



# Consortium Board Meeting Summary

FEBRUARY 5, 2020      CALLED TO ORDER: 6:32 PM      ADJOURNED: 7:37 PM  
QUORUM PRESENT - YES - 13 MEMBERS

## Approval of October 2, 2019 Meeting Summary

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Mayor Russ Axelrod made a motion to approve the October 2, 2019 Board meeting summary as presented. Councilor Jackie Manz seconded the motion. The Consortium Board unanimously approved the October 2, 2019 Consortium Board meeting summary as presented. (13:0:0)

## Public Comment

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None

## Director Report

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Rebecca Geisen, Consortium Managing Director pointed out that a detailed tri-annual activity report was included in the meeting materials packet and encouraged Board members to look over the report for information on activities conducted since the last Board meeting in October.

**Board Meeting Logistics** – Ms. Geisen advised that Metro has had a recent change in their building hours. The Metro building now closes at 8:30 p.m. and all meeting participants and sound crew must be out of the building by that time. Ms. Geisen advised that as a result, Consortium staff has been exploring new meeting location options for future Board meetings. Ms. Geisen reported that Consortium staff would be moving back into the new Portland Building later this month. The building has a public event space that would be well suited for the Consortium Board meetings. Ms. Geisen proposed the following options:

Option 1: Stay at Metro and move meeting to 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

- Need “Metro staff sponsor” to use space

Option 2: Move meeting to new Portland Building and keep regular time

- Parking is further away from building – can validate SmartPark
- Must pay for after-hours security – around \$300/meeting

- Very nice public meeting space with great A/V equipment
- More flexibility

Board members discussed meeting options. It was the consensus of the Board that moving the meeting start time to 6:00 p.m. would be a challenge and that meeting in the Portland Building beginning at 6:30 p.m. would be preferred.

**Regional Disaster Preparedness Organization Provision of Emergency Water Plan** – Ms. Geisen mentioned that the Consortium is working with the Regional Disaster Preparedness Organization (RDPO) and other stakeholders on a regional emergency drinking water plan. Thus far, \$54,000 in Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) grant funds have been allocated and another UASI grant proposal for an additional \$150,000 has been submitted. Ms. Geisen advised that this will be a two-year project. The Plan will help to identify roles, responsibilities and authorities for the provision of emergency water to residents in the RDPO region; identify and propose recommendations to address gaps for provision of water; propose a framework for entities to develop local emergency water plans; conduct workshop for all stakeholders to validate the plan; and utilize an equity lens. Two emergency planning scenarios will be utilized – a medium-sized earthquake and a catastrophic – Cascadia-type earthquake. Ms. Geisen noted that the plan does not include water supply for fire suppression or water provision to hospitals, prisons, shelters, businesses, and other institutions. The Plan focuses on drinking water for individuals and households. Ms. Geisen commented that this plan is a good first step and can be built upon to include these other sectors in subsequent phases.

**2020 Legislative Session** – Ms. Geisen pointed out that included in the meeting materials packet was a one-page 2020 legislative session update handout. The 2020 State Legislature convened on February 3 for a 35-day short session that is constitutionally required to adjourn sine die on March 8. Bills that do not move out of the first chamber policy committees by February 13 will not advance. These deadlines do not apply to the House and Senate rules and revenues committees. Priorities for lawmakers this session include carbon emissions, homelessness funding, and wildfire mitigation funding.

## Program Updates

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Bonny Cushman, Consortium Program Coordinator reported that she is in the process of selecting media campaign partners. Ms. Cushman advised that negotiating ad buy times has been a bit more challenging due to it being an election year.

Ms. Cushman noted that Consortium staff is working on updating its Regionalh2o website with both back-end updates and improving the user experience and website design. She noted time has been spent analyzing the social media campaign – what’s working, where are improvements needed, and assuring that the media outreach campaign aligns with the results of the recent program evaluation work that was

completed.

A Spanish focus group was convened on December 7, 2019 to review Consortium materials and messaging to get feedback from community members on the relevance and usefulness of the materials. Ms. Cushman advised that overall they thought the messaging topics were salient, and the materials were translated well. The feedback will be used to build Spanish language outreach efforts over the coming years.

## FY 2020-21 Budget and Work Plan Concepts Discussion

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Ms. Geisen noted that included in the meeting materials packet was the FY 2020-21 proposed budget and work plan for Board consideration and adoption. Ms. Geisen reminded Board members that budget concepts were discussed at their October meeting and that the work plan and budget has since been refined at the direction of the Board with input from the Consortium Technical and Executive committees. Ms. Geisen gave a brief overview of the major work plan components – administration, conservation, emergency preparedness and regional coordination. Overall, the budget increased 4.5% with a dues increase of .8% due to the \$77,885 carryover from FY 2018-19. The FY 2020-21 dues share table was distributed at the meeting.

Ms. Geisen advised that there are no major new initiatives in the work plan aside from staff-driven projects and the hiring of a Spanish language intern. The following topics were identified as important to work on in FY 2020-21 and Consortium staff will develop resources to address. Topics include:

*Gray water – develop webpage and member resources on this emerging topic*

*Landscape contractors – develop resources and website directed to the landscape contractor community to help with efficient water use, technologies and practices*

*Smart controllers – develop resources for members on smart controllers*

*Water by the numbers – develop webpage and resources for members that features our regional water statistics*

*Climate change – currently developing recommendations to meet strategic goals around climate change; likely workshops, training, resources*

Commissioner Mark Knudson commented that the FY 2020-21 budget and work plan reflects a lot of good work that went into the development process that nicely dovetails with the Strategic Plan.

Mayor Peter Truax made a motion to approve the FY 2020-21 Consortium work plan and budget as presented. Commissioner Mark Knudson seconded the motion. The motion to

approve the FY 2020-21 Consortium work plan and budget was unanimously approved as presented. (13:0:0)

## Update Consortium Staffing IGA

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Ms. Geisen reminded Consortium Board members that at their October meeting, the Board directed Consortium staff to move forward with renewing the Consortium Staffing IGA as the current IGA between the Consortium and the City of Portland expires in June 2020. As there is a provision in the Consortium by-laws to wait to take action on substantive policy matters only at a meeting following a meeting at which such policy matters were previously discussed, the Board was now asked to approve a resolution to extend the terms of the Consortium Staffing IGA for an additional five years to June 30, 2025.

Mayor Russ Axelrod made a motion to approve the resolution to extend the Consortium Staffing IGA to June 30, 2025. Councilor Peter Truax seconded the motion. The Consortium Board unanimously approved the resolution to extend the Consortium Staffing IGA to June 30, 2025. (13:0:0)

## WIFIA Presentation

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Lee Lindsey, City of Hillsboro Business and Administration Manager joined the Consortium Board meeting to give a presentation on their experience with the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA). WIFIA is a federal loan program administered by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Funding is available for eligible water and wastewater infrastructure projects in the form of long-term, low-cost supplemental credit assistance under customized terms to creditworthy water and wastewater projects of national and regional significance.

Tualatin Valley Water District (TVWD), the City of Hillsboro and the City of Beaverton are partnering to design and build the Willamette Water Supply System, a resilient additional water supply for Washington County. The project includes raw water pipelines, treatment facilities, reservoirs, finished water pipelines and turnouts. Phase 1 of the project is \$1.3 billion and will deliver 60 MGD. Upon completion, the system will be capable of delivering 105 MGD. TVWD and Hillsboro are utilizing EPA's Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act loans that will finance up to \$638 million.

Mr. Lindsey's presentation focused on the City of Hillsboro's experience with the WIFIA loan process and how it fit into the rest of their funding. The City of Hillsboro issued a \$50 million revenue bond at 2.98% interest, closed on a WIFIA loan of \$251 million at 1.95% interest and are forecasting to fund the remainder of the project with \$183 million in cash. Hillsboro's total investment is about \$484 million.

Mr. Lindsey reviewed WIFIA loan eligibility criteria; gave an overview of the loan process; and shared tips and lessons learned. Mr. Lindsey concluded the presentation with

highlighting advantages and potential drawbacks of the WIFIA program. Advantages include longer amortization and deferred payment period; usually lower interest rate and closing costs; sculptured repayments and no prepayment penalties; and it's a draw program so interest accrues only as you draw funds. Potential drawbacks include federal compliance requirements; it's more complicated to have loan and bond debt; it's a competitive program; those with weaker credit may not be invited to apply; and if Congress and the President don't fund WIFIA new funding rounds will stop.

A question/answer discussion followed the presentation. Board members thanked Mr. Lindsey for the presentation. Copies of the presentation were distributed at the meeting.

## Meeting Attendees:

<i>22 Total Members</i> <i>Quorum = 12</i>	Councilor Mark Fagin and David Winship – City of Beaverton	Commissioner Naomi Angier and Donn Bunyard – Clackamas River Water
Councilor Peter Truax and Gregory Robertson – City of Forest Grove	Commissioner Debbie Raber and Lee Lindsey – City of Hillsboro	Councilor Jackie Manz and Kari Duncan – City of Lake Oswego
Commissioner Mark Knudson and Jason Rice – Oak Lodge Water Services	Mike Stuhr and Astrid Dragoy – City of Portland	Director Steve Okazaki – Rockwood Water PUD
Councilor Sean Garland and Rich Sattler – City of Sherwood	Commissioner Gary Barth – Sunrise Water Authority	Mayor Russ Axelrod – South Fork Water Board
Councilor Tom Anderson – City of Tigard	Jeff Fuchs – City of Tualatin	Commissioner Jim Duggan, Carrie Pak, and Andrea Watson – Tualatin Valley Water District
Commissioner Noel Reirson – West Slope Water District	Andrew Degner – City of Gresham	Rebecca Geisen, Bonny Cushman, and Patty Burk – Consortium Staff

Consortium members agencies not represented by elected officials at this meeting included the City of Cornelius, City of Gladstone, City of Gresham, City of Milwaukie, City of Portland, Raleigh Water District, City of Sandy, City of Tualatin, and City of Troutdale.

**Next Meeting: Wednesday, June 3, 2020 via Zoom/videoconference**