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Drinking Water Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
July 20, 2022
Conference Call

Members Present

Yone Akagi, Large Water Systems
Greg DeBlase, Oregon Environmental Health Association
Lacey Goeres-Priest, League of Oregon Cities
Jason Green, Oregon Association of Water Utilities
Adam Jackson, Privately Owned Water Systems
Ben Klayman, Pacific NW Section, American Water Works Association
Karen Lewotsky, Environmental Advocacy Groups
Beth Myers, Oregon Environmental Lab Association
Zach Roberts, Conference of Local Health Officials

Members Absent

Michael Grimm, Special Districts Association of Oregon
Cheyenne Holliday, Water Consumers
Chris MacQuarrie, Plumbers/Backflow Testers
Amelia Nestler, League of Women Voters of Oregon
Travis Tormanen, American Council of Engineering Companies-Oregon

Guests

Nicole Bailey, Business Oregon
Sarah Honious, City of Hillsboro
Matt Johnson, Oregon Association of Water Utilities
Jon Unger, Business Oregon

Staff

Tony Fields Kari Salis
Molly Keller Diane Weis
Samina Panwhar

Welcome/Roll Call:

Kari Salis welcomed the group and roll call was taken.

Nominate Chair and Vice Chair:

Jason Green made motion to table this topic and the members will discuss offline then make a recommendation before next meeting. Yone Akagi seconded. This was voted on and approved.

April Meeting Minutes:

Jason Green made motion to approve the minutes, Beth Myers seconded. They were voted on and approved.

Member Update:

Karen Lewotsky reported that Oregon Health Authority and Department of Environmental Quality will ask for funding to support the budget for the Domestic Well Program in the next Legislative Session.

Kari Salis reported that the process for filling the Drinking Water Program section manager position has been delayed but will hopefully be posted by September and filled soon after that.

Revolving Fund Update:

Financial Status – There is \$14,000,000 available for making loans; \$21,000,000 after adding repayments.

Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill – The annual allotment for 2022-2026 is \$23,673,000. Supplemental funds can be applied for by the end of the year. The Rating Workgroup met and revised the affordability rating criteria to be more equitable for disadvantaged communities and in considering socioeconomic factors.

2022 Capitalization Grant – The allotment is less than last year by \$9,220,000 due to Congressionally Directed Spending. Business Oregon plans to submit the 2022 grant application this Summer.

2021 WIIN Act/Small, Underserved and Disadvantaged Communities (SUDC) – This is non-SRF funds. The allotment is \$534,000 and there is no State Match. There are four systems currently being considered to receive the funds. The grant application was submitted June 29, 2022.

2021 Program Evaluation Report – The report was reviewed by EPA April 26, and it looks good, without many comments.

2022 Annual SRF Database Entries – Project Loan Fund data from mid-July to September 9, 2022, is required to be entered to create the annual report.

Capacity Development Strategy Revision:

The Drinking Water Program is asking for committee comments to the revised strategy.

Based on new federal requirements, revisions were made to the strategy such as the circuit rider contract now includes outreach, and General Fund is added so systems not meeting State Revolving Fund requirements can receive assistance. The website has been updated with the revisions.

Beth Myers made motion to move forward with proposal, Jason Green seconded. It was voted on and approved.

Proposed Rule Revisions:

There will be one rule revision package submitted October 31, 2022. Public hearing and comments will be in November with the rules finalized January 1, 2023.

The rules advisory committee includes people who are subject matter experts, and they must also address equity. Jason Green would like a complete proposed rule revision package before the public hearing.

At the April meeting, the first part of the rule package was reviewed. Kari Salis reviewed the second part.

Cross Connection – Change to air gaps, isolation requirements, certifications, installation and operation standards, gauge calibration, field test kit requirements, and authorized training to be instructors. There were some comments

NSF Clarification – These are just housekeeping for lead free standards.

Seismic Reference – These are housekeeping changes for master plans and will also include maps.

Operator Certification – Points will be added to operator certifications for chlorine usage in treatment plants.

Cyanotoxin – Rule would lower the trigger level that changes the monitoring to weekly. Another option within the testing method used is also clarified. There would be a requirement for faster reporting when a detection is found, and any samples taken will be required to be reported.

Following are a few more rule changes for the first part of the rule package.

Plan Review – Oregon very small systems that are reclassified to community systems will need plans reviewed and approved.

LCCR – Add section on lead service lines. There also needs to be an inventory spreadsheet. Jason Green volunteered to be on the group to review the spreadsheet; anyone else interested let Kari Salis know.

2022 Meeting Schedule:

October 19, 2022 – Conference Call/Virtual Meeting (vote for chair and vice-chair)