

Approved 7/25/07

***Willamette River Water Coalition
Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, May 30, 2007***

WRWC Board Members or Alternates present:

Tom Woodruff – WRWC Vice-Chair, Tigard City Council
Ed Truax – Tualatin City Council
Dave Grant – Sherwood City Council

WRWC Member Staff present:

Todd Heidgerken – Tualatin Valley Water District
Dennis Koellermeier – City of Tigard
Craig Sheldon – City of Sherwood
Mike McKillip – City of Tualatin

WRWC Staff present:

Amanda Rich - Western Advocates Incorporated
Kelly Ross – Western Advocates Incorporated

Guests present:

Melissa Wilmot – Gard & Gerber

Members of the Public present:

Kathy Newcomb – Citizens for Safe Water
Bob Newcomb – Citizens for Safe Water
Dolores Hurtado

I. Call to Order

Vice-Chair Tom Woodruff called the board of the Willamette River Water Coalition to order at 6:30 pm on Wednesday, May 30, 2007 at the Sherwood City Hall City Council Chambers at 22560 SW Pine Street, Sherwood, OR 97140.

II. Review of Minutes

The board reviewed the minutes from the March 21, 2007 meeting. Only one member of the board present at this meeting was also present at the March 21, 2007 meeting. The minutes will be reviewed again for approval at the next regular meeting.

III. Willamette Water Right Update

Todd Heidgerken reported that negotiations on the permit extension settlement agreement were still continuing with WaterWatch, Water Resources Department and TVWD/WRWC. The main issue of discussion is when the water can actually be used. Entities who plan to use the water right will have to complete a water management and conservation plan (WMCP). As part of this proposed settlement, the WMCPs will include a section outlining a public information plan to inform consumers about the need for water for fish flows during low water times. The sticking point in the current negotiations is: “When are the WMCPs considered

final and approved?” Or, in other words, who must sign off on them before they are considered complete? The parties are going to take another run at trying to resolve the issue and if they are able to reach agreement, the settlement could be final as early as next week.

Heidgerken also noted that under this proposed settlement agreement WRWC will not have to produce a joint WMCP. Individual WMCPs prepared by each member will satisfy the requirement for use of the water right.

TVWD has also initiated the assignment of the water right to WRWC and that should be complete in the next couple of weeks. Heidgerken passed out a copy of the letter from TVWD requesting that OWRD assign the right to WRWC.

IV. TVWD Master Plan Update and Supply Options Review

Heidgerken provided an overview of TVWD’s current master plan update process and the accompanying water source evaluation process. TVWD has been working with Metro and PSU to calculate population growth projections. They expect to see a 62% increase in population served by TVWD over the next 50 years. That growth translates into a need for a 51% increase in water supply. Heidgerken reviewed a hand-out that sets forth seven different supply system scenarios. In comparing the different scenarios TVWD looked at cost, water quality, public perception, complexity of partnership agreements, source reliability, fluoridation and community impacts of construction. The bottom line recommendation of the consultant, which has been ratified by the TVWD Board of Commissioners, is Scenario 5 – to expand the Joint Water Commission / Tualatin Basin Water Supply Project (JWC/TBWSP) to serve as the district’s primary water supply while retaining the option of continuing to purchase water from the city of Portland to serve the Metzger area. The JWC/TBSWP requires the raising of Hagg Lake and that expansion would be based on the entire demand for the district (including Metzger).

Heidgerken explained that the primary partners in the JWC/TBWSP finally came together and committed to meeting TVWD’s supply needs. In the past, the partners had not been fully committed to supplying all the water that TVWD might need, so the project had not been a completely viable option for TVWD. In addition, TVWD updated their Willamette cost figures and the Portland contract costs were not as high as earlier anticipated. On the other hand, the JWC/TBWSP project costs have not been updated and there are numerous federal hurdles that must be achieved in order to make that project work. Heidgerken also noted that the analysis still showed that continuing to buy water from Portland was drastically more expensive than alternative supply options.

Heidgerken reviewed the “Proposed TVWD Water Supply Decision Framework”. He noted that the timing of the project was critical to TVWD and certain scheduling deadlines must be met for the JWC/TBSWP option to work for the district. (TVWD would like to have an alternative supply ready to go online by 2016, the end of their existing Portland contracts.) For the next year, the district will be pursuing both the JWC project and the Willamette project on a dual track, so that if something goes awry with the JWC project, TVWD will still be on track to develop the Willamette supply option. As part of that dual track process, TVWD will be contacting WRWC partners to assess interest in expanding the Willamette supply.

V. *Public Information Project Update*

Melissa Wilmot from Gard & Gerber provided an update on the WRWC's public education efforts. She described the layered approach that Gard & Gerber is pursuing with media pitches, speaking engagements, authored articles and possible advertising. Current messages include water conservation and education about current and future water sources. They are pitching a story with the Oregonian Science Section on the Willamette River Water Treatment Plant and the treatment process. Tom Woodruff and Dennis Koellermeier will be speaking with the Tigard Rotary Club about Tigard's water supply planning. The Tigard and Tualatin Chambers have also expressed interest in a water supply presentation. They are also pursuing some authored articles or advertising on water conservation tips from the WRWC.

Mike McKillip asked if Gard & Gerber had considered running TV ads like Clean Water Services is running right now. Wilmot said that she had seen the CWS ads and they were a great way to spread a message, however they were costly.

Tom Woodruff asked what deliverables Gard & Gerber had achieved during the first two months of the contract. Wilmot said that they had been primarily trying to lay the groundwork for future articles and events by making contacts and establishing relationships with media. There is no major event happening right now to draw the public's attention to water issues, so the process of getting the media to spend time on water supply is slow.

Western Advocates is working on updating the WRWC website so that we can continue to use it as a public outreach tool. Member pages need to be updated.

VI. *Staff Report*

a. Financial Update

Rich reviewed the WRWC year-to-date report ending April 30, 2007. WRWC is on target to end the fiscal year with a modest surplus.

b. WRWC Audit Update

Heidgerken passed out the Board member copies of the audit for the year ending June 30, 2006. The audit was normal and there were no suggested process changes.

c. IGA Update and Planning WRWC Next Steps

The IGA will need to be updated to reflect Canby's withdrawal from the WRWC. While the IGA is open, the coalition may want to take the opportunity to discuss the future of the WRWC and its possible role in managing the water supply under the Willamette water right. Western Advocates will oversee a strategic planning process and meet with each member agency to discuss their thoughts about the future of the WRWC. The goal will be to incorporate member's thoughts into the next work plan and budget that will be reviewed by the board in January of 2008.

VII. *Public Comment*

Dolores Hurtado noted that when the board is gathered around the table discussing issues and the public is seated behind someone who is speaking, it is hard to hear all the discussion. She asked if it would be possible to arrange the seating differently so all board members can be heard by the public.

VIII. Announcements

No announcements were given.

IX. Next Meeting

Rich noted that the next regularly scheduled meeting would be June 27, 2007. However, the chair will be at an AWWA Conference in Toronto. Two things might need to be addressed in June: the possible approval of the settlement agreement with WaterWatch on the water right extension and the continuation of the Gard & Gerber contract that is set to end on June 30.

Todd Heidgerken noted that the board could meet via conference call to approve the settlement agreement.

The board agreed to meet again on July 25, 2007.

Rich noted that the Gard & Gerber contract expires on June 30, so unless the board extended the contract for an additional month, they would not be able to provide services during the month of July. **Dave Grant moved to extend the Gard & Gerber contract for one month until July 31, 2007. Ed Truax seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

X. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.