



# Consortium Technical Committee Meeting Summary

JANUARY 7, 2026 CALLED TO ORDER: 1:30 PM ADJOURNED: 2:55 PM

QUORUM PRESENT – YES – 14 MEMBERS

MEETING HELD VIA ZOOM/VIDEOCONFERENCE

## New Managing Director Introduction

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Sarah Santner, Resource Protection and Planning Director for the Portland Water Bureau welcomed Bonny Cushman as the Consortium's new Managing Director. Sarah was the hiring manager and is the supervisor for this position. She noted that they engaged six members and one regional partner organization in the Managing Director recruitment and thanked everyone who helped with this effort. Sarah advised that in addition to hiring the new Managing Director, this process also underscored the importance of collaboration in regional work and gave space to have insightful discussions about our collective work. Sarah mentioned that she shared this last bit with Bonny as she stepped into her new role as Managing Director and invited her to keep that member engagement ball rolling as the Consortium goes through this transitional time.

## Approval of November 5, 2025 Meeting Summary

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Todd Heidgerken made a motion to approve the Consortium Technical Committee (CTC) November 5, 2025 meeting summary. Mike Grimm seconded the motion. The CTC unanimously approved the November 5, 2025 CTC meeting summary as presented (14:0:0).

## Director's Report

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Bonny Cushman, Consortium Managing Director shared the following updates:

- 2026 Priorities –
  - Steady state – No big changes; focus on delivering programs and projects as usual
  - Staffing - It will be a balancing act for staff as they shift things around to accommodate a new Managing Director position, the retirement of the Management Assistant in June, and bring on a new staff person. Bonny plans to develop and hire for that position this spring.

- Member Engagement - Bonny noted that she plans to put together a Transition Steering Committee of 4-6 members from the CTC to help her transition into the Managing Director role. The group will likely meet every 4-6 weeks through May or June. The goal will be to give Bonny a sounding board to run things by before or between regular CTC meetings. In addition, Bonny plans to meet with each of Consortium members to connect with them to learn more about their priorities and needs. The goal is to complete these visits by the fall so that they can help inform the FY 2027-28 work planning and the next strategic plan update.
- WaterSMART – Staff shared that there was an opportunity for the Consortium to sign a letter of support to fully fund the WaterSMART program for FY 27. This is a federal program under the Bureau of Reclamation which focuses on providing funding for projects that protect water and energy resources across western states. The Consortium signed a similar letter last June for the current fiscal year. Bonny noted that she plans to bring this forward to the Executive Committee (EC) next week. The CTC were supportive of bringing the letter to the EC. Deadline to submit letters is January 15, 2026.
- What Do You Know Activity Book – Bonny advised that they are on track for completing this big lift project this year. This is the first time that this activity book has been updated since it was created in 2006. So far, almost all of the content has been drafted and received input from members. Next steps include teacher listening sessions to gather educator input and then working with the graphic designer to incorporate member and educator input. All Consortium members will receive a start-up supply of the revised book and it will be part of the annual print order which will allow members to order additional copies of the book if desired.
- Media Campaign – Planning for the 2026 media campaign will begin in late Feb/early March. Bonny noted that she purposely waited to start the planning this year because the media market is in immense flux with mergers and buy outs. Bonny mentioned Consortium staff will need member help with shoot locations this year – they are looking for homes with lawns or waterwise gardens, apartments or ADUs - and infrastructure projects that can serve as shoot locations during on-air segments.
- PSU IGA – In November, Ethan Sharygin, from PSU came to the CTC meeting where he shared information about the project. Discussions focused on whether there were any changes or additions members would like Consortium staff to look into including in the updated IGA with PSU. Bonny shared results of a recent member survey which staff used to gauge members’ interest in including pressure zone and demographic information in the updated project scope of work. Bonny outlined costs for this additional data. While the pressure zone data would be cost for the individual member interested in such, Bonny recommended that the demographic information be borne by the Consortium because it will benefit all members. There is a one-time \$6,000 to build the initial geographic crosswalk and \$1,500 each year for the annual demographic profiles.

## FY 2026-27 Budget and Work Plan

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Bonny reminded CTC members that the Board supported the draft budget and workplan concepts at its October meeting. Since that time, Consortium staff received final staffing costs from the City of Portland and incorporated them into the proposed budget. The resulting proposed budget maintains the CTC's goal for a budget that has minimum impact to member dues and maintains core programming.

The proposed FY 2026-27 Consortium budget is \$1,303,819 (0.5% decrease), the FY 2024-25 carryover is \$182,884, leaving a proposed dues based budget for FY 2026-27 of \$1,120,935 (4.5% decrease).

Bonny explained that FY 2026-2027 will be the first year with our new staffing model of 3 FTE staff that are fully funded by the Consortium. She noted that now that the Managing Director position has been filled, she will begin working on hiring the Analyst I position. Bonny will also be working to reconfigure workloads to meet the needs of the evolving staffing levels. More to come this spring. Bonny advised that final staffing costs are anticipated to go down from what is in this proposed budget. Conservative estimates were used for Analyst position and the CSA in this budget estimate and final staffing costs will be adjusted as they are figured out.

Bonny reviewed the work plan and proposed projects by program area. It was noted that FY 2026-2027 will be a transition year, it is possible that some of the projects mentioned may take more than a single year to complete. Consortium Staff will continue to use CTC input to prioritize projects and determine what can be completed in FY 2026-2027. If a project is a priority and can't be completed in FY 2026-2027, it can be added to future workplans.

Emergency Water Bags – Bonny noted that since the CTC last met, a lot has changed with the emergency water bag project. The \$25,000 UASI 23 grant paperwork is in place and they are now just waiting for the funds to be released. Those bags will be purchased this spring. The RDPO is waiting for notice of funding for UASI 25 in which there \$203,000 earmarked for the Consortium to purchase additional bags. However, currently there still remains the open possibility, risk, that the federal government could pull back grant money for one or both years. As such, Bonny put together the following proposal that she believe allows the Consortium to get some of the bags we've proposed and balances the possible risk of money being clawed back. Bonny outlined her plan as follows:

- The bag order would span two fiscal years with some bags being delivered this spring and the rest being delivered in July at the start of the next FY.
- Risk plan: For FY 25-26, the risk would be \$25k which I am confident we could pull from elsewhere in the budget if we had to. For FY 26-27, I've increased the contingency to \$25k which would cover half of the cost, and we would plan to pull the remaining \$25k from either the budget or carryover.
- Members could still tag on to the order.
- Removed Consortium seed money from M&S due to getting more grant funding.

Note: Since the CTC meeting, the Consortium is no longer in the running to receive any FY 25 UASI funding.

Consortium Contingency: Bonny noted that the proposed budget has an increased contingency from \$10,000 to \$50,000. Increasing the contingency would provide the Consortium with short-term stability should federal grant funding be rescinded. It would also provide the Consortium with security and flexibility to meet emerging needs in coming years as the carryover decreases with the new staffing model.

The CTC supported Consortium staff bringing the proposed work plan and revised budget with the increase in contingency to the EC next week for their consideration.

## February Consortium Board Meeting Draft Agenda

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Bonny reviewed the February Consortium Board meeting draft agenda. Agenda items included the introduction of the New Managing Director, approval of meeting summary, director report, the adoption of the FY 2026-27 Consortium work plan and budget, and Resiliency and Our Changing Water Supply panel presentation. Panel participants include Mike Britch from TVWD to talk about the Willamette Water Supply Project; Mike Whiteley from the City of Gresham on the Cascade Water Alliance; and Dave Peters from City of Portland on the Bull Run Filtration Project. Consortium staff is collecting information on projects from other Consortium members to put together slides that will summarize additional resiliency work going on around the region to be shared as well.

## Member Updates

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City of Portland – The Portland Water Bureau and Bureau of Environmental Service have merged into one utility and have a new Utility Director, Ting Lu. A lot of changes are happening at the City over the next few months.

City of Wilsonville – After 18 months of construction, the new 3-million gallon reservoir on the west side of the city is now complete. It is the City of Wilsonville's first seismically resilient reservoir.

Rockwood Water PUD – The Cascade Water Treatment Plant has officially been started. For about a month, it has been consistently been operating and they anticipate hitting the timeline for full operation. A selection for the new Rockwood General Manager has been made. An official announcement should be coming out very soon.

**Meeting Attendees:**

David Winship – City of Beaverton

Todd Heidgerken – Clackamas River  
Water

Greg Robertson – City of Forest Grove

Wendy Andaya – City of Gresham

Jessica Dorsey – City of Hillsboro, CHAIR

Dave Trotter – City of Lake Oswego

Sarah Murphy Santner – City of Portland

Andy Crocker – Rockwood Water PUD

Ryan Wood – City of Sandy

Matia Malberg – City of Scappoose

Rich Sattler – City of Sherwood

David Schaffer – City of Troutdale

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: March 4, 2026 via Zoom/videoconference.**