



Consortium Technical Committee Meeting Summary

NOVEMBER 5, 2025 CALLED TO ORDER: 1:30 PM ADJOURNED: 2:55 PM

QUORUM PRESENT – YES – 17 MEMBERS

MEETING HELD VIA ZOOM/VIDEOCONFERENCE

Approval of September 3, 2025 Meeting Summary

Mike Grimm made a motion to approve the Consortium Technical Committee (CTC) September 3, 2025 meeting summary. Todd Heidgerken seconded the motion. The CTC unanimously approved the September 3, 2025 CTC meeting summary as presented (17:0:0).

Director's Report

Rebecca Geisen, Consortium Managing Director shared the following updates:

Emergency Drinking Water Framework (Framework) Tabletop Exercises: As a follow-up from the Emergency Drinking Water Framework, the Consortium secured UASI grant funding for five tabletop exercises in Clark, Columbia, Clackamas, Multnomah, and Washington Counties. The goal of the exercises is to advance each county's emergency drinking water planning in partnership with water providers.

On October 16, Multnomah County emergency partners and water providers held their exercise. The exercise was well attended. Consortium staff and the planning committee is currently working on the after action report and will have more information to share and next steps once the report is completed. The Washington County exercise has kicked off with internal planning work between county partners and water providers, and is scheduled tentatively for December 2025 or January 2026. The final exercise will be for Clackamas County in early 2026, with the project closing in spring of next year.

Staffing Update: Second interviews for the Consortium Manager Position have been completed. A hiring decision will be made in the next few weeks.

Program Updates

Bonny Cushman, Consortium Program Manager shared the following updates:

“What Do You Know About H2O” Activity Book: Consortium staff continues to work on the “What Do You Know About H2O” activity book project. The project began in spring 2025 and is anticipated to conclude in early 2026. The scope includes thoroughly significantly updating and adding to the booklet’s 24 pages of content along with updating its branding. The first 11 pages of the booklet are out for review now. Comments on those pages are due November 14. 17 more pages are in the design phase and will be out for review in late November/early December. The Consortium Conservation Committee and Communicators Network will participate in a work session on December 2 to review the second set of pages and work through any issues. Consortium staff will be reaching out to the teachers that participated in the focus groups earlier this year and ask them to beta test the workbook.

Other Project Updates –

- Working Committee – met and shared FY 2025-26 work plan and main projects, and budget concepts for FY 2026-27.
- Trust Your Tap Project – project kicks off this week. The project goal is to gather regional information on the public’s perception of the quality of their drinking water, potential barriers to using local tap water for daily activities (e.g. drinking, cooking, bathing), what types of water quality information the public would like to receive from their water provider, and how they would prefer to receive it (e.g. consumer confidence reports (CCRs), email, social media).
- FY 2024-25 Consortium Annual Report – nearly complete. Also working on more detailed public outreach/media annual report that will be available upon request.
- Children’s Clean Water Festival (CCWF) – A new contractor has been hired. Invitations to schools to apply to attend the festival will go out in the next few weeks. School selections will take place at the December CCWF planning committee meeting.

Regional Disaster Preparedness Organization (RDPO) Update – Bonny has been attending the RDPO Steering and Programming Committee meetings and shared the following updates:

- RDPO Emergency Alert and Warning Work Group: looking to update their alert template; will monitor this project closely to make sure water providers are included in the review phase of any new/revised alert language especially as it refers to water-related emergencies.
- Applied for additional FY 2023 UASI reprogramming funds in the amount of \$25,000 for emergency water bags. The grant was approved. Comes with some impoundment risk due to political uncertainty at the federal level. The Consortium does not have any Consortium projects in the mix for FY 2025 UASI grants.
- RDPO has created and approved an organizational change charter to reimagine RDPO by June 2026.

Portland State University Population and Household Estimates Intergovernmental Agreement

Rebecca advised that the current intergovernmental agreement (IGA) with Portland State University (PSU) to provide population and household forecast estimates expires at the end of the current fiscal year, June 30, 2026. Consortium staff will soon begin working with PSU to renew the IGA and invited Ethan Sharygin from PSU to attend a the CTC meeting to talk about the project and potential updates or changes that can be incorporated into the data and how it is collected and presented.

Ethan advised his goal for this meeting was to get a sense if members were happy with the data they were receiving and the format they are currently getting it in, or were there other data or formats that members were interested in considering/exploring. Currently, data is available in a pdf format located in Dropbox.

Several ideas were proposed for data types and formats including GIS shapefiles, statistical zones, online mapping tool, boundary shapefiles, shapefiles by pressure zones or sub-service area geographies, geographic overlays, scenario-based estimates, socio-economic data and demographic profiles, e.g., birth rates, poverty rate, education, percentage of people receiving SSI, etc.

Rebecca advised that it could be possible to draft the scope of work so that some of the aforementioned data types and format requests could be menu of options that members could opt-in to for additional cost.

Rebecca will work with Ethan to develop a draft scope of work and bring it back to the CTC for their thoughts at their meeting in January. Ethan summarized that in addition to the current pdf files, he will look to include service area shapefiles; the possibility of having additional scenarios for the forecasts; the option to have special estimates for pressure zones or other sub-service area geographies; and demographic profile data.

October Consortium Board Meeting Follow-Up

Rebecca reminded CTC members that at the October Board meeting, Consortium staff presented FY 2026-27 work plan and budget concepts. Board members were supportive of the budget direction. Once staffing costs from the City of Portland are available, the work plan and budget will be brought back to the CTC at their meeting in January for their consideration and recommendations to the Executive Committee.

Rebecca mentioned that City of Portland Councilor Mitch Green was interested in learning more about how as a Consortium, the organization might be able to control the cost of materials purchased; is there a role the Consortium can play in researching or studying group procurement practices. Can the Consortium somehow leverage its collective purchasing power. Rebecca advised that she would bring the topic to the CTC for further thought and discussion.

It was noted that many Consortium members included cooperative language in their contracts and agreements and piggyback off one another's projects and large-scale procurements. This is a common practice already in the region. In addition, many agencies rely on statewide contract with their pre-negotiated costs.

Sarah Santner suggested because much of the collaborative and economies of scale purchasing is already being done, a study may not be needed. Sarah proposed that Consortium staff in concert with Portland staff prepare a memo for Councilor Green and other interested Board members on what Consortium members are already doing in this area. The memo could be used as a starting point and if the Board wanted more investigation done, they could provide Consortium staff with further direction.

It was mentioned that this topic would make a great workshop topic. It was noted that OregonBuys, which is run by the State of Oregon Procurement Office, is a good “go to” for procurement of materials. They negotiate statewide procurement contracts that always include cooperative language.

February Consortium Board Meeting

Rebecca advised that at the February meeting, the Board will be asked to approve the FY 2026-27 work plan and budget. In addition, there will be an opportunity for a presentation/discussion and Consortium staff is looking for topic ideas.

CTC members discussed various topic ideas. It was decided to have a panel presentation focused on the three large water system projects in the region – Willamette Water Supply Project, Cascade Water Alliance and Bull Run Treatment. The theme is our changing regional water system with a focus on resiliency. Each of these projects are at different stages so an update on the project, drivers for the project, and how it benefits the region’s resilience will be highlighted. It is thought that each panelist will have about 10 minutes so there will be time at the end for questions. In addition, other CTC members will be asked for information on other projects that are contributing to a more resilient regional water supply. Those will be summarized in a slide or two depending on how many projects there are.

Meeting Attendees:

Todd Heidgerken – Clackamas River Water	Greg Robertson – City of Forest Grove	Justin Poyer – City of Gladstone
Mike Whiteley and Wendy Andaya – City of Gresham	Jessica Dorsey and Negar Niakan – City of Hillsboro	Dave Trotter – City of Lake Oswego
Sarah Murphy Santner, Kavita Heyn and Ben Beal – City of Portland	Janine Casey – Rivergrove Water District	Jeremy Hudson – Rockwood Water PUD
Ryan Wood – City of Sandy	Dave Sukau – City of Scappoose	Wyatt Parno – South Fork Water Board
Brian Rager – City of Tigard	David Schaffer – City of Troutdale	Rachel Sykes – City of Tualatin
Pete Boone – Tualatin Valley Water District	Mike Grimm – West Slope Water District	Martin Montalvo – City of Wilsonville
Ethan Sharygin – Portland State University	Kevin Calcagno - Eurofins	Rebecca Geisen, Bonny Cushman, Riley Berger, and Patty Burk – Consortium Staff

Next CTC Meeting: January 7, 2026 via Zoom/videoconference.