



REGIONAL WATER PROVIDERS CONSORTIUM BOARD
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Notes of April 11, 2018

Consortium Board Chair Russ Axelrod called the meeting of the Executive Committee (EC) to order at 5:39 p.m. Introductions were made. Executive Committee members present at the meeting included Councilor Kirk French from the City of Gresham, Commissioner Nancy Gibson from Oak Lodge Water Services, Director Tom Lewis from Rockwood Water PUD, Mayor Russ Axelrod from South Fork Water Board, Commissioner Ernie Platt from Sunrise Water Authority, Councilor Tom Anderson from the City of Tigard, and Commissioner Jim Duggan from Tualatin Valley Water District.

Consortium staff included Rebecca Geisen, Bonny Cushman, and Patty Burk.

Approval of the January 2018 Meeting Summary: Councilor Kirk French made a motion to approve the January 10, 2018 Executive Committee meeting summary. Commissioner Jim Duggan seconded the motion. The January 10, 2018 Executive Committee meeting summary was unanimously approved as presented. (7:0:0)

Project Manager Report:

Climate Change Presentation: Rebecca Geisen, Consortium Project Manager mentioned that Kavita Heyn, Climate Science Program Manager from the Portland Water Bureau attended the April Consortium Technical Committee (CTC) meeting to give a presentation on climate change and the emerging science around extreme events in the region and their potential impacts to water systems. Ms. Geisen advised that there may be an opportunity for the Consortium to partner with the Water Utility Climate Alliance (WUCA) on a climate change workshop this winter.

Drinking Water Advisory Tool: Ms. Geisen advised that a request for boundary map updates for the Drinking Water Advisory (DWA) Tool was sent out. She noted that this is the GIS boundary used by the DWA Tool in the event of a drinking water advisory and is also used as part of the “who is my water provider” look-up widget. The map reflects the properties that Consortium members provide water to, not political or billing boundaries. The maps are update annually.

Interconnections Geodatabase: One of the after-action items identified in the interconnections geodatabase table top last October was to explore how updates could be completed internally.

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There were a lot of good ideas expressed by GIS staff from various members. Ms. Geisen assembled a GIS users group who met yesterday to discuss the interconnections geodatabase and potential future updates. Discussions were had on how the tool can be updated internally with streamlined data collection. Ms. Geisen said she would share more information as it becomes available.

Member Outreach: Ms. Geisen reported that she, City of Gresham Councilor Kirk French, and Rockwood Water PUD General Manager Brian Stahl attended the March 13 City of Troutdale Council meeting to give a presentation and answer questions about the Consortium. Ms. Geisen advised that the Troutdale City Council will be voting on Consortium membership at their May 8 Council meeting.

Ms. Geisen noted that Steve Gaschler, Public Works Director from the City of Troutdale attended last week's CTC meeting. EC members discussed how they could reach out to Troutdale City Council members about the Consortium prior to their May meeting. EC members volunteered to make calls or e-mail Council members. Ms. Geisen advised she would discuss with Mr. Gaschler and Ray Young, Troutdale City Manager how to best reach out to their Council and get back to EC members on a recommended approach. Ms. Geisen said she would send EC members the Consortium program summary/benefits handouts with talking points for EC members to refer to if needed when talking with Troutdale Council members.

ORWARN Conference: Ms. Geisen mentioned the 2018 Oregon Water/Wastewater Response Network (ORWARN) annual conference will be held September 17-19 at Skamania Lodge in Stevenson Washington. The conference will highlight continuity planning and recovery for all-hazard events. Ms. Geisen will present on the Consortium's emergency preparedness program.

Ms. Geisen said she may submit an abstract to present at the Oregon Emergency Management Association Conference in October 2018 as well.

Program Updates: Bonny Cushman, Consortium Program Coordinator reported that the Consortium indoor water conservation campaign is complete. The campaign ran from February 25 through the end of March and featured the following:

KATU:

- Children's Clean Water Festival: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4_ik3W87nwY&feature=youtu.be
- Afternoon Live: [Water Saving Tips](#)
- Weekend Morning News: Three Common Household Leaks That You Can Easily Detect And Fix Yourself https://youtu.be/YNCl63e_pnM
- AM Northwest: [Finding and Fixing Leaks](#)
- Evening News: [Smart Products and Simple Steps Can Save Water and Cash](#)
- Ads: [30 second](#), [15 second](#)

KUNP:

- Children's Clean Water Festival: <https://vimeo.com/260457745>

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Ms. Cushman noted that work is ramping up for the 2018 summer media campaign. The outdoor campaign will feature seven news stories on KATU-channel 2, five stories on Garden Time, three news stories (two conservation and one emergency preparedness) on KUNP- Spanish television, and two emergency preparedness story features on KGW-channel 8 that will coincide with National Emergency Preparedness month in September.

Ms. Cushman advised that the Consortium conducted its annual water savings kit promotion again in March in coordination with National Fix a Leak Week. 200+ free kits were given away. The promotion was advertised on the Consortium's website, featured in its spring issue of Conserveh2o News, and highlighted with paid advertising on Facebook. She said Consortium staff also developed content for members to use on their own websites, social media channels, and newsletters.

Ms. Cushman reported that in March 2018, she attended the American Water Works Association's Sustainable Water Management Conference in Seattle, Washington. Ms. Cushman presented to approximately 75 attendees on the Consortium's personal preparedness outreach campaign and other emergency preparedness program projects.

Ms. Cushman mentioned that script development has begun for additional how-to videos. The videos will be shot in late May and early June. There will be one new emergency preparedness video and one to two new conservation related videos.

Ms. Cushman reported that approximately 1,500 students attended the 25th annual Children's Clean Water Festival held at the University of Portland on March 13, 2018. The Consortium co-sponsored the event again this year, and many of the conservation committee staff participated in the event as classroom guides, presenters, and in the exhibit hall. KATU, channel 2 and KUNP, Univision television covered the event.

Ms. Cushman advised that four emergency water distribution system (EWDS) trailers will be wrapped this spring. Ms. Cushman reminded EC members that the systems are professionally wrapped to create a consistent look for the emergency water distribution and treatment trailers so they are easily recognizable by the public.

Councilor French mentioned that the City of Gresham is creating a task force to assist the Gresham City Council in working with businesses and citizens to get more prepared for emergencies.

Chair Axelrod commented that the City of West Linn participates in the Map Your Neighbor Program. Map Your Neighborhood is a volunteer-run program that helps neighborhoods prepare to care for each other when disaster strikes. The program helps cities organize a timely response to disasters neighborhood by neighborhood.

Commissioner Gibson commented that Oak Lodge Water Services has deployed Hurricane water treatment systems strategically throughout their service area to be used during an emergency.

Strategic Plan Update: Ms. Geisen pointed out that included in the meeting materials packet was the draft Strategic Plan Update. Ms. Geisen commented that the development of the Strategic Plan is almost complete. She advised that an introduction, historical context, and a preamble to each of the three major focus areas has been added. Implementation strategies have been drafted as well as the Board's role in supporting the Strategic Plan. Ms. Geisen walked EC members through the Plan and asked for comments/feedback. She noted the CTC had no additional comments at their meeting last week.

EC members were complimentary of the Plan and had no substantive comments.

Commissioner Platt commented that he like the testimonials throughout the Plan and felt they were very powerful. He said he felt they drove the message home, i.e., the Consortium's mission, vision and values.

Ms. Geisen asked if the initiative and work tasks should be included in the Strategic Plan, either in the Plan itself or as an appendix. It was the consensus of the EC to not include the initiatives and work tasks in the Plan but instead they would be an internal document used by Consortium committees and staff to build the work plan each year.

Ms. Geisen commented that Wilborn Design, the Consortium's graphic design firm, will assist with the formatting and design of the Plan. She advised that the draft Plan will be sent to the Consortium Board prior to their June Board meeting for their review. The Board will discuss the draft Plan and provide comments in June, and will be asked to approve the revised Strategic Plan at their meeting in October.

June Consortium Board Meeting Draft Agenda: Ms. Geisen pointed out that included in the meeting materials packet was the June Consortium Board meeting draft agenda. Agenda items include approval of Board meeting minutes, election of officers, project manager and committee reports, a presentation of the final draft Strategic Plan and a placeholder presentation. Potential topics for the presentation included summer supply outlook, DOGAMI report, discussion on equity issues, and the Willamette Relocation project. Ms. Geisen advised that at their meeting last week, the CTC discussed the placeholder topics and recommended either the summer supply outlook or a presentation on the recent DOGAMI report. The CTC thought both would be timely and of interest to the Consortium Board. EC members agreed with the CTC recommendations for presentation topics and directed Consortium staff to pursue the summer supply outlook presentation as the first option.

Ms. Geisen explained both Chair Axelrod and Vice-Chair Fagin have served the first year of a possible two-year term if re-elected by the Board. Chair Axelrod noted that he would be willing to serve a second term if elected. Ms. Geisen said she would check in with City of Beaverton representatives to ascertain Councilor Fagin's interest in serving a second term as Vice-Chair. The Board will also elect or reappoint new county Executive Committee representatives.

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State and Local Updates: Ms. Geisen reported that South Fork Water Board received their UASI grant-funded Mobile Water Treatment System.

Ms. Cushman mentioned that she recently met with representatives from WateReuse, an organization that develops policy guidance and educational tools on water reuse. They advocated for policies, laws and funding at the state and federal level to increase the practice of recycling water. Ms. Cushman said they were interested in the history of the Consortium and its programs and shared their organization's mission and values.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:06 p.m. The next meeting of the Executive Committee is September 5, 2018 in Chinook Conference Room, 400 Building, 400 SW 6th Avenue, Portland.

Submitted by Patty Burk, Consortium Staff