

**Willamette Intake Facilities Commission
Board Meeting Minutes
April 27, 2020**

Commissioners present:

Tualatin Valley Water District (TVWD):	Jim Doane (<i>Chair</i>)
City of Beaverton:	Marc San Soucie
City of Hillsboro:	John Godsey
City of Sherwood:	Sean Garland (<i>Vice Chair</i>)
City of Tigard:	John Goodhouse
City of Wilsonville:	Kristin Akervall

Committee Members present:

TVWD:	Tom Hickmann, Management Committee
TVWD:	Paul Matthews, Finance Committee
TVWD:	Carrie Pak, Operations Committee
City of Beaverton:	Chad Lynn, Management Committee
City of Beaverton:	David Winship, Operations Committee
City of Hillsboro:	Niki Iverson, Management Committee
City of Sherwood:	Craig Sheldon, Management Committee
City of Tigard:	Brian Rager, Management Committee

Managing Agency Staff present:

Willamette Water Supply Program Director (WWSP) / WIF Commission General Manager	Dave Kraska
TVWD General Counsel	Clark Balfour
WWSP Assistant Director	Joelle Bennett
WWSP Finance Manager	Lisa Houghton
TVWD Water Resources Division Manager	Joel Cary
WWSP Administrative Assistant/ WIF Commission Recorder	Annette Rehms

Other Attendees:

City of Wilsonville	Tim Knapp, Mayor
City of Hillsboro	Chris Wilson

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Doane called the regular Willamette Intake Facilities (WIF) Commission meeting to order at 6:00pm

ROLL CALL

Ms. Rehms administered the roll call and noted attendance

1. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Kraska presented the General Manager's report, which included a safety moment on safe gardening, a Raw Water Facilities project and permitting update, progress on the Operations and Curtailment Plans, and delivery of the quarterly financial report for the period ending March 31, 2020.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approve the January 27, 2020 meeting minutes.

Motion was made by Godsey, seconded by San Soucie, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The motion passed unanimously with Doane, San Soucie, Godsey, Garland, Goodhouse, and Akervall voting in favor.

4. BUSINESS AGENDA

- A. Approve FY2020-21 WIF Annual Work Plan and Budget (Resolution WIF 02-20) – *Dave Kraska*

Mr. Kraska briefed the Board regarding the preparation and review process of the Annual Work Plan and Budget and highlighted that the overall FY2020-21 AWP and Budget remains similar to FY19-20 with a few exceptions: continued development of the Curtailment, Operations, and Emergency Response plans; added allowance for Willamette River Water quality monitoring; and the development of the WIF mission, vision, and goals.

Mr. Kraska also highlighted the FY2020-21 Capital Outlay has significantly increased due to Construction Phase 1 (groundwork & ground improvements) for the Raw Water Facilities beginning this summer. For the WIF-related work, the guaranteed maximum price is consistent with the budget presented in the WIF intergovernmental agreement.

Motion was made by San Soucie, seconded by Godsey, to adopt the FY2020-21 Annual Work Plan, Budget and Capital Outlay. The motion passed unanimously with Doane, San Soucie, Godsey, Garland, Goodhouse, and Akervall voting in favor.

- B. Approve FY2020-21 WIF Board Meeting Schedule (Resolution WIF 03-20) – *Dave Kraska*

Mr. Kraska presented the FY2020-21 Board meeting dates which are proposed to remain consistent with last year. Proposed quarterly meeting dates are July 27, 2020; October 26, 2020; January 25, 2021; and April 26, 2021, which are the last Monday of each stated month.

Motion was made by San Soucie, seconded by Goodhouse, to approve the FY2020-21 Board Meeting Schedule. The motion passed unanimously with Doane, San Soucie, Godsey, Garland, Goodhouse, and Akervall voting in favor.

5. INFORMATION ITEMS

- A. Legislative Update – *Joel Cary, TVWD*

Mr. Cary presented a summary update on three key concepts: the Oregon 2020 Legislative Session ended abruptly after a contentious debate related to climate change; over 100 bills did not pass, including key legislation from the House Committee on Water related to cyanotoxin testing and water provider support for Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs); the current COVID-19 Pandemic has been the sole focus of the Governor's Office and Legislative Assembly since the session ended. (See attached presentation.)

- B. The next Board meeting is scheduled on July 28, 2020, at Tualatin Valley Water District– Board Room.

6. COMMUNICATIONS AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS

- A. None scheduled.

7. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further questions or business, Chairman Doane adjourned the meeting at 6:28 p.m.



OREGON WATER UTILITY COUNCIL



(Submitted electronically on March 24, 2020 to Members of the Joint Special Committee on Coronavirus Response)

The League of Oregon Cities, Special Districts Association of Oregon, Oregon Association of Water Utilities, Oregon Water Utility Council, Association of Clean Water Agencies and the Oregon Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network appreciate the opportunity to submit the following comments on behalf of publicly owned drinking water and wastewater providers across the state of Oregon. We ask that the committee consider inclusion of public drinking water, wastewater (sewer) and stormwater services in the context of discussions around potential state-assistance to help in our efforts to provide utility rate relief. In addition, we serve to be a resource to the committee during this time.

In accordance with recommendations from the American Water Works Association, drinking water and wastewater providers across the state are working tirelessly to maintain critical services and to provide flexibility to ratepayers due to the economic hardship that is impacting so many Oregonians. Prior to this public health emergency, many of our members had already established financial assistance programs to benefit seniors and low-income households and individuals. In response to the spread of COVID-19 and the resulting loss of jobs for many Oregonians, our members are stepping up to offer additional assistance to ratepayers during this time. That includes ceasing drinking water service shut off for non-payment or past due bill collection during this period of economic hardship.

It is important to note, however, that there are economic realities that can have significant long-term impacts on our ratepayers. As we strive to provide flexibility to those experiencing financial hardship during this time, there will be impacts to utilities both in the short-term and long-term.

A letter that was submitted to congressional leadership on March 23 from national water utility associations, including the American Public Works Association, Water Environment Federation and the National Association of Clean Water Agencies, stated the following:

"... the economic impacts of coronavirus are expected to be enormous. Decreased revenue from households less able to pay their bills and the sudden drop-off in industrial and business water usage could lead to billions of dollars in lost revenue for water and wastewater systems nationwide. This, coupled with additional costs water systems will incur for ongoing emergency operations during the course of the pandemic, will represent a significant sum that will be passed on to local customers through higher water rates."

In addition, we are witnessing increased costs associated with the implementation of continuity of operations plans for water and wastewater utilities. These plans ensure that critical infrastructure providers are able to continue working during this time to deliver services that Oregonians rely on. Utilities are working to stagger teams of employees to reduce the risk of COVID-19 spread among critical staff and are prioritizing workloads to ensure that protection of public health through the delivery of safe drinking water and the treatment of wastewater are of the highest priority. We are hearing from utilities across the state that are adjusting operations to adhere to social distancing guidelines. The health and safety of infrastructure service providers is a significant priority as critical services can't be provided without healthy personnel.

We ask that the committee consider the following:

- Inclusion of drinking water, wastewater and stormwater rate relief for public utility providers, including local government providers. It is important to note that city, county and special district water/wastewater providers are *not* regulated by the Public Utility Commission as they are regulated by their elected councils, boards, commissions, etc.
- Assistance in spreading awareness over the challenges and public health threats associated with flushing non-flushable items down the toilet. Only toilet paper should be flushed down toilets. Due to shortages of toilet paper, local governments are urging the public to refrain from flushing other items including wipes that are labeled as “flushable.” Many local governments are seeing an increase in sewer clogs and materials being caught in the wastewater treatment process. This results in potential sewer backups which is of greater concern due to potential exposure to a variety of pathogens, including COVID-19 and due to utilities having a reduced number of employees to address those sewer clogs/backups during the Governor’s “stay at home” Executive Order #20-12.
- We are currently exploring areas where state regulatory relief may be needed. Regulations that are in place to ensure health and safety should not be lifted, but there may be other regulations, timelines, deadlines, etc. that will detract from our ability to prioritize workloads and critical services during this time. We will reach out to the committee with specific requests as they are identified.
- Finally, we ask the Joint Special Committee on Coronavirus Response use the below listed associations and contacts as a resource should there be questions, concerns or correspondence we can get out to our memberships. Our combined memberships cover all publicly owned water and wastewater systems across the state. We appreciate the opportunity to be of assistance to the committee and hope that you will use us as a resource.

Contact information:

League of Oregon Cities, Tracy Rutten (lobbyist) – trutten@orcities.org

Special Districts Association of Oregon, Mark Landauer (lobbyist) – mark@mjlconsulting.com

Oregon Association of Water Utilities, Jason Green (Director) – jgreen@oawu.net

Oregon Association of Clean Water Agencies, Susie Smith (Executive Director) – smith@oracwa.org

Oregon Water Utility Council, Mike Grimm (Chair) – mgrimm@wswd.org

Oregon Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network, Chris Wanner, (Chair) –

chris.wanner@portlandoregon.gov