



Executive Committee Meeting Summary

JANUARY 14, 2026 CALLED TO ORDER: 5:35 PM ADJOURNED: 6:23 PM

QUORUM PRESENT – YES MEETING HELD VIA ZOOM/VIDEOCONFERENCE

New Managing Director Introduction

Sarah Santner, Resource Protection and Planning Director for the Portland Water Bureau welcomed Bonny Cushman as the Consortium’s new Managing Director. Ms. Santner 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. Ms. Santner 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. Ms. Santner mentioned that she shared this last bit with Ms. Cushman 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.

Ms. Cushman noted that she plans to put together a Transition Steering Committee of 4-6 members from the Consortium Technical Committee (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 her a sounding board to run things by before or between regular CTC meetings. In addition, Ms. Cushman plans to meet with each Consortium member to connect with them and 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.

Approval of September 10, 2025 Meeting Summary

Councilor Mitch Green made a motion to approve the September 10, 2025 Executive Committee (EC) meeting summary as presented. Commissioner Jim Duggan seconded the motion. The Consortium Executive Committee approved the September 10, 2025 Executive Committee meeting summary as presented. (6:0:0)

Director Report

Ms. Cushman shared the following updates:

- Framework Phase II – Tabletop Exercises – Completed three of the five county emergency drinking water tabletop exercises. The Washington County exercise is tomorrow, January 15. The final exercise for Clackamas County providers will take place in the spring. The majority of this work has been funded by UASI grants with minor funding support from the Consortium. Rebecca Geisen will be coming to the June Consortium Board meeting to give a presentation on the Emergency Drinking Water Framework Phase II Project which will include lessons learned from its tabletop exercises.
- What Do You Know Activity Book – Ms. Cushman 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.
- Trust Your Tap Project: One-time project funded at \$35,000. Consortium staff pulled together a work group of members to help with contracting, developing a scope of work, and survey. Project is expected to be completed by late spring 2026. 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, particularly information that would make them feel more comfortable drinking tap water if they don’t normally, and how they would prefer to receive it (e.g. consumer confidence reports (CCRs), email, social media).
- Media Campaign – Planning for the 2026 media campaign will begin in late Feb/early March. Ms. Cushman noted that she purposely waited to start the planning this year because the media market is in immense flux with mergers and buy outs. Ms. Cushman 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.
- Portland State University (PSU) Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) – The process of updating a new IGA with PSU for the Population and Household Estimates work they do for Consortium members. The Consortium has worked with PSU to do this work since 2013, and the CTC supports continuing to work with them. Project will include annual

population estimates, one forecast in 2028, and potentially overlaying other data for members to use.

- Emergency Water Bag Project – The Consortium has been awarded \$25,000 in 2023 UASI grants funds to purchase emergency water bags. Currently waiting on final paperwork and will complete order spring 2026. Funds must be expended by May. The Regional Disaster Preparedness Organization is still awaiting their UASI 25 grant money. The Consortium is likely to be awarded \$50,000 for bags this spring through this grant. If that happens, the Consortium will need to act quickly since they have shortened UASI 25 period of performance to be done by September 2026. Assuming this comes through, these bags will be ordered in July. There is a risk that these funds could be clawed back by the federal government.
- WaterSMART Letter – The Consortium received a request to sign another letter of support to fund the WaterSMART program for FY 27. Ms. Cushman advised that WaterSMART 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. She noted that the Consortium signed a similar letter last June for the current fiscal year. The deadline for comments is Thursday, January 15, 2026.

Councilor Mitch Green made a motion to approve sending a letter in support of the WaterSMART program for FY 27. Commissioner Gary Barth seconded the motion. The Executive Committee unanimously approved the motion to approve sending a letter in support of the WaterSMART program for FY 27. (6:0:0)

Ms. Cushman advised she would send the letter tomorrow to meet the submittal deadline.

FY 2026-27 Consortium Budget and Work Plan Concepts Discussion

Ms. Cushman reminded EC 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 goal for a budget that has minimum impact on 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).

Ms. Cushman explained that FY 2026-2027 will be the first year with the 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. Ms. Cushman will also be working to reconfigure workloads to meet the needs of the evolving staffing levels. Ms. Cushman advised that final staffing costs are expected 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.

Ms. Cushman 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 and EC 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.

With regard to the Consortium contingency fund, Ms. Cushman 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.

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

Naomi Angier made motion to support bringing the budget and work plan as proposed to the Consortium Board at their February Board meeting. Councilor Bridget Brooks seconded the motion. The Executive Committee unanimously approved the motion to support bringing the budget and work plan as proposed to the Consortium Board at their February Board meeting. (6:0:0)

February Consortium Board Draft Agenda

Ms. Cushman 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.

The Executive Committee had a brief discussion about AI and serve farms as it relates to water and energy use, and how water providers effectively manage supply and plan for these larger water users. It was noted that this could be a topic for a future panel discussion.

Meeting Attendees:

NAME	AGENCY
Councilor Naomi Angier	Clackamas River Water
Councilor Mitch Green	City of Portland
Commissioner Gary Barth	Sunrise Water Authority
Director Tom Lewis Director Nicolas Ingles	Rockwood Water PUD
Councilor Bridget Brooks	City of Tualatin
Jim Duggan	Tualatin Valley Water District
Jessica Dorsey, CTC Chair	City of Hillsboro
Sarah Santner	City of Portland
Jeremy Hudson	Rockwood Water PUD
Rachel Sykes	City of Tualatin
Patty Burk	Consortium Staff
Bonny Cushman	Consortium Staff

Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 8, 2026 at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom/videoconference