



**Lake Oswego Tigard Water Partnership  
Summary of Oversight Committee Meeting  
October 12, 2020**

**Present via WebEx:**

**City of Lake Oswego:**                   **Oversight Committee:** Mayor Studebaker, Councilor Manz  
Staff: Kari Duncan, Erica Rooney, Joel Komarek

**City of Tigard:**                       **Oversight Committee:** Councilor Goodhouse, Councilor Newton  
Staff: John Goodrich, Brian Rager, Marty Wine

**Guests:**                                 Kim Swan, Clackamas River Water Providers

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1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

**Chair Manz** called the meeting of the Lake Oswego Tigard Water Partnership Oversight Committee to order at 5:32 p.m. The video-conference meeting was held via WebEx.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD JULY 13, 2020

**Mayor Studebaker** made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 13, 2020 meeting. **Councilor Newton** seconded the motion. The motion passed.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

4. OLD BUSINESS

4.1 Water Rights Extension Remand

**Mr. Goodrich** stated there wasn't much new to report. The last communication with the attorneys indicated moving toward submission of oral arguments. Due to COVID-19 meetings have been held via video conferencing and would likely affect the process. Legal Counsel stated the last time they received notice of submission to the courts it took eleven months following the submittal of the reply brief with oral argument occurring two months after that. The schedule could be significantly impacted but it was unclear how much.

4.2 Operations Report

**Ms. Duncan** reviewed the information from the report in the meeting packet. Of note, the Water Treatment Plant alternate feed system electrical repair was completed the previous week. **Mayor Studebaker** asked if she was satisfied with the quality of the new system overall. **Ms. Duncan** replied she was satisfied with the system. Some of the bugs had to be worked out over the course of the first few years of operation which was to be expected and overall she was happy with the reliability of the system. Ms. Duncan also reported that

recently, a Risk and Resiliency Assessment and Emergency Response Plan had been conducted by a consultant under a new regulation of the America's Water Infrastructure Act. She planned to provide a report on the assessment to the Committee at the January meeting.

## 5. NEW BUSINESS

### 5.1 Clackamas County September Fires Presentation

**Ms. Duncan** introduced Kim Swan from Clackamas River Water Providers (CRWP) and stated she would give a presentation about the fires and Ms. Swan would elaborate on some of the experiences in the basin during the fires. Ms. Swan was part of the Clackamas County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) during the event and had a lot of information to share.

**Ms. Duncan** stated she had given the presentation the previous week to the Regional Water Providers Consortium. She reviewed the timeline of the fire and response noting it started with a wind storm September 7 which resulted in several power outages in the region as well as the start of some fires or the acceleration of fires that had been burning in Oregon wilderness areas. The fires spread rapidly and resulted in evacuation notices and resources were called in to fight the fires. Evacuation notices impacted water systems and staff. There were air quality impacts and supply and water quality communications events and challenges. She stated the presentation would also address long term watershed impacts.

**Ms. Duncan** referenced a map showing the communities that receive their water from the Clackamas River. She explained at the first part of the event the water systems in the region exercised emergency interties to help mitigate the power outages that occurred in some systems. South Fork Water Board (SFWB), which supplies water to West Linn and Oregon City, had a power outage for about 12 hours and some of the other pump stations experienced outages, as well. The Lake Oswego -Tigard WTP fed emergency water to West Linn, and the North Clackamas County Water Commission (NCCWC) sent water to SFWB treatment plant to provide water to Oregon City. Clackamas River Water sent water to NCCWC customers because NCCWC had devoted a lot of its water supply to SFWB. The first exercise of the interties was fairly short in duration because SFWB power was restored quickly but it was a good example of the interties working well. The second time the interties were exercised was partially proactive but also due to results of the fire. The water systems in level 2 and level 3 evacuation zones were experiencing high rates of water use. Many customers in these areas were proactively watering their properties which caused very high demand in those areas closest to the fire. NCCWC, which serves the Damascus area, was experiencing high demands and was at its production maximum. There was concern the same would happen in other areas. West Linn and Lake Oswego Tigard activated the intertie again to allow South Fork additional capacity to send water to the NCCWC service area including Sunnyside and Damascus. In addition, there were some areas close to the fire zone that experienced main breaks due to fire trucks filling up in areas that could not keep up with the additional water demand.

Many of the water providers had staff living in the evacuation zones who had to evacuate. One of the Lake Oswego-Tigard water treatment plant operators had to evacuate his home. When he reported to work in the morning his home was in a level 1 area and within a couple hours was alerted he was at a level 3, immediate evacuation. Several of the Tigard staff were also in level 2 or level 3 zones. This sparked the question, what if the treatment plant were in an evacuation zone? How would water supply be impacted if staff had to evacuate? South Fork, NCCWC and Clackamas River Water Treatment Plant were all in level 2 evacuation zones. The Lake Oswego Tigard plant was in level 1. The Estacada plant was in the level 3, required evacuation zone. Estacada operators were allowed to go back to the plant and produce water as the demands in that area were extremely high, although there were fires close to the plant.

**Ms. Duncan** stated CRWP worked with the County on messaging about water safety and availability, encouraging those people watering their properties with sprinklers to stop so that water would be available for fighting fires. In addition, there were a variety of rumors that the water was not safe to drink so both Lake Oswego and Tigard distributed messages to the public that water was safe to drink. There were some smaller systems that lost power and pressure so they issued boil water notices but the larger providers, like Lake Oswego -Tigard, had safe water throughout the fire event.

**Ms. Duncan** shared a map showing the Clackamas Watershed and the areas of the watershed affected by the Dowdy, Riverside, and Lionshead Fires. She noted 138,000 of the 600,000 acres of watershed burned. Almost all of the burn area was in the National Forest and primarily burned the Fish Creek Tributary and the South Fork Tributary. She explained water quality could be impacted following fires so water would be monitored for an increase in turbidity and sediment. Several PGE dams located between the intake and where the fires burned were expected to mitigate some of the sediment. There hadn't been turbidity spikes following the September 17 and 24 rainstorms but monitoring would continue. She noted the Clackamas River Watershed had 16 sub tributaries, many of which did not burn, so there was still plenty of clean water coming into the system. No fire retardant, which can contain contaminants, had been used on the fire. It was anticipated a Federal Burn Area Emergency Response (BAER) team would be arriving in the next few weeks to assess the fire damage and burn severity, and develop post fire mitigation and rehabilitation strategies. **Ms. Duncan** referenced the soil burn severity map and noted there were some areas of high soil burn severity, meaning there could be higher possibility of soil runoff or different constituents requiring more restoration in those areas.

**Ms. Duncan** stated there were some potential water treatment impacts from the fires. The water filtration plants were designed and operated to address changing water quality. The Lake Oswego Tigard plant was the newest of all the Clackamas River plants with very advanced treatment processes specifically designed to help mitigate and remove any contaminants or extra sediment resulting from the fires. Water systems successfully treated water after the Pit 36 Fire in 2014. She explained there would be monitoring of higher organics, metals, and phosphates in the water, constituents that can be treated but may require adjusting treatment to optimize their reduction and removal.

**Ms. Swan** introduced herself as the Water Resource Manager for Clackamas River Water Providers which implements the Source Water Protection Program for all the cities and water districts from Estacada to Tigard. She is the liaison between all the water providers in the basin and basin stakeholders like the Forest Service, and the County disaster management and WES departments. During the Riverside Fire she was a participant in the daily fire cooperator meetings. A Federal Incident Management Team from Arizona was here for two weeks and took over management of the fire. During the daily meetings the team provided updates on the fire, where work was being conducted, and facilitated two way dialogue with the fire managers. Representing the water providers she communicated to the team the Clackamas River was a drinking water source and she was to be made aware if or when fire retardants were used. That was important because retardants are usually fertilizer based with a lot of phosphate and nutrients which could result in blue green algae blooms during summer. The other concern, particularly on the fringe areas outside of the national forest, was the use of firefighting foams, which weren't used in this case. She provided daily meeting summaries to all the member water providers.

In addition to the daily cooperator meetings, she also attended daily City/County emergency management meetings where County officials would provide updates to City elected officials. CRWP held weekly check in meetings for its Board to discuss water supply when water was being moved around and distributed through interties, and to provide consistent water quality and conservation messaging to ensure all partners were

providing the same message to the public. The meetings would continue to address longer term effects of the wild fires. She emphasized the importance of communication with all water providers on the Clackamas River, which are all interconnected in some manner. During the event a system called the Regroup Mass Notification System was used to facilitate quick communication between providers so they could convene if necessary, develop messaging strategy, and get everyone on the same page. The Regroup Notification Tool allowed communication with everyone at once in any kind of water related event. Notifications may be sent via email, text, or phone call in order to reach everyone whether they are in office or the out in the field. The system was used twice during the Riverside Fire event, once for a spill notification for a small oil spill at Faraday Lake having to do with PGE's power system, and a second time to create a notification to Board members to discuss how to address a request from the press regarding water quality. **Ms. Swan** stated the fire had not been fully contained and speculated it would smolder into the winter. She said once the Forest Service's BAER team arrived they would prepare soil burn severity maps to provide a foundation for their hydrologists and soil people to conduct modeling to determine where debris flows and erosion might occur. That would allow them to look at potential mitigation practices to put in to place. Ms. Swan's role with the Forest Service would be to remind them the Clackamas River is a drinking water source for 300,000 people and salmon habitat. She noted that because the fire occurred above the PGE dams, and the Water Treatment Plant Intakes were below the dams, they had a dampening effect by stopping debris and sediment flows from travelling downstream to the River Intakes.

**Ms. Duncan** asked if anyone had any questions related to the fire. **Mr. Komarek** asked if there was speculation on potential impact of more organics in the severe burn areas contributing to algae blooms in the reservoirs. **Ms. Swan** responded there was potential for algae blooms and she would be following up with PGE. She stated there hadn't been an increase in turbidity yet but it was early in the winter and that fire retardant wasn't used was favorable. She explained PGE monitored weekly for algae blooms starting in May every year. **Mayor Studebaker** opined the Forest Service hadn't done a good job of managing the forests. Lack of harvesting or management resulted in a lot of dead fall creating a tinder box on the forest floor. He thought it would save the western states a lot of money if the service sold timber or cleaned up the forests. **Ms. Swan** stated she was part of a stewardship partner group for CRWP with the Forest Service and had talked with them for years about mitigation practices but that had not been well received. In Oregon, fire mitigation had been given more consideration on the east side of the forest but not so much on the west side. She thought the Eagle Creek fire that occurred two years previous may have been somewhat of an eye opener and hoped the current fire season might make them reconsider and think more seriously about what needs to be done moving forward.

**Ms. Duncan** acknowledged all the hard work by Kim Swan and Christine Hollenbeck from CRWP put in during the fires. She thought it was a great example of an effective emergency response. They provided valuable information rapidly, allowing water providers to make decisions, react appropriately, and collaborate with other water systems. **Chair Manz** said she was glad to be in such competent and capable hands and that information was getting out quickly.

## 5.2 2021-23 Budget Concepts Discussion

**Ms. Duncan** stated the biannual budget setting process would begin around January. Lake Oswego Tigard now had two years of operational data to better predict budget expenditures. She noted it was difficult to set an initial budget for a new facility with no operating history. Typically the past years' expenditures would be evaluated and then staff would predict expenditures for the next year based on the budget history. When setting budget for the new Lake Oswego Tigard facilities the previous budget was based on the older facilities which were very different in how they operated and what kind of consumables and expenditures they had. Overall, the supply facilities actual expenditures had been on track with what was budgeted. She noted in the

first two budget year after construction (FY 17-/8) less was spent than was budgeted resulting in a significant refund to Tigard of \$400k and the next fiscal year (19/20) year was much closer to what was budgeted. The current budget year (20-21) was also running overall on budget, however some account numbers were over budget. She pointed out some of the areas over budget were contracted services, equipment repair and service, and professional and technical services. Some contributing factors to those expenditures were treatment plant and river intake electrical maintenance and repairs, the Water Supply System Risk and Resiliency Assessment and Emergency Response Plan, and a WTP Process Optimization Evaluation. Areas under budget were electricity, laboratory services, and sludge bed maintenance. Reasons for under spending were premium efficiency motors at the WTP and RIPS and solar panel array on the WTP electrical building, PGE Energy Demand Response Program, and optimized dewatering process for reduced solids production. Going forward, since overall we were on budget, the plan was to reallocate some of the account numbers that were under budget to those areas where there was more of a need. Specific areas for resource allocation were electrical arc-flash evaluation and safety improvements; implementation of risk and resiliency recommendations including electrical reliability improvements, cyber security improvements and table-top exercises and staff training; process optimization improvements including sample location and monitoring improvements and filter shades or protective covers to discourage algae growth and birds in the filters. She welcomed discussion and feedback on goals the committee may want to focus on over the next two years. **Councilor Newton** summarized the focus would be on safety improvements, resiliency, and process optimization and thought that made sense as the plant had been operating for a few years and now were finding areas for improvement. She added that she would like to make sure there was budget to continue to coordinate communication and messaging to the customer base. **Ms. Duncan** suggested focusing on a partnership branding strategy or a Clackamas River brand might be of benefit in the long run so as to provide a more consistent and frequent message regarding water source. **Councilor Newton** agreed.

### 5.3 Operating Agreement Workshop Reschedule

**Chair Manz** speculated an in person workshop likely wouldn't be possible for quite some time. **Ms. Duncan** agreed and said in person Boards and Commissions meetings wouldn't take place until the County was in Phase 2 of reopening and wanted to have a discussion to find out how the OVC felt about rescheduling the workshop. **Councilor Goodhouse** voiced his support for rescheduling for a date when the workshop could be held in person, perhaps December or January. **Councilor Newton** concurred. **Chair Manz** proposed January 11, 2021. **Mr. Goodrich** suggested early January new Councils were very busy and thought it might be difficult at that time. **Chair Manz** asked for input regarding that from the Tigard Councilors. **Councilor Goodhouse** said he would like to keep the January 11 date. **Councilor Newton** stated she and Councilor Goodhouse would continue to be Tigard's representatives on the OVC so she would like to keep the January 11 date. **Chair Manz** acknowledged Mayor Studebaker would be stepping down from the committee and asked Ms. Duncan if that would provide enough time to bring a new Lake Oswego member up to speed. **Ms. Duncan** asked when a new person might be appointed. **Mayor Studebaker** stated he could appoint someone at any time. **Ms. Rooney** asked for clarification that Mayor Studebaker would appoint someone before his term was done. **Mayor Studebaker** affirmed. **Ms. Rooney** noted the first meeting of the new Council would be held January 5th. **Ms. Duncan** thought that would afford the month of December to provide background to a new Oversight Committee member. **Chair Manz** requested the workshop be scheduled for January 11th and if necessary, it could be rescheduled to a later date.

### 5.4 2021 Meeting Schedule

**Ms. Duncan** stated during 2020 the Oversight Committee met on the 2nd Monday following the end of each quarter and asked if committee members would like to continue with that schedule for 2021. **Councilor Newton** said the current schedule dates work for her but would be respectful of the new Lake Oswego Councilor's schedule and would be open to a new time if the current Monday at 5:30 time was prohibitive for

them. **Councilor Goodhouse** voiced support for the current schedule. **Chair Manz** asked for input regarding scheduling the January regular meeting since the workshop was scheduled on the 2nd Monday of January. Following discussion, the group agreed to hold the regular quarterly meeting February 1st.

## 6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

6.1 OVC Operating Agreement Workshop – Tentatively scheduled for January 11, 2021, pending ability to hold an in person meeting.

6.2 Lake Oswego Tigard Water Supply Risk and Resiliency Assessment and Emergency Response Plan  
**Ms. Duncan** explained staff had been working with a consultant over the past year to develop a Risk and Resiliency Assessment and Emergency Response Plan and she would like the opportunity to present the results at a future meeting.

**Chair Manz** asked if anyone had anything else for the good of the order. **Ms. Duncan** thanked Mayor Studebaker for his eight years of service and excellent leadership on the Oversight Committee and to the City of Lake Oswego and said it was a pleasure working with him.

## 7. ADJOURN

There being no further business **Chair Manz** adjourned the meeting at 6:58 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Susie Anderson  
Administrative Assistant

Approved by the Oversight Committee:

February 1, 2021