



Meeting Notes

Drinking Water Advisory Group

September 19, 2022

Note: Presentations are linked on the agenda item title. Handouts are linked in the notes section.

Agenda Item	Notes
<p>2. ODW Update Holly Myers, Office Director</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Busy with staff recruitment and filling vacancies. ◆ FPHS Program lead hired, Brian Sayrs. ◆ Just posted our ETS Supervisor position. ◆ Continuing remote work; EPH is committed to reducing our footprint. ◆ LCRR. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Lead service line inventories are not expected to change but revising all other parts of the rule. ○ Lead Service Line Inventory (LSLI) expected to be submitted by all Group A systems by October 2024. ○ EPA issued guidelines. ○ LCRR Workgroup is working on these guidelines, but we don't expect the state to require anything more stringent than what is already in practice. ○ EPA guidance provides template—encourage all to review the guidance document Guidance for Developing and Maintaining a Service Line Inventory (epa.gov). ◆ PFAS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ EPA recently designated PFAS and PFOA as hazardous substances, which increases expectations for polluters. ○ Voluntary sampling is up to date, with slight delay due to contract issues. ○ Working with statewide and local partner that are currently dealing with containments, specifically Yakima Training Center. ○ Yakima Training Center is holding a public meeting at the Yakima Convention Center on 9/29/2022. ○ Legislature asked that we provide a PFAS education forum. Working with small team of utilities and local and state representatives to develop the agenda and format. ○ Forum will be held Spring 2023. ◆ Tribal Partners. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Squaxin Island Tribe has requested a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with DOH. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Working closely with AAG on this to determine what DOH has the authority to do and what is the responsibility of Department of Ecology. ○ Yakama Nation Gold Creek Area. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Yakama Nation asked us to evaluate two systems that we approved in the past, one a Group A and one that has since converted to a Group B.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ecology also evaluating water rights in this area. ▪ Gold Creek is an intermittent creek that has bullhead trout that are on the endangered species list. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Continuing work on improved communication with tribal partners. ◆ Communication with Department of Ecology and other water resource partners needs improvement. ◆ Groundwater Workgroup will start meeting again to assist with this.
<p>3. Legislative and Rule Update Brad Burnham, Policy & Rules Section Manager</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Legislative Update. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ PFAS forum will be held Spring 2023, more updates in December. ○ Fluoridation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Engineering assistance funds being utilized. ▪ Looking at putting some funds toward training for operators. ▪ Does anyone have additional ideas for use of this funding? ▪ Email Brad if you have ideas at brad.burnham@doh.wa.gov. ◆ 2023 Legislative Session. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Nothing final approved yet. ○ Proposals we are working on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Addressing failing water systems. ▪ Providing alternate drinking water. ▪ State Revolving Fund Funding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased authority for consolidation grant funding. • Construction loan program and potential increase in allotment for this program. • Staffing funding. ○ Webpage for all proposals will be available by our December meeting. ◆ Policy Updates. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Emergency Response Group <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Working on developing communication with this new group. ▪ A lot of resources on our website. ▪ Several tabletop exercises taking place recently. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on cybersecurity. • Water, drinking water, and waste water transportation. ◆ Rulemaking. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ LCRR not currently in rulemaking. ○ EPA amended the rule as soon as it came out. ○ EPA not amending the inventory but have issued guidance. ○ Webpage coming soon with all this information. ○ Several templates and guidance documents will be available on this webpage. ○ On-site non potable water systems.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Multi-agency discussion. ▪ Working with wastewater office. ▪ Submitted CR 101, announcing the rulemaking. ▪ Developing draft language and will submit for public comment (CR 102 stage). ▪ Close to setting timeframe for CR 102. ◆ Jeff Johnson, Regional Water Cooperative, Pierce Co. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A lot of discussion about operators and utility workers being designated as essential workers for emergency response efforts. ○ Pierce Co. will reach out for assistance from ODW in the future. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mike Means: currently pursuing with Department of Emergency Management through the Critical Infrastructure Workgroup and we will include Pierce Co. in these discussions. ◆ Capacity Development Strategy is being developed and will be shared with the EPA. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We will include DWAG in this work. If you have any questions reach out to Brian Sayrs or Brad Burnham.
<p><u>4. Online Operating Permits</u> Brian Wilson, Operating Permits and WFI Program Coordinator</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Continuing outreach to water systems, operators, local health jurisdictions, and tribal partners about the changes to the Operating Permit Program. ◆ No longer mailing out operating permits—now only available online. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Reduce paper use. ○ Easy access. ○ Reduced costs and labor. ◆ Water system owners, operators, local health jurisdictions, and customers impacted by this change. ◆ Download permits through Sentry Internet. ◆ Written instructions: doh.wa.gov/sites/default/files/2022-06/331-693 ◆ Video instructions: youtu.be/1CkehBKjAHw ◆ Encourage everyone to pay for permit renewal online. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Instructions Publication 331-688 Online Annual Invoice Permit Renewal Guide ○ Owner number located in the upper right-hand corner of your annual fee statement. ○ Checks sent by mail may take up to 30 days to process.
<p><u>5. DWSRF Update</u> Corina Hayes, DWSRF Program Manager</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Fall Construction cycle starting 10/3 to 11/30. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ \$150 million available. ○ Includes BIL Funding. ○ Standard rate is 2.25%. ○ Disadvantage community is 1.75%. ◆ Lead Service Line Replacement is available. ◆ Emerging contaminate Eligible Projects.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Prioritizes PFAS but can be used to address any contaminant listed on EPA's Contaminant Candidate Lists.○ 25% must go to disadvantaged communities.◆ Buy America, Build America.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Applies to all projects receiving federal funding (BIL and standard program).◆ Prioritizing Disadvantaged Communities.◆ Reviewed Construction Loans Eligibility (see slide presentation for specific details).◆ Reviewed Construction Loans Scoring (see slide presentation for specific details).◆ Apply through online application portal WALT.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ WALT External Users Guide 331-614 (PDF).○ Cycle closes November 30, 2022.○ Applications reviewed 12/1/2022 to 1/31/2022○ Applicants notified on funding status by February.◆ Preconstruction Loans are on a year-round cycle.◆ Take aways:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Record-breaking dollars available○ BIL funding authorized for five years.○ Likely a great time for water main projects.○ Call or email Corina Hayes with any questions.<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ 360-236-3153 or corina.hayes@doh.wa.gov.○ All information available on webpage.
<p><u>6. Wildfire Update</u> Sheryl Howe, Hydrogeologist</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ We monitor wildfires to better assist our stakeholders in the event they are impacted by a wildfire.◆ Daily updates issued to ODW staff and Emergency Preparedness and Response.◆ Updates staff throughout the day as new information becomes available.◆ If there are any stakeholders that would like to be added to the daily updates, please let Sheryl know.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Sheryl.Howe@doh.wa.gov◆ Two sources for wildfire data:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Integrated Reporting of Wildland-Fire Information and National Interagency Fire Center.<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Updated every 15 minutes.○ Reviews spreadsheet with all water systems within five miles of the wildfire and reviews internal SWAP map, then puts email together each morning.○ Tracks each day to share the increase in size or containment.◆ John Weidenfeller: with Thurston PUD, who is our end user?<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Sheryl: State Emergency Operations Team is the end user, so they know if resources are available.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ John: Recently needed a generator for a water system near Packwood. Wildfire in area led to power being cut. Where can utilities get generators for water systems in these situations.○ Chris McCord: A good first start is your local EOC if they are activated.○ Sheri Miller: WAWARN is a good resource for a generator ask. ODW will point you to your local EOC if activated. Also, I recommend talking with other local utilities on resource sharing/mutual aid agreements.<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Derek Pell: Local Lewis County EOC is a good place to start for that resource.
<p>7. Kent Office Closure and Impacts Derek Pell, NWRO Manager</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Closed Kent office as of July 31, 2022.◆ NWRO remains a functional group, just working remotely.◆ All administrative work is impacted i.e., mail, filing, printing etc.◆ In the process of scanning all paper files into an electronic content management system.◆ Also moving toward online submittals.◆ Change and transition is impacting staff, but they are adapting.◆ Also impacting level of service a little bit; appreciate everyone's patience.◆ Please contact Derek if you have any issues with level of service.◆ Thank all administrative team for the work they are doing in this process, Cindy Blackwell, Alexyss Miner, Mary Rucksdashel, Carmen Mena, Natalie Rucksdashel.◆ Mailing address PO Box 47800, MS K17-12, Olympia WA 98504.◆ Shipping something big? Mail to 111 Israel Road S.E., Tumwater, WA 98501.◆ Review NWRO staff webpage for updated phone contact numbers.◆ Access to conference rooms on the fourth floor in Kent for one year. Also, meeting space is available at the Melbourne Tower, downtown Seattle.◆ Public Disclosure. We are still about four to six months out before all files are scanned.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Go through our public records portal for requests.
<p>8. Communications, Messaging, and Newsletter Discussion Holly Myers, Director</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Are we communicating effectively with stakeholders?<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ ODW Now newsletter issued every other month.○ John Weidenfeller: How do you get on the list to receive GovDelivery publication?<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ public.govdelivery.com○ Elizabeth Hyde: Links for different bulletin topics are at the bottom of the ODW main webpage.<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Direct link for the newsletter Drinking Water Systems Washington State Department of Health○ Dan Sander: Options to print newsletters and other communications would be helpful.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Elizabeth Hyde: A link to the printable PDF is on the newsletter webpage and in the GovDelivery bulletin. You can also request a printed copy from your regional office.
<p>9. Agenda Ideas for Next Meeting Brian Sayrs, Principle Planning Consultant</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Utility workers as first responders. Designation of utility workers as essential. access to sites, PPE, vaccination. LIVE RESPONSE: we're trying to get a meeting together with DEM on this.2. Source water protection to prep for wildfires.3. LCRR implementation—specifics for inventory.4. UCMR5—how to coordinate federal sampling with state PFAS sampling.5. WAWARN and how to get involved.6. SRF applications received.7. Too soon: guidance for WHPP and waivers for PFAS.8. new no-match funding from WA ECY. Non-point source 319 projects include stream restoration and buffers, on-site septic repair and replacement, education and outreach, and other eligible nonpoint activities: here's an ECY contact on 319 funding with no match: Eliza Keeley-Arnold, Water Quality Combined Funding Planner, Eliza.Keeley-Arnold@ecy.wa.gov, 360-628-1976.9. Funding for utility relocations—funding and integrated infrastructure planning.