



Consortium Board Meeting Summary

JUNE 4, 2025 CALLED TO ORDER: 6:30 PM ADJOURNED: 7:55 PM

QUORUM PRESENT – YES – 16 MEMBERS

(MEETING WAS HELD VIA ZOOM/VIDEOCONFERENCE)

Approval of February 5, 2025 Meeting Summary

Councilor Maureen Wolf made a motion to approve the February 5, 2025 Consortium Board meeting summary as presented. Commissioner Gary Barth seconded the motion. The Consortium Board approved the February 5, 2025 Consortium Board meeting summary as presented (15:0:1, abstention - Gustafson).

Public Comment

None

The Importance of Clean Water in Disaster Response Presentation

Lauren Nolan, Corporate Partnership Manager from ShelterBox USA joined the Consortium Board meeting to provide an overview of the ShelterBox USA organization and the importance clean drinking water plays in disaster response.

ShelterBox is an international non-government organization (NGO) that provides temporary emergency shelter and essential non-food items that people need to stabilize their lives after displacement from disaster and/or conflict. Their mission is to provide shelter, essential items and technical assistance to help some of the world's most vulnerable people recover and rebuild their homes after disasters. They listen and adapt their support to the needs of each community, working together with those affected by disaster. ShelterBox has provide response assistance at over 300 disasters, affecting more than 3 million people in 98 countries.

Ms. Nolan shared examples of some of the shelter and household aid materials ShelterBox provides including shelter kits; plastic sheeting and rope; family tents; emergency repair materials -roofing, framing and tools; bedding; clothing; heaters; stoves; hygiene kits; mosquito nets; solar lights; and water filters and containers.

Ms. Nolan noted that access to clean water after a disaster is paramount as water systems are often damaged or contaminated during a disaster. Clean water is essential not just for drinking but for hygiene and disease prevention. 703 million people globally lack access to clean water. Ms. Nolan shared some of the water filters, carriers, and water aid stations that ShelterBox provides as part of their disaster response efforts.

Ms. Nolan advised that over the years, key lessons they have learn in providing aid after a disasters is that flexibility is key – there are no one-size-fits-all solutions; training matters – tools are only as effective as the knowledge to use them; and the importance of community voice – listening to the affected people improves outcomes.

A question-and-answer session followed the presentation. Consortium Board members thanked Ms. Nolan for her presentation.

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 bylaws 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. Chair Brouse and Vice-Chair Barth have completed their first year of service and are both eligible to serve another term.

Chair Brouse opened the meeting for nominations for Board Chair.

Commissioner Gary Barth nominated Councilor Renee Brouse for Board Chair. Councilor Bridget Brooks seconded the nomination. There were no other nominations. The Consortium Board unanimously approved the nomination of Councilor Renee Brouse for Board Chair. (16:0:0)

Chair Brouse opened nominations for Board Vice-Chair.

Commissioner Naomi Angier nominated Commissioner Gary Barth for Board Vice-Chair. Councilor Bridget Brooks seconded the nomination. There were no other nominations. The Consortium Board unanimously approved Commissioner Barth for Vice-Chair. (16:0:0)

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. Ms. Geisen explained that current at-large EC members Commissioner Gary Barth and Councilor Bridget Brooks are willing to continue to serve on the committee but Councilor Kevin Teater is unable to continue his participation which leaves one vacant position. Councilor Mitch Green from the City of Portland volunteered to fill the vacant at-large EC position.

Chair Brouse nominated Commissioner Barth, Councilor Brooks, and Councilor Green for at-large Executive Committee members. Commissioner Jim Duggan seconded the nomination. The Consortium Board unanimously approved the nomination of Commissioner Barth, Councilor Brooks, and Councilor Green for at-large Executive Committee members. (16:0:0)

Consortium Staffing Intergovernmental Agreement

Ms. Geisen reminded Consortium Board members that the City of Portland has been providing staffing services for the Consortium since it began in 1997 through an intergovernmental agreement (IGA). This agreement has been renewed every five years since its inception and is scheduled to expire on June 30, 2025. Consortium staff worked with the City of Portland to draft an updated Staffing IGA to align with the new Consortium IGA and bylaws that were recently adopted by the Board.

A subcommittee of the Consortium Technical Committee (CTC) provided feedback on the draft Staffing IGA to the City of Portland. 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; and language was included that gives the Consortium Technical Committee a voice in the hiring and termination of Consortium Managing Director.

Ms. Geisen noted that the Executive Committee has reviewed the Staffing IGA and recommends its approval by the full Board.

Commissioner Gary Barth made a motion to approve the adoption of the Consortium Staffing Intergovernmental Agreement as presented. Councilor Bridget Brooks seconded the motion. The Consortium Board unanimously approved the adoption of the Consortium Staffing Intergovernmental Agreement as presented. (16:0:0)

Rivergrove Water District Membership Request

Chair Brouse advised that the Consortium received a letter in April from Rivergrove Water District expressing interest in joining the Consortium as a full member. The letter was included in the

Board meeting materials packet.

Ms. Geisen introduced Janine Casey and Lawrence Magura, General Manager and Commissioner respectively from Rivergrove Water District. Commissioner Magura gave a brief overview of the water district, its customer base and water source.

Councilor Bridget Brooks made a motion to approve Rivergrove Water District as a new Consortium member beginning July 1, 2025. Councilor Mitch Green seconded the motion. The Consortium Board unanimously approved Rivergrove Water District as a new Consortium member beginning July 1, 2025. (16:0:0)

Carryover Resolution

Ms. Geisen reminded Consortium Board members that in the FY 2024-25 Consortium budget, there was \$28,000 budgeted to help fund regional emergency drinking water tabletop exercises. These funds were to be used to supplement UASI grant funding that had been awarded for the project. Ms. Geisen advised that it was her original intent to spend the Consortium funds first – in the current fiscal year, followed by the grant funds but because of the current uncertainty at the federal level, even with grants that have been contractually issued, Ms. Geisen wanted to utilize the grant funds first and spend the Consortium funds at the end of the project. As a result, Ms. Geisen asked the Consortium Board to carry over the \$28,000 in the Consortium budget from FY 2024-25 to the FY 2025-26 budget year.

In addition, Consortium staff asked to carry over \$12,000 from the Youth Education program line item that was unexpended from FY 2024-25 to FY 2025-26 to continue to research and develop the Consortium's youth education program. The total carryover amount requested was \$40,000.

Commissioner Gary Barth made a motion to approve a budget carryover of \$40,000 from the FY 2024-25 Consortium Budget and Work Plan to the FY 2025-26 Consortium Budget and Work Plan. Councilor Bridget Brooks seconded the motion. The Consortium Board unanimously approved the motion to approve a budget carryover of \$40,000 from the FY 2024-25 Consortium Budget and Work Plan to the FY 2025-26 Consortium Budget and Work Plan. (16:0:0)

Director Report

Ms. Geisen shared the following updates:

- 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 February.

- Emergency Contact List: The annual update of the Consortium Emergency Contact list has been completed and sent out to members. It can also be found on the Consortium [member page](#).
- Portland State University Population and Housing Forecast: Portland State University Population and Household estimates have been completed and sent out to members.
- Staffing Update: Patty Burk is now a working retiree and will continue to work for the Consortium through the end of June 2026. Rebecca Geisen will be retiring at the end of September. Ms. Geisen plans to work about one day a week through spring 2026 to complete some projects and ensure a smooth transition for a new manager. Ms. Geisen will work with the City of Portland on a recruitment plan.
- Consortium Regional Interconnections Workshop: The Consortium Interconnection workshop took place on May 20. Sixty people from 18 providers attended. The workshop included information on past work the Consortium has completed on the interconnections geodatabase and studies. There was a panel discussion on exercising interconnections and breakout groups by subregion to discuss intertie ownership, agreements, SOPs and BMPs. Next steps include the development and sharing of standard operating procedures and best management practices, drafting sample IGAs, and convening a group to update the geodatabase.
- Urban Area Security Initiative Grants: The Consortium is working on the Emergency Drinking Water Framework Tabletop Exercise project with 2023 UASI grant funding (\$90,000) and Consortium funding (\$28,000). It is not anticipated that 2023 UASI funded projects will be impacted by federal directives at this time, however, as a measure of caution, the Consortium project is billing against the grant first and then the Consortium. Phase II of the Emergency Drinking Water Framework consist of five emergency tabletop exercises, one in each UASI-funded county (Clackamas, Clark, Columbia, Multnomah and Washington). The first tabletop took place on May 27 for Clark County emergency managers and water providers. Next up will be Columbia County; followed by the Multnomah, Clackamas, and Washington counties exercises. The project will conclude in March 2026.
- Regional Disaster Preparedness Organization (RDPO): The Consortium has had a strong, valuable partnership with the RDPO over the past many years and has received approximately \$3 million in federal UASI grant funds for Consortium emergency preparedness projects and equipment, e.g., mobile water treatment plants; interconnection studies; multilingual videos; emergency water bags; emergency tabletop exercises/drills, etc. The RDPO and these grants are funded through the Department of Homeland Security's UASI grant program. The future of UASI funding under the current federal administration is unknown at this time and may likely not be available going forward.
- Legislative Update: Bills of Interest
 - SB 1153 – Water right transfers
 - HB 3634 – Water workforce development
 - HB 2803 – Water Resources Department fee bill
 - SB 179 – Recreational immunity for cities and counties - PASSED

- SB 1154 – Provides changes to groundwater management areas (to groundwater quality management and concern areas)

Program Report

Bonny Cushman, Consortium Program Manager shared the following updates:

Public Outreach:

- Summer Media Campaign – Consortium staff worked with media partners and contractors to prepare for the upcoming campaign which launches July 7 and runs through September. The Consortium is partnering with Affiliated Media for the second year to coordinate the campaign. Media partners include: KGW television, KOIN television, cable television, I HEART radio, Audacy radio, Univox, TriMet, and El Rey Radio. Activities included creating new messaging assets, setting up on-air interview dates, and creating talking points for spokespeople. Consortium staff also worked with Interplay Collective to develop two English earned media stories which are expected to run in summer and with Verbio and El Rey Radio to develop Spanish language audio and video ads to run in the summer campaign.

Conservation:

- Youth Education Programming – Consortium staff continues to work on research and design of a school programming plan. They completed teacher surveys and focus groups and went out to bid for a youth education program contractor. Since costs for the new program far exceeded initial estimates, staff engaged CTC and other committees in several different exercises to gather member input on their priorities. Staff will continue to work over the summer on shaping this program and making recommendations for moving forward.
- Children's Clean Water Festival: The Children's Clean Water Festival was held Tuesday, April 29 at the PCC, Sylvania campus. The Festival is a half day of learning and fun for 4th and 5th grade students that includes hands-on, water-focused activities, classroom presentations, and stage shows that reinforce STEM, Common Core, and Next Generation Science concepts.
- What Do You Know About H2O Activity Book: Consortium staff began work on updating the "What Do You Know About H2O" kids activity book. this reporting period. The project will be completed later this year so that it can be used as a companion piece with the new school program. The book was developed in 2006. The updated booklet will have an updated design and new activities.

Meeting Attendees:

25 Total Members		
Quorum = 13		
Councilor Kevin Teater – City of Beaverton	Commissioner Naomi Angier – Clackamas River Water	Councilor Donna Gustafson and Greg Robertson – City of Forest Grove
Councilor Cathy Keathley – City of Gresham	Councilor Jim Yent and Jessica Dorsey – City of Hillsboro	Commissioner Dan Taylor – Lake Grove Water District
Councilor Robert Massey – City of Milwaukie	Councilor Mitch Green, DCA Priya Dhanapal, and Maria Sipin – City of Portland	Director Tom Lewis and Kari Duncan – Rockwood Water PUD
Chair Renee Brouse and Rich Sattler – City of Sherwood	Commissioner Gary Barth – Sunrise Water Authority	Councilor Maureen Wolf – City of Tigard
Councilor Bridget Brooks – City of Tualatin	Commissioner Jim Duggan – Tualatin Valley Water District	Commissioner Susan Meamber – West Slope Water District
Councilor Adam Cunningham and Delora Kerber – City of Wilsonville	Commissioner Larry Magura and Janine Casey – Rivergrove Water District	Lauren Nolan – ShelterBox USA
Rebecca Geisen, Bonny Cushman, Patty Burk, and Riley Berger – Consortium Staff		

Consortium members agencies not represented by elected officials at this meeting included the City of Cornelius, City of Forest Grove, Lake Grove Water District, City of Lake Oswego, Oak Lodge Water Services, Raleigh Water District, City of Sandy, South Fork Water Board, and City of Troutdale.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 8, 2025, via Zoom/videoconference