

Consortium Board Meeting Summary

June 3, 2026



CALLED TO ORDER: 6:32 PM

ADJOURNED: 8:04 PM

QUORUM MET: 14 Board members present

Approval of the February 4, 2026 Meeting Summary

Commissioner Gary Barth made a motion to approve the February 4, 2026 Consortium Board meeting summary as presented. Councilor Bridget Brooks seconded the motion. The Consortium Board approved the February 4, 2026 Consortium Board meeting summary as presented (13:0:0).

Public Comment

None

Election of Officers

Bonny Cushman, 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 one-year with the possibility of a consecutive second year upon re-election.

Chair Brouse and Vice-Chair Barth completed their second year of service in their respective roles and are therefore not eligible to serve another term.

Chair Brouse opened the meeting for nominations for Board Chair.

Commissioner Naomi Angier nominated Commissioner Gary Barth for Board Chair. Councilor Mitch Green seconded the nomination. There were no other nominations. The Consortium Board unanimously approved the nomination of Commissioner Gary Barth for Board Chair. (13:0:0)

Chair Brouse opened nominations for Board Vice-Chair.

Councilor Mitch Green nominated Councilor Bridget Brooks for Board Vice-Chair. Commissioner Gary Barth seconded the nomination. There were no other nominations. The Consortium Board unanimously approved Councilor Bridget Brooks for Vice-Chair. (13:0:0)

Ms. Cushman reported that in addition to the Chair and Vice-Chair elections, the Board needed to elect new county representative 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 for these positions are two years and the Board is allowed to appoint consecutive terms for county representative members at its pleasure. Ms. Cushman advised that the EC meets three to four times a year in advance of the Consortium Board meetings. The EC's main roles are to identify major policy issues, the annual budget and work plan, and make recommendations to the Board.

Board members caucused by county. Board members representing Clackamas County appointed Commissioner Heidi Bullock from Oak Lodge Water Services. Board members representing Washington County appointed Commissioner Jim Duggan from Tualatin Valley Water District. There were not enough Board members from Multnomah County present to caucus. The appointment of the Multnomah County EC representative was held over to the October Consortium Board meeting.

Managing Director's Report

Bonny Cushman, Managing Director shared the following program and project 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.

PSU Population and Household Estimates/Forecast Project: The Consortium has had an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with the Portland State University/Population Research Center since 2013. PSU is the statewide expert on this work and completes similar work for most of the cities and counties in Oregon. The Consortium's current IGA runs through the end of June. A new IGA which just completed the signature process goes through 2031. The total cost for the project is \$89,742 which includes annual estimates and one forecast through 2067. Ms. Cushman mentioned that this project is a great example of how the Consortium can do cooperative purchases on behalf of Consortium members. In this case, members have apple to apples data sets to work with and realize cost savings by working together.

Staffing Plan: Ms. Cushman has been working with City of Portland's Human Resources and Water Bureau staff to recruit for the Consortium's Analyst I position which is currently filled by Patty Burk. Ms. Cushman noted that right now is a difficult time to recruit at the City since they are experiencing reductions in force which are also causing bumping. Ms. Cushman advised that she had hoped to have the recruitment completed by this spring, but it is looking more likely that this will occur sometime this summer. Patty's status has been extended through the end of this calendar year to cover this transition time.

Partnerships: Ms. Cushman has begun meeting with regional partners. She noted that these meetings have been a great way to introduce herself, connect with partner staff in her new role, and to learn a little more about how the Consortium and regional partners work together. Ms. Cushman is also

conducting one-on-one meetings with each Consortium member. She hopes to have them completed by fall and will circle back with what she's learned afterwards.

Regional Coordination: Consortium staff were accepted to speak at the Oregon Environment Short School in July and the AWWA WaterSmart Innovations Conference in October. They will be presenting about the how the Consortium is a success story in regional collaboration at both and showcasing the What Do You Know About H2O activity book at the WaterSmart Innovations conference. The Consortium regularly presents at Short School. Ms. Cushman noted that this is a great way for the Consortium to share projects with water provider staff from across the region and support ongoing professional development since attendees can earn CEUs.

Summer Outlook 2026

Over the past several months, Ms. Cushman has attended the Oregon Water Utility Council (OWUC) and one of the topics that has been covered at those meetings is the State's upcoming summer water supply. The discussions have focused on the warm winter and dry spring. At the time of the Consortium Board meeting twelve Oregon counties had drought declarations; although none in the northwest region and statewide drought conditions have been declared in Washington and Idaho.

Ms. Cushman advised that the Consortium runs an annual media campaign each summer and will be kicking off this year's campaign the week after July 4th. She explained that since drought is already in the headlines and the region operates in a shared media market, the campaign give the Consortium an opportunity to share information with the public about our region's resilient water sources and how water providers work together to collaboratively manage the region's water supplies; to highlight that water supplies and how they respond to drought conditions vary widely; and to invite the public to learn more about where their water comes from and what they can do to use water wisely this summer.

Ms. Cushman noted that over the years, the Consortium has developed several outreach resources to help members communicate about ways to conserve water during the summertime and to learn about the region's water supplies. The Consortium's conservation materials are available in six languages and they send out the Weekly Watering Number by email and text. Ms. Cushman mentioned that the Consortium also has several other online resources and tools for the public to learn more about their drinking water including the Our Region's Water/Summer Supply web pages and the Drinking Water Advisory Lookup Tool which helps them know who their provider is.

FY 2026-27 Carryover Resolution

Ms. Cushman reminded Consortium Board members that in the FY 2025-26 Consortium budget, there was \$35,000 budgeted for the Trust Your Tap project. The goal of this project is to collect more localized information about perceptions of drinking water and barriers to use. Ms. Cushman advised that they had hoped to have the project completed this spring but due to the large number of proposals they received the selection process and contracting is taking longer than anticipated. As a result, Ms.

Cushman asked the Consortium Board to carry over the \$35,000 in the Consortium budget from FY 2025-26 to the FY 2026-27 budget year.

In addition, Consortium staff asked to carry over \$10,000 for emergency water bags and \$24,000 for the completing and printing of the What Do You Know About H2O Activity Books. Both of these projects are anticipated to be completed this summer. The total carryover amount requested was \$69,000.

Commissioner Gary Barth made a motion to approve a budget carryover of \$69,000 from the FY 2025-26 Consortium Budget and Work Plan to the FY 2026-27 Consortium Budget and Work Plan.

Commissioner Naomi Angier seconded the motion. The Consortium Board unanimously approved the motion to approve a budget carryover of \$69,000 from the FY 2025-26 Consortium Budget and Work Plan to the FY 2026-27 Consortium Budget and Work Plan. (13:0:0)

Project Spotlight: What Do You Know About H2O Activity Book

Ms. Cushman advised that the “What Do You Know About H2O” activity book was originally created in 2006 and has gone through a complete overhaul this past year. The activity book targets 3rd to 5th graders and can be used in the classroom or at home. Consortium staff worked with Consortium committee members and a graphic designer to completely rework the content and design to align with the Consortium brand. The color palette was updated and existing art and mascots were used whenever possible. The content is now organized by topic, e.g., water sources, conservation, vocabulary, etc. The Consortium partnered with Tinker LLC to host two teacher work sessions to gather practical input from educators on how to best present math and writing content in the workbook. This was the first time input from teachers and students was sought. Ms. Cushman provided an overview of the content and several of the activities in the activity book.

The activity book is in its final review and editing. Printing and distribution is expected to be completed in July. Each Consortium member will receive a start-up supply of activity books and will have the opportunity to order additional books if desired. Copies will be sent to Consortium Technical Committee and Board members.

Next steps for this project include:

- Development of teacher worksheets – writing and math worksheets, accompanying teacher resource packet with information gleaned from listening session on how to use these materials in the classroom.
- Repurposing content to use online – There is so much content, especially graphic that will be able to be used on the Consortium website and social media.
- Creating and implementing a marketing plan to get these resources out to schools
- Presenting the project at WaterSmart Innovations Conference in October 2026
- Translating the activity book into Spanish

Emergency Drinking Water Framework Presentations

Rebecca Geisen, retired Consortium Managing Director joined the Consortium Board meeting to present on Phase II of the Emergency Drinking Water Framework Plan.

Ms. Geisen explained that there has been significant investment in emergency drinking water planning by the Consortium over the last 20+ years. This work started with changes to the Safe Drinking Water Act after 9/11 (and updates in 2018) and was further supported by the completion of the Oregon Resilience Plan (ORP) in 2013. The ORP assessed the vulnerability of buildings, transportation, energy, communication, and water/wastewater systems, and set performance targets for each sector to achieve resilience over the next 50 years. The Framework Plan is one of the Consortium's many recent investments in emergency planning which also included a regional water system interconnections study; the purchase of ten mobile water treatment systems, nine water distribution trailers and three portable pipe systems; several emergency preparedness trainings, tabletops, and drills; and multi-lingual, multi-media public outreach. This work has been funded by approximately \$2 million in USAI grant funds and \$250,000 in Consortium funds.

Phase I of the Drinking Water Framework Plan was completed in November 2022. During this phase, the consultant reviewed Consortium member plans, state and federal regulations and recommendations, and plans from US and Canada; researched document roles and responsibilities around the delivery of emergency drinking water from federal to local level; and looked at the UASI region population and calculated a base water need for the region assuming two gallons per person per day. Through a comprehensive survey and interviews, they assessed emergency water supply sources from resilient infrastructure and other emergency drinking water sources; quantified gaps in emergency drinking water supply; and developed regional recommendations by sector (water provider, county, state).

Ms. Geisen advised that after the Framework Plan was completed, Consortium staff brought together stakeholders to identify next steps to begin implementing some of the recommendations – focused on what the Consortium could do that would benefit the region and support more local planning. Phase II of the Framework plan was a direct result of this stakeholder work.

During Phase II, UASI and Consortium funds were used to hold workshops/tabletop training exercises to facilitate collaboration and planning between county emergency management, public health, and drinking water providers. Five county (Clackamas, Clark, Columbia, Multnomah and Washington counties) exercises were conducted. The five counties had different strengths and gaps in emergency drinking water planning so the project was tailored to support county and water providers where they are at in their planning. The goal of these workshops was to strengthen coordination, clarify roles and responsibilities, test assumptions, and identify steps to ensure emergency drinking water following a major disaster; provide opportunity to discuss emergency water sources, availability, storage, treatment, and distribution strategy; and to discuss how emergency drinking water demands will be evaluated and reconciled with available water resources and water distribution systems.

Ms. Geisen provided an overview of lessons learned and next steps for the three county (Clackamas, Multnomah, and Washington) workshops that are in the Consortium service area region.

Meeting Attendees

Member	Representative	Staff
Beaverton, City of	Councilor Kevin Teater	
Clackamas River Water	Commissioner Naomi Angier	Todd Heidgerken
Cornelius, City of		
Forest Grove, City of		Greg Robertson
Gladstone, City of		
Gresham, City of		Mike Whitely
Hillsboro, City of	Councilor Jim Yent	
Lake Grove Water District		
Lake Oswego, City of		
Milwaukie, City of	Councilor Robert Massey	
Oak Lodge Water Services	Commissioner Kevin Williams	
Portland, City of	Councilor Mitch Green	Ting Lu, Rebecca Geisen
Raleigh Water District		
Rivergrove Water District		Janine Casey
Rockwood Water PUD		Jeremy Hudson
Sandy, City of	Councilor Kristina Ramseyer	Ryan Wood
Scappoose, City of	Associate members do not have Board representation.	
Sherwood, City of	Councilor Renee Brouse Chair, Consortium Board	Rich Sattler
South Fork Water Board		
Sunrise Water Authority	Commissioner Gary Barth Vice-Chair, Consortium Board	
Tigard, City of	Councilor Tom Anderson	
Troutdale, City of		
Tualatin, City of	Councilor Bridget Brookes	
Tualatin Valley Water District	Commissioner Jim Duggan	
West Slope Water District	Commissioner Paul Schuler	Ken Ackerman
Wilsonville, City of	Councilor Sam Scull	Martin Montalvo

Other Attendees

Bonny Cushman, Regional Water Providers Consortium
Patty Burk, Regional Water Providers Consortium
Riley Berger, Regional Water Providers Consortium
Kathleen Holt, Holt Strategies LLC

Consortium members agencies not represented by elected officials at this meeting included the City of Cornelius, City of Forest Grove, City of Gladstone, City of Gresham, Lake Grove Water District, City of Lake Oswego, Raleigh Water District, Rivergrove Water District, Rockwood Water PUD, South Fork Water Board, and City of Troutdale.

Next Meeting of the Consortium Board

October 7, 2026, 6:30PM – 8:00PM