

***Willamette River Water Coalition
Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, August 22, 2012***

WRWC Board Members or Alternates present:

Marilyn McWilliams – WRWC Board Chair, Commissioner - Tualatin Valley Water District
Ed Truax – WRWC Board Member, Councilor - Tualatin City Council
Marland Henderson, WRWC Board Member, Councilor – Tigard City Council
Gretchen Buehner – WRWC Board Alternate, Council President - Tigard City Council

WRWC Member Staff present:

Craig Sheldon – City of Sherwood
Todd Heidgerken – Tualatin Valley Water District
Kaaren Hofmann – City of Tualatin
John Goodrich – City of Tigard
Mark Knudsen – Tualatin Valley Water District

WRWC Staff present:

Kelly Ross– Western Advocates, Inc.
Clark Balfour – WRWC Legal Counsel
Maggie Kean – WRWC Website Consultant

Guests & Members of the Public present:

None

I. Executive Session

At 5:15 p.m. the Board went into executive session at the Tigard Public Works Building, 8777 SW Burnham St., Tigard, Oregon, under ORS 192.660(2)(e) to consider information or records that are exempt by law from public inspection. The executive session was adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

II. Call to Order

Chair McWilliams called the meeting to order at 5:50 p.m.

III. Review and Approval of Minutes

The board reviewed the minutes from the July 18, 2012 board meeting.

Motion by Truax, seconded by Henderson, to approve the minutes as distributed. The motion was approved unanimously via a voice vote of the board.

IV. WRWC Financial Update

Kelly Ross summarized financial reports for the end of the last fiscal year (as of 6/30/2012) and current fiscal year-to-date (as of 7/31/2012); reported that dues notices went out the first week of August. Truax said that he likes the new format of the financial reports.

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V. 2012-13 Work Plan/Discussion of Possible Budget Changes

Ross distributed a proposed work plan for 2012-13 that had been developed by Chair McWilliams, WRWC member staff, and him in a two-hour meeting on August 13th; Ross explained that the proposed plan represents significant changes from previous years and reflects a much more aggressive, pro-active approach by WRWC. A new section has been added to the work plan that calls for a determination of “the most effective and cost-efficient management structure for WRWC so as to achieve all objectives within the work plan.”

Truax said that he liked the work plan as presented and commented on how the work of WRWC has changed over the last several years—Board meetings used to attract more members of the public and were fairly formal. In recent years activities have been much more “low key,” but he thinks the pendulum has swung back and a more aggressive approach is now needed. Said the next question is, if we approve this work plan, what is the most efficient way to get it done. Asked Ross and Heidgerken whether we have capacity through existing management structure to achieve the work plan objective, or whether additional assistance is needed from one of the member agencies.

Ross said he thought the logical next steps, if the draft work plan is adopted, would be to develop a “request for proposals (RFP)” and sending it out to parties with the necessary expertise, including WRWC member agencies.

Truax said that he has raised the idea of an RFP with others and “it has been met with a resounding thud.” He believes that all the expertise and experience that we need is probably sitting in this room—would prefer to devote time to working with what WRWC already has.

Chair McWilliams said that the only thing she had a question about is Objective 1, Action Item #2, “Determine deadlines for updates and other required actions; coordinate with member jurisdictions to ensure that all requirements of water rights are met.” Said she would like to define how the relationship with the City of Wilsonville would fit in since they also have a water right on the Willamette and run the water treatment plant. Truax said he doesn’t think we should care about the City of Wilsonville’s water right, that the primary mission of WRWC is its own water rights. Heidgerken commented that the relationship with City of Wilsonville might be covered under Objective 2, Action Item #4, “Initiate discussions with the Cities of Wilsonville and Hillsboro about possible membership in the WRWC and/or closer coordination with their use of Willamette River water.”

Truax said that we’re looking for help on the “nitty gritty” details about preparing for and conducting a meeting, as well as the bigger picture on water issues in general.

Mark Knudsen suggested that it might make the most sense for Ross and Heidgerken to get together and figure out how best to achieve the work plan, and then come back to the Board with a recommended management approach. McWilliams said that this would be consistent with Objective 6.

Motion by Truax, seconded by Henderson, to adopt the 2012-13 Work Plan as presented and request a presentation by Ross and Heidgerken at the next Board meeting on strategies to

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accomplish the objectives therein. The motion was approved unanimously via a voice vote of the board.

Henderson requested a meeting with Ross in the near future to get a better understanding of all the issues currently impacting WRWC members. Ross said he make contact with him as soon as possible to schedule a meeting.

Henderson asked if there was currently a contract between WRWC and Western Advocates. Ross replied that according to his records, the last valid contract expired in 2003, which was two years prior to his involvement with Western Advocates.

Truax recommended that a new draft contract be presented at the next WRWC Board meeting.

VI. Website

Maggie Kean asked whether the entire newly adopted 2012-13 Work Plan should be put on the website. Truax said it should be and there was consensus approval from the Board.

VII. Scheduling Next Meeting Dates

The next meeting will be on November 7th. Goodrich asked about requirements for posting notice of WRWC meetings and Ross said he would check on requirements for notice.

VIII. Member Updates/Announcements

Truax reported that he has had conversations with Portland City Commissioner Randy Leonard regarding possible fluoridation of Bull Run water and that it appears to have majority support on the Portland City Council.

Goodrich reported that City of Tigard is at 60% level of design completion and waiting for action by the West Linn Planning Commission on the treatment plant.

Heidgerken reported on a press conference scheduled for tomorrow (August 23rd) by U.S. Senator Jeff Merkley to announce his sponsorship of the Water Infrastructure Financing Innovation Act, legislation that has been encouraged by the American Water Works Association and regional water agencies. On the House side, Rep. Bob Gibbs of Ohio is introducing similar legislation.

Chair McWilliams said that TVWD is talking about water supply options.

Heidgerken asked about whether a representative from Hillsboro should be invited to the next Board meeting. Consensus of the Board is that this should be done.

IX. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 6:42 p.m.