

***Willamette River Water Coalition
Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, July 25, 2007***

WRWC Board Members or Alternates present:

Richard Burke – WRWC Chair, TVWD Board of Commissioners
Tom Woodruff – WRWC Vice-Chair, Tigard City Council
Ed Truax – Tualatin City Council
Lee Weislogel – Sherwood City Council

WRWC Member Staff present:

Brenda Bateman – Tualatin Valley Water District
Mike McKillip – City of Tualatin

WRWC Staff present:

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

Members of the Public present:

Kathy Newcomb – Citizens for Safe Water

I. Call to Order

Chair Richard Burke called the meeting to order at 6:30 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 minutes from March 21, 2007; May 30, 2007; and June 18, 2007.

Ed Truax moved approval of all three sets of minutes. Tom Woodruff seconded the motion. Motion was approved. Lee Weislogel abstained from the vote with regard to May 30, 2007 and June 18, 2007 because he was absent from both of those meetings.

III. Willamette River Water Right Update

a. Confirmation of Assignment of Permit

Amanda Rich informed the board that Permit S-49240 had been officially transferred from Tualatin Valley Water District to Willamette River Water Coalition. She distributed a memo from Oregon Water Resources Department dated June 7, 2007 confirming the transfer.

b. Approved Final Order

Amanda informed the board that the Oregon Water Resources Department issued a final order on June 26, 2007 granting the WRWC an extension of time until October 1, 2047 to complete construction and fully apply to beneficial use the water under Permit S-49240. Amanda distributed the final order, which contains the settlement agreement entered into between OWRD, the WRWC, and WaterWatch of Oregon.

c. Consultant Contract for Change in Point of Diversion

Amanda presented a contract proposal from Adam Sussman of GSI Water Solutions, Inc, to assist the WRWC in amending Permit S-49240 to correct the point of diversion. Amanda explained that Adam had helped the WRWC negotiate the extension on Permit S-49240 and was quite familiar with the permit and the OWRD permit amendment process. The proposal was for a limited scope of work and was not to exceed \$4400. Amanda explained that the benefit of the work to change the point of diversion would accrue to all members of the WRWC. Amanda recommended that the board approve the contract.

Ed Truax asked if the permit amendment was necessary. Amanda said yes, in order to access the water under the right the point of diversion had to be corrected. Ed asked if we had the money in our budget to cover the expense. Amanda replied that the amount budgeted for personal services for the 2007-2008 budget year was \$60,000 – more than enough to cover the contract – and that she did not anticipate any unusually large personal service expenses over the upcoming year.

Tom Woodruff asked if we had known all along that this change would be necessary. Amanda replied yes, we had long been aware that the point of diversion named in the permit was incorrect, however the permit could not be amended until it was extended. Now that the extension is final, we can proceed with the amendment and correct the point of diversion. Amanda reiterated that in order to access the water under the permit, the point of diversion had to be changed.

Lee Weislogel moved that WRWC approve a contract with GSI for completing a permit amendment for Permit S-49240, in an amount not to exceed \$4400. Tom Woodruff seconded the motion. Motion was approved unanimously.

IV. Public Information Project Update – Gard & Gerber contract renewal – Discussion of future direction for Public Information Efforts

Amanda Rich began her discussion of the Gard & Gerber contract with the recommendation that WRWC discontinue the existing contract and change the relationship with Gard & Gerber from a monthly retainer consultant to a project based consultant. Amanda explained that, although the work that Gard & Gerber had performed for the WRWC had been excellent, the WRWC did not have a clear goal or direction for their public information effort and it did not make sense to continue spending \$4000 per month on a public information contract at this time.

Ed Truax stated that he wholeheartedly agreed. He said it has proven extremely difficult to find a marketing firm that understands what the WRWC is about. Ed said that the WRWC needs to have a focused discussion about what direction the organization wants to go and that much of the public information work should be done “in-house”.

Richard Burke said he agreed as well. He explained that he had engaged in many discussions with staff, fellow TVWD commissioners, and Gard & Gerber staff regarding the topic. All agreed that the current contract with Gard & Gerber was not a prudent expenditure of WRWC funds. Richard expressed some concern about the apparent unwillingness of members of the WRWC to take a high

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profile role in the public information project and talk about the Willamette as a municipal source with media. He said we can't ask a consultant to provide information to the public about the Willamette if we aren't willing to talk about it ourselves. He concluded by saying that even though members may not be ready to use the source at this time, we all need to think about whether we are willing to stand behind the Willamette as a valuable future resource for the community.

The board agreed with the staff recommendation to not renew the agreement. No board action on the contract was necessary.

Ed Truax commented regarding future direction for public information projects. He suggested that we wait to see what TVWD decides to do regarding their choice of supply, then dedicate time during a future board meeting to discuss possible public information efforts. He did not feel any urgent need to address the issue at this time.

Tom Woodruff commented that this next year ('07 – '08) could bring significant movement on the subject of the Willamette as a municipal supply. Tigard expects to make a decision about its future supply in the early months of 2008. They are currently considering many options, including an agreement with Lake Oswego and the Willamette. If they go to the Willamette a vote will be necessary.

Richard Burke stated that it seems clear from engineering studies and demographic predictions that the region will need all three sources (Tualatin Basin/Hagg Lake, Willamette River and Bull Run) to serve future municipal water needs. He feels that no matter what TVWD or Tigard decides to do for the near future (next 20 to 40 years), that we need to decide now whether we stand behind the Willamette as a source. If we do, we need to make that statement now.

Amanda Rich told the board that she intends to hold individual meetings with each member of the WRWC over the next few months to discuss their thoughts on the future of the WRWC. Those meetings will include a discussion on each member's interest in public information efforts.

V. Staff Report

Amanda Rich reviewed the financial update for the ending June 30, 2007. She noted that we are well within where we hoped to be at the end of this year. We hoped to have an ending fund balance of \$45,000. We will end close to \$60,000.

VI. Public Comment

Kathy Newcomb distributed a chart from the U.S.G.S. depicting the flow of the Willamette River for the last 100 years. She stated that the river has a lower flow than we think. She expressed concern that the water in the Santiam reservoirs will be impacted by global warming snowmelt. She encouraged WRWC to offer extra money to the Governor for a study of the effects of climate change on Willamette River water supply.

VII. Adjournment

Lee Weislogal moved adjournment. Tom Woodruff seconded. The motion was approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm.