

Drinking Water Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

October 21, 2020

Conference Call

Members Present

Dwayne Barnes, League of Oregon Cities

Ed Butts, Oregon Association of Water Utilities

Greg DeBlase, Oregon Environmental Health Association

Brian Ginter, American Council of Engineering Companies-Oregon

Michael Grimm, Special Districts Association of Oregon

Bruce Hellebuyck, Privately Owned Water Systems

Karen Lewotsky, Environmental Advocacy Groups

Beth Myers, Oregon Environmental Lab Association

Amelia Nestler, League of Women Voters of Oregon

Brian Rigwood, Pacific NW Section, American Water Works Association

Zach Roberts, Conference of Local Health Officials

Chris Wanner, Large Water Systems

Members Absent

Ray Johnson, Plumbers/Backflow Testers

Guests

Becky Bryant, Business Oregon

Heath Cokeley, Oregon Association of Water Utilities

Karen LaBonte, Cannon Beach

Kim Ramsay, Oregon Environmental Lab Association

Bruce St. Denis, Cannon Beach

Jon Unger, Business Oregon

Staff

Adam DeSemple Samina Panwhar

David Emme Kari Salis

Tony Fields Diane Weis

Welcome/Agenda Check:

Brian Rigwood welcomed the group.

City of Cannon Beach request for State Revolving Loan Funds will be moved to the beginning of the agenda.

Dave Emme welcomed two new members: Zach Roberts representing Conference of Local Health Officials, and Michael Grimm representing Special Districts Association of Oregon.

Revolving Fund:

The City of Cannon Beach is requesting \$10,000,000 from the Safe Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund to upgrade their water system in preparation for a tsunami. The funds would be used to replace their transmission line, improve treatment, replace main reservoir, and replace pipeline.

There are no permitting problems but there are more reviews and steps to go through before work can begin.

Motion was made to approve an award of \$10,000,000 from the Safe Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund to finance the projects for the City of Cannon Beach. Chris Wanner made motion to approve, Michael Grimm seconded. It was voted on and approved.

Elect Chair and Vice Chair:

Brian Rigwood was nominated as Chair.

Dwayne Barnes was nominated as Vice Chair.

Beth Meyer made motion to approve their nominations, Chris Wanner seconded. Their nominations were voted on and approved.

July Meeting Minutes:

Chris Wanner made motion to approve the minutes, Beth Meyer seconded. They were voted on and approved.

Member Update:

Dwayne Barnes asked for clarification on the loss of pressure procedure. Brian Rigwood suggested making this a topic for the next meeting.

Program Update:

Dave Emme asked everyone to sign up for GovDelivery emails. That can be done on the Drinking Water Program home web page using the "Sign up for DWS

Alerts” button. Anything pertaining to the program will automatically be emailed to them.

Budget –

The September forecast has improved from June’s forecast.

Annual Fee –

The annual fee to water systems has replaced the survey fee. As of mid-October, 94% of fees have been received.

Rulemakings –

Operator Certification – Testing will be required for small water system operators beginning in 2022.

Concepts for next year – 1) Separate rules for non-EPA and State Regulated systems, 2) update Emergency Response Plan, 3) align disinfection after repairs with AWWA standards, 4) Plan Review fees for small systems.

Federal Rule Change – They will be revising the Lead and Copper Rule.

PFAS –

OHA and DEQ are working on a screening project for these chemicals. OHA has set draft Health Advisory Levels for four of the chemicals, these will be peer reviewed.

Wildfire –

The Drinking Water Program’s role was reporting to the Emergency Coordination Center and monitoring the direct impact to public water systems. After the wildfires the program was involved in monitoring of contaminants.

The Department of Environmental Quality looked at source water protection and watershed impacts.

Other organizations that responded to the wildfires were OAWU and ORWARN. OAWU was particularly praised for working with impacted public water systems to get their systems back online.

Business Oregon has been coordinating with systems and FEMA to help systems get the financial help they need. The traditional SRF loan program is not suited to supporting emergency work.

Dwayne Barnes, City of Salem, reported they were ready to evacuate but never had to. They took water samples for numerous contaminants afterward and results are normal.

Revolving Fund Update:

Business Oregon is receiving more requests for money than what is available, although they have received new grant money.

The 2020 Capitalization Grant was awarded September 9, 2020.

Combined Project Priority List received 2 new eligible projects bringing the total to \$3.2 million.

Sustainable Infrastructure Planning Projects (SIPP) received five new projects.

Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Act was awarded September 29, 2020, which will all go to Warm Springs.

DWSRF Annual Report is due October 31, 2020 and is almost completed.

Small System Equipment Assistance (SSEA) program will launch early 2021. This is for \$20,000 to be given to systems to purchase equipment.

2021 Meeting Schedule:

January 20, 2021 – Conference Call/Virtual Meeting (loss of pressure BMP)

April 21, 2021

July 21, 2021

October 20, 2021