



Drinking Water Advisory Group

June 6, 2022

Agenda Item 7 Discussion Handout

The Future of Asset Management

We will have a breakout session for agenda item seven, to discuss the future of asset management in Washington. We want to give you a chance to collect your thoughts on the matter prior to the meeting. Here are some ideas for you to consider when thinking about asset management from a statewide point of view. *These are not proposals—just food for thought!*

Questions. The questions we'll be focusing on during the breakout are:

1. Do you have an asset management program? If so, how much public engagement was there in setting your level of service?
2. Which of asset management's five core questions (see blue box, below) is our weakest?
3. What other organizations encourage or assist with asset management (e.g. RCAC)?
4. What barriers are small systems struggling against?
5. What should ODW do to help small systems use asset management and what should others do?

Goals. To prepare for those questions, we encourage you to reflect on potential goals that will change tomorrow's asset management programs, such as:

- Will asset management be more **inclusive** with all community systems (or even noncommunity systems) having an asset management plan?
- Will asset management be **systematic** so that capital improvement plans can be shared for coordination amongst jurisdictions and regional funding opportunities?
- Will asset management be **regional** by integrating them into coordinated water system plans?
- Will asset management be **equitable** by ensuring that all consumers have an effective voice in setting the desired level of service?

Barriers. As you know, we're particularly concerned about small systems' capacity to develop asset management programs, so we'd like to hear from small systems about what kinds of barriers they face.

- Lack of minimum standards/required topics?
- Inconvenient group training sessions?
- Limited direct technical assistance?
- No sense of urgency?
- Lack of enthusiasm to invest in the future?
- Unaware of the risk?
- Lack of funding?
- Distrust or disinterest in the electorate?

Solutions. We'd also like to hear your solutions for overcoming the barriers to achieve the goals.

- Should there be more publications to encourage asset management?

Asset Management's Five Core Questions

- What is the current state of your assets?
- What is your desired level of service?
- Which are your most critical assets?
- What is the minimum life cycle cost?
- What is your long-term funding plan?

- ◆ Should the industry help develop peer networks, e.g. water systems or LHJ's as mentors?
- ◆ Should the state provide more specific rules and guidance?
- ◆ Should there be more webinars, conferences, or video available?
- ◆ Should the state provide additional direct technical assistance?
- ◆ Should the state require water systems to adopt asset management at some point in time?

We look forward to hearing your thoughts and your reactions to these ideas! After the DWAG meeting, please send any additional thoughts to Brian Sayrs at brian.sayrs@doh.wa.gov.