee made up of Consortium and member staff selected the top three proposers which included two school assembly show models and one classroom presentation model. The specific deliverables will be negotiated during the contracting phase but the goal is to have one program/show per member at a cost of \$40,000 to \$50,000 annually. The current budget For FY 2025-26, is \$18,000 (\$3,000 to support the Children's Clean Water Festival and \$15,000 for Youth Education Programs.)

Bonny provided two options for CTC consideration:

- Fund new youth education program by reallocating some of the public outreach budget
- Scrap new youth education program; repurpose existing funding, e.g., target teacher outreach, create/update youth education materials, workforce development, etc.

CTC members discussed the Consortium youth education program and options proposed by Consortium staff. Members were evenly split between the two options when polled during the meeting. It was decided that Bonny

would send out the slide deck, include more information on deliverables of the top three proposers to the youth education program RFP, and include cost/dollar information to the reallocation of funding from the public outreach budget in option 1. This information along with a survey will be sent to all CTC members for their review and input/response, and further discussion at the next CTC meeting.

## June Consortium Board Draft Agenda

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Rebecca reviewed the June Consortium Board meeting draft agenda. Agenda items included approval of minutes, election of Board Chair, Vice Chair and Executive Committee at-large representatives, director and program reports, Rivergrove Water District Membership request, approval of Consortium Staffing IGA and a placeholder presentation. Rebecca asked CTC members to let her know if they had any topics of interest for the placeholder discussion.

## Member Roundtable Updates

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City of Portland – Sarah Santner advised that the Portland Water Bureau has gone through some recent leadership changes. Edward Campbell, Acting Director has retired. Quisha Light is now Acting Director. The Portland Water Bureau and the Bureau of Environmental Services are in the process of joining together as a One Water utility and will be under a single director. Recruitment for the director position is underway with the hopes of having someone on board starting in July.

Meeting Attendees:

Karin Holzgang – Clackamas River Water	Greg Robertson – City of Forest Grove	Justin Poyser, City of Gladstone
Andrew Degner – City of Gresham	Jessica Dorsey – City of Hillsboro	Dave Trotter – City of Lake Oswego
Sarah Murphy Santner – City of Portland	Kari Duncan – Rockwood Water PUD	Ryan Wood – City of Sandy
Rich Sattler – City of Sherwood	Wyatt Parno – South Fork Water Board	Dave Schaffer – City of Troutdale
Rachel Sykes – City of Tualatin	Mike Grimm – West Slope Water District	Delora Kerber – City of Wilsonville
Rebecca Geisen, Bonny Cushman, Riley Berger, and Patty Burk – Consortium Staff		

**Next CTC Meeting: May 28, 2025 via Zoom/videoconference.**