

*Minutes Approved by Board on 2-3-10*

*Willamette River Water Coalition  
Board Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, August 5, 2009*

***WRWC Board Members or Alternates present:***

Ed Truax – WRWC Chair, Tualatin City Council  
Lee Weislogel – WRWC Vice-Chair, Sherwood City Council  
Sydney Webb – WRWC Board Member, Tigard City Council

***WRWC Member Staff present:***

Craig Sheldon – City of Sherwood  
Todd Heidgerken – Tualatin Valley Water District  
John Goodrich – WRWC Staff Alternate, City of Tigard

***WRWC Staff present:***

Tracy Rutten – Western Advocates Incorporated

***Guests & Members of the Public present:***

Delora Kerber, City of Wilsonville  
Maggie Kean  
Mark Landauer, Special Districts Association of Oregon

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***I. Call to Order***

Chair Ed Truax called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm at the Sherwood City Hall City Council Chambers at 22560 SW Pine Street, Sherwood, OR 97140.

***II. Review and Approval of Minutes***

The board reviewed the minutes from the April 30, 2009 board meeting.

Sydney Webb noted a typo on page five, paragraph six, line one. The amended language should read (bold language is amended) that Delores Hurtado questioned **whether** the board would be taking comments...

There were further amendments to page five, paragraph two, line one to insert the word “not” as follows ...this does not mean that we could **not** reapply at some point in the future.”  
Another amendment was suggested to page five, paragraph 11, line two to delete the word “of” and change it to “or” so that the sentence reads as ...September **or** October.

**Lee Weislogel moved approval of the minutes as amended. Sydney Webb seconded the motion. Motion to approve the minutes as amended was approved.**

**III. 2009 Legislative Session Report & Presentation – Mark Landauer, SDAO**

Mark Landauer, lobbyist for the Special Districts Association of Oregon, made a presentation to the board regarding the 2009 legislative session. He explained that this past session was unique in that the legislature faced many budgetary challenges. The legislature was able to balance the budget through tapping the Rainy Day Fund, Education Stability Fund as well as through making budget cuts, tapping stimulus funds and through passing increased corporate and income taxes.

Mark Landauer reported that there were several over-arching issues including protection of the Water Resource Department's (WRD) budget from potential deep cuts to department staff. Ultimately six full-time positions were cut from the department's budget. There were new revenues found in order to shield the department from further cuts. This includes a new fee for exempt ground water which will be a \$300 fee for all exempt uses. The legislature also passed a bill (SB 788) which will allow for WRD to recover a greater amount from fees imposed. In the past the department has had a cost-recovery rate of 28-30%. SB 788 increased that recovery rate to about 50% which will result in an increase in most transactions with the department. There were several new fees imposed but not implemented including a fee for all existing water rights in the state and for all existing exempt users for ground water.

The Umatilla Basin was another major water-related issue during the session as ground water levels in that area have dropped over past years. Agricultural interests had proposed the Oasis Bill during the 2007 legislative session which would allow for them to draw water out of the Columbia River but that was met with opposition from the environmental groups as well as from the Governor's office. The House Environment and Water Committee decided to do a broad-based, statewide bill to resolve the issue. HB 3369 was the vehicle for the legislation which ultimately allocated money into two funds. The first was the Water Development Fund which exists in the Oregon Constitution but has been dormant for many years. There was a request to have municipalities not be eligible for those funds because of the complicated nature of the standards and requirements that would need to be met in order to access the funds. Also created in HB 3369 was the Water Investment Grant Fund. Out of this legislation, Umatilla will get \$2.5 million and will work on an aquifer recharge project. The other component of the bill was to create an integrated water resources strategy that will focus on in-stream and out-of-stream water supply. There will be approximately 16 agencies that will play a role in the creation of this integrated strategy. The development of this strategy will likely take a couple of years. Municipalities have been included in initial discussions regarding what the strategy ought to include and who should be involved in the creation of the strategy.

Other issues that Mr. Landauer touched on included cuts to the Drinking Water Program, new requirements for mobile-home park owners with more than 200 spaces to sub-meter their water for individual tenants (SB 929), and gray water capture and reuse issues (HB 2080). He also spoke to legislation that was proposed and would have made changes to system development charges (SDCs) including when SDCs should be paid, issues related to park SDCs, discussions regarding a potential prohibition on municipal water suppliers from up-charging SDCs for properties that have installed fire suppression systems, and finally, requirements for a mandatory arbitration process when developers have concerns with SDC methodologies (HB 2865).

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There is currently a signature-gathering effort to refer the new income and corporate income tax measures to voters. If the signature gatherers are successful and collect enough signatures, the referrals will appear on a January 26 special election ballot. The legislature will be coming back into session in February of 2010 and if the tax measures are successfully referred and overturned there will be significant budget issues that the legislature will need to resolve. The legislature will also potentially look at personal kicker tax reform and moving to an annual session structure which would ultimately require voter approval.

### ***IV. WRWC Financial Update – Tracy Rutten***

Tracy Rutten provided a financial report to the board including financials through the end of the past fiscal year (ending June 30, 2009). July financials will be reviewed at the next board meeting in November. There is an ending fund balance at the end of the fiscal year (08-09) of \$133,283. Tracy reminded the board that they had decided to apply \$50,000 from the ending fund balance and apply that to dues for 2009-10. Dues have been invoiced and members should be receiving those in the next few weeks.

### ***V. Election of Officers – Tracy Rutten***

WRWC Board Chair, Ed Truax opened nominations for WRWC board chair and vice-chair positions.

*Chair Truax nominated Lee Weislogel. There were no other nominations. Sydney Webb seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved via voice vote.*

*Sydney Webb made a motion to nominate Ed Truax for WRWC Board Vice-Chair. Lee Weislogel seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved via voice vote.*

### ***VI. WRWC Website Update/Presentation – Maggie Kean***

Tracy Rutten invited Maggie Kean to present to the board on the progress of the WRWC website update. The test website was displayed via projector for the board to review. The new website has integrated feedback that was received from board members and staff during individual meetings held in June. Board members will receive an email with a login and password so they can look at the site in more detail and provide feedback.

### ***VII. Member Updates/Announcements***

WRWC Board Chair, Ed Truax noted that Tualatin has been involved with the Regional Water Provider's Consortium and summer conservation program.

Craig Sheldon, Public Works Director for the City of Sherwood updated the board on the status of the reservoir which is 90 percent complete and should be online within a few weeks. The pump station should be online toward the end of the month. The bids for the pipeline have come in with very favorable pricing. A bid will be awarded later in the month of August.

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Sherwood is working with TVWD on transition of the water system. TVWD was managing Sherwood's system but the system and billing has been brought back under Sherwood's operation.

Ed Truax inquired as to whether there has been any further talk about having Tualatin contribute to the upsizing of the pipeline.

Craig Sheldon replied that there had been conversations at the city council level regarding this issue in March or April and that there are supposed to be some future conversations by the city council regarding this issue.

Todd Heidgerken reported that the Tualatin Valley Water District Board of Commissioners heard a presentation during their last meeting regarding the Tualatin Basin Water Supply project. They had been waiting on results a study done to look at seismic issues associated with Hagg Lake as well as the possibility of an expansion of Hagg Lake. There will several options presented to raise the dam and have it meet the seismic requirements but there will be a significant cost for this. TVWD is working to plug the numbers into their financial forecast and to also work with partners on a variety of other issues including the possibility that the Bureau of Reclamation may choose to lower the reservoir level and federal aspects that can better identify funding that may be applied in order to meet the seismic requirements.

Chair Truax inquired on the issue of transfer of ownership.

Todd Heidgerken replied that this issue has been temporarily put on hold as there are many issues that still need to be discussed prior to any transferring of ownership occurring.

**VIII. *Public Comment***

There was no public comment provided.

**IX. *Next Meeting Date***

The board decided that they would schedule their next meeting for November 19, 2009 at 6:00 pm (location of meeting at Sherwood City Hall).

**X. *Adjournment***

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 pm