

***Willamette River Water Coalition
Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, November 3, 2010***

WRWC Board Members or Alternates present:

Lee Weislogel – WRWC Chair, Sherwood City Council
Ed Truax – WRWC Vice-Chair, Tualatin City Council
Marilyn McWilliams – WRWC Board Member, Tualatin Valley Water District Board of Commissioners
Sydney Webb – WRWC Board Member, Tigard City Council
Dave Grant – WRWC Board Alternate, Sherwood City Council

WRWC Member Staff present:

Craig Sheldon – City of Sherwood
Todd Heidgerken – Tualatin Valley Water District
John Goodrich – City of Tigard, Utility Division Manger
Mike McKillip – City of Tualatin, City Engineer

WRWC Staff present:

Kelly Ross – Western Advocates, Inc.

Guests & Members of the Public present:

Mayor Keith Mays, City of Sherwood
Mark Landauer, Special Districts Association of Oregon
Brian Ginter, Murray Smith & Associates
Maggie Kean

I. Call to Order

WRWC Chair Lee Weislogel, called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm at the Sherwood City Hall, 22560 SW Pine St., Sherwood, Oregon.

II. Review and Approval of Minutes

The board reviewed the minutes from the August 4, 2010 board meeting.

Vice-Chair Truax moved approval of the minutes as amended. Marilyn McWilliams seconded the motion. The motion was approved via a voice vote of the board. The minutes will be amended to correctly reflect a comment by Todd Heidgerken under “Member Updates” that the Oregon Water Utility Council is funding a small-scale study of use of water behind Army Corps of Engineers dams.

III. WRWC Financial Update

Kelly Ross summarized the financial statements, reporting expenses were consistent with the approved budget and that all dues had been paid except for Sherwood.

IV. Legislative Update – Mark Landauer, SDAO

Landauer presented an update on anticipated water issues during the 2011 Oregon Legislative Assembly. These include:

- HB 3369, which was passed in 2009, created a grant and loan program for the Umatilla County aquifer recharge program and also directed the Department of Water Resources to develop an integrated water strategy for the state. The Department will be presenting this strategy to the 2011 Legislature.
- The Department of Water Resources has a number of legislative concepts being drafted, all of which are fairly innocuous except for LC 502 dealing with category of permits involved in an exchange.
- The Oregon Law Center has a draft bill regarding rights of tenants when a landlord is delinquent on a water bill.
- The Association of Oregon Counties has a draft bill that would allow counties to charge utilities for work in a county's right-of-way. Landauer believes that this may be a prelude to excise fees charged to utilities by counties.
- The Oregon Fire Chiefs Association has a draft bill limiting additional SDCs that may be charged for upsized water meters when associated with residential sprinkler systems.
- State budget deficits will be the overwhelming focus during the 2011 legislative session, and could result in significant cuts to the Department of Water Resources, possibly a 25% reduction in their staff. There are proposals circulating to raise new revenue for the DWR by collecting a fee on water rights.

Board member McWilliams raised a question of whether implementation of a water right fee would prevent any staffing cuts at the DWR. Landauer responded that the Department will inevitably have to take some significant cuts and any additional employees that are added back would be tied to services related to the fee source.

V. Metro Tonquin Trail Master Plan – Todd Heidgerken

Brian Ginter presented the final report of the Tonquin Trail Alignment Opportunity Analysis, and noted that some areas previously evaluated are now off the table. Main areas to now focus on are Graham Oaks Nature Area and the Tualatin River crossing. Todd Heidgerken said that the most alarming part of a recent meeting with Metro staff was their comments on decreasing options for critical areas, especially Graham Oaks. Metro staff is encouraging the discussion to be taken to the next level with senior management and/or elected officials.

After discussion, consensus of the Board is for staff to move forward quickly to secure agreements with Metro for right-of-way easements.

VI. Website Update – Maggie Kean

Kean gave update on website traffic and also discussed possible information regarding the Tonquin Trail that could be added to the website. Monthly traffic is low, with only 150-400 page views.

VII. Update on Tigard/Lake Oswego Treatment Decision – John Goodrich, City of Tigard

Goodrich reported that both jurisdictions' City Councils are meeting on November 8th to consider treatment options. Both cities are also studying water rates and SDCS, and by the first of 2011 should have a clear direction on where they want to go on funding.

VIII. Update on Sherwood/Wilsonville Pipeline – Craig Sheldon, City of Sherwood

Sheldon reported that there are 1,600 more feet to go on the pipeline project, and they will be meeting soon with the City of Wilsonville to discuss final details surrounding the meter vault.

IX. Member Updates/Announcements

Board member McWilliams reported that a Tualatin Valley Water District staff member had recently published a book on sustainability.

A certificate of appreciation was presented to Board member Webb for her service to the WRWC (she will be leaving the Tigard City Council); it was noted that this is also Chair Weislogel's last meeting and appreciation was also extended to him.

X. Public Comment

Sherwood Mayor Keith Mays extended his appreciation to Chair Weislogel for his service to the WRWC.

XI. Future Meeting Dates

Possible meeting dates in 2011 were considered and it was the Board's consensus to maintain the first Wednesday of each quarter (February 2nd, May 4th, August 3rd, and November 2nd). February and May meetings will be in Tigard.

XII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:07 pm.