



**Lake Oswego Tigard Water Partnership
Summary of Oversight Committee Meeting
July 19, 2021**

Present via WebEx:

City of Lake Oswego: **Oversight Committee:** Mayor Buck, Councilor Manz
Staff: Erica Rooney, Bret Bienerth, Susie Anderson

City of Tigard: **Oversight Committee:** Councilor Goodhouse, Councilor Newton
Staff: Brian Rager

Guests: Jennifer Joe, City of Tigard

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Chair Goodhouse called the meeting of the Lake Oswego Tigard Water Partnership Oversight Committee to order at 5:39 p.m. The video-conference meeting was held via WebEx.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD APRIL 5, 2021

Councilor Manz made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 5, 2021 meeting of the Oversight Committee as submitted. **Councilor Newton** seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

4. OLD BUSINESS

4.1 Operations Committee: Activities Report

Mr. Bienerth reviewed the information in the meeting packet. Of note, the fifth pump at the River Intake Pump Station (RIPS) had been installed but the base between the motor and the pump would require some stiffening. He reported the pump worked but shook violently when run above its minimum speed. The contractor was working with the pump supplier to develop a solution and the pump wouldn't be used until the problem was rectified. He referenced the photo in the report of filter cleaning and explained every spring each filter, which are 18 feet deep, undergoes a deep clean which takes about six hours and involves between three and five staff. **Councilor Newton** asked if there was a sense of the timing for the contractor to develop a solution to stiffening the pump base. **Mr. Bienerth** replied vibration testing had been conducted two weeks prior and he thought they would have had a

response by now. **Ms. Rooney** added the work was under an open contract and this was part of the installation procedure.

5. NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Chlorine Shortage in June

Mr. Bienerth noted the letter in the meeting packet from Westlake Chemical regarding force majeure condition for chlorine production which impacted water and wastewater plants across the Northwest in Oregon, Washington and Idaho. He explained Westlake was the sole chlorine manufacturer in the Pacific Northwest and they lost an electrical transformer feeding their facility so were unable to operate. Tigard and Lake Oswego staff coordinated actions which included Tigard turning on their wells and ASRs that have their own chlorine storage or generation capabilities. The Water Treatment Plant (WTP) reduced its chlorine residual target by 20% for water leaving the plant from 1.20 mg/L to 1.00 mg/L which still exceeded the state minimum of 0.2 mg/L. Both cities increased monitoring of their distribution systems for drops in chlorine residual levels and reduced irrigation at city facilities like parks and fountains and pushed out joint voluntary water conservation messaging. He explained nationally there had been impacts to chlorine supply. Last year a large chlorine plant in Louisiana burned and wouldn't be back online until next year and in early June another Westlake Chemical plant that produces chlorine in West Virginia shut down due to a major malfunction. The Lake Oswego Tigard supplier of chlorine, Hasa, was eventually able to procure rail cars of chlorine from British Columbia. A three week supply of chlorine was maintained throughout the shortage by reducing use. He noted, had the chlorine supply run out, a boil water notice would have been issued but it never got close to that stage. The chlorine shortage lasted about three weeks and involved a lot of coordination and communication between state and local entities. **Ms. Rooney** said it was great to work with all the staff from Tigard. There was excellent cooperative effort and great ideas came out of the conversations. **Mr. Rager** agreed with Ms. Rooney's comments and thanked her and Mr. Bienerth for convening the right people around the table. The coordination worked well. **Mayor Buck** commended staff for getting through the crisis and working together. He asked if there was a good understanding that the electrical failure was at no fault of the manufacturer and what were the lessons learned in terms of building resiliency going forward. **Mr. Bienerth** responded the supplier wasn't very communicative during their shutdown. He explained chlorine had a shelf life, so long term storage wasn't an option. He said there were ways to generate chlorine onsite but that would be a large undertaking. He noted that regionally there had been discussions regarding dependency on one facility and there weren't many chlorine manufacturers across the country. Most of those manufacturers were running at about 90% capacity so they may not have been able to supply the Northwest during the crisis if supply had run out. **Mayor Buck** asked if there was a good understanding of what led to the power failure at the chlorine plant. **Mr. Bienerth** stated a large transformer feeding the facility went down and they had a hard time sourcing another transformer. Large utilities in the region assisted to help source a replacement transformer that would work. Communication was also an issue. Getting a clear line of information from Westlake Chemical was difficult to the point that Washington Governor Inslee was placing daily calls to Westlake to help move the situation along. **Mayor Buck** asked if Westlake was doing anything to make their operations more resilient. **Mr. Bienerth** replied he hadn't heard anything from Westlake in that regard and speculated there wouldn't be information forthcoming since they are a private company. **Councilor Goodhouse** likened the shortage to a homeland security issue. If the chlorine plant were down for an extended period of time it would affect the entire west coast water supply. He opined there needed to be other sources or backup plan. **Mr. Bienerth** stated the Lake Oswego Tigard supplier, Hasa, had now

developed other sources out of British Columbia, contacts they didn't have before the shortage, so they would be able to respond more quickly in the future now that they understand the procedures for getting chlorine across the border. He acknowledged that was not the same as Westlake creating its own resiliency. **Councilor Manz** referred to a news story she heard that Salem had its own chlorine manufacturing facility and asked if that would be something for Lake Oswego and Tigard to consider. **Ms. Rooney** responded chlorine production could be added to the current WTP site but would require funding and a major land use process and would likely face concern from the neighborhood. She speculated onsite chlorine production may have been considered and ruled out during the design phase of the WTP. She would review past files to determine what options were explored and the basis for design decisions and if those options might make more sense now. **Councilor Newton** commended staff from both cities for working through the shortage and opined there was an appropriate level of communication with the community.

5.2 Clackamas River Level, Conservation

Mr. Bienenrth recalled at the April OVC meeting he anticipated river levels would be ample through summer due to the amount of snow pack. He explained the above average snowpack evaporated during the unseasonably warm spring and the river was currently running low at 800 cubic feet of water per second and was being fed by underground aquifers rather than snow pack. It was early in the season to be at that stage and equated it to the drought situation in 2015. Lake Oswego and Tigard weren't as impacted as other parts of the state or region but were monitoring the situation closely and preparing for the possibility if curtailment toward the end of summer. The rate of decline of the river level had slowed down but continued to drop. He referenced the curtailment calendar in the meeting packet. He explained during January through May the river must maintain at or above 800 cubic feet per second (CFS) and the current average was 830 CFS. From June 1 to September 15 the river level can decrease to 650 CFS and he opined it wouldn't get to that level this year. After September 15th the river level must be at 800 CFS to support the returning fish run. Curtailment may be necessary at that point to maintain appropriate river levels. **Councilor Manz** asked if it got to the point of curtailment what would be done to let people know the importance of the issue. **Mr. Bienenrth** replied staff who worked on the chlorine shortage had transitioned to working on the water shortage issue and messaging was being developed. The current message was to use water wisely but not to restrict water use. Messaging was being developed for future communication of voluntary restrictions on water use for Lake Oswego and Tigard. **Councilor Newton** stated there were many people in both communities who would like to be mindful of water use but need to be reminded and suggested frequent messaging. **Councilor Goodhouse** recalled discussion the previous year about a campaign stressing turning off irrigation by a certain date in correlation with the returning fish run. **Ms. Rooney** noted Lake Oswego and Tigard were members of Clackamas River Water Providers (CRWP) which had a fall campaign "fish on the run, irrigation done" and the program was being updated and would launch soon. **Mayor Buck** asked if rain would help raise the river level. **Mr. Bienenrth** responded a good rainfall would help for a few days but the low level of water in the aquifers due to longer periods of warm weather and increased temperatures was the main factor affecting the river level. **Mayor Buck** asked what would define a drought condition. **Mr. Bienenrth** responded Governor Brown had a declared drought emergency in most counties across the state. He wasn't sure of the exact parameters but speculated it was likely a combination of soil moisture levels and precipitation. **Mayor Buck** asked if Clackamas County was in drought conditions. **Ms. Rooney** replied according to National Oceanic Atmospheric Association (NOAA), Clackamas County was in the early stages of a drought and the rest of the state was in much more extreme conditions and those were the areas Governor Brown had identified as officially in a drought. The tri-county area was not in an

official drought but the area was drier than normal. She reiterated the Clackamas River currently wasn't at the level it was in 2015, which were some historic lows, but was trending close. Even though there was ample snowfall it didn't melt and make it to the aquifers, it evaporated during the overly warm spring. **Mayor Buck** voiced his support for consistent ongoing messaging reminding people to use water wisely vs. putting the message out once conditions are dire. **Ms. Rooney** shared a drought map depicting Clackamas County in severe drought and most of the rest of the state in extreme drought. **Councilor Goodhouse** suggested educational messaging about lawn watering, keeping it green through summer vs. letting it go dormant and coming back in the fall. **Mayor Buck** added messaging about the appropriate time of day to irrigate would be helpful, as well. **Ms. Rooney** stated there was a lot of information put out in various publications by both cities and the continual education and messaging was effective.

5.3 Backup Power Study

Mr. Bienenrth reported Carollo Engineers was under contract to study backup power options for the River Intake Pump Station (RIPS) and the WTP and would be onsite the following day to look at existing power sources and consider other potential sources. The analysis was being conducted in response to the ice storm situation in February that disabled both electrical feeds to the RIPS and WTP. He stated he had received communication from PGE recently informing of the potential for summer power shut downs due to high winds or fire danger, emphasizing the need for reliable backup power year-round, not just for winter storm events.

5.4 Proposed Agreement Update

Councilor Goodhouse reported Tigard officials and staff were finalizing the draft agreement. **Councilor Newton** stated they had one more meeting scheduled and should be able to finalize the draft during that meeting. They would like to share the final draft with Mayor Buck and Councilor Manz before the group meets again to discuss the proposed agreement. Once committee members are in agreement on the details then it would be shared with their respective councils. The group agreed. **Ms. Rooney** clarified there would be some discussion between committee members before the next meeting to determine how to approach the discussion. **Councilor Newton** stated they would like input from Mayor Buck and Councilor Manz before the next meeting as to whether they felt the proposed agreement was heading in the right direction and what their thoughts were.

6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

6.1 OVC Workshop

Councilor Goodhouse suggested waiting to determine if a workshop would be necessary after sharing and discussing the draft agreement. **Councilor Newton** stated if an in depth workshop would make the Lake Oswego committee members more comfortable then a workshop would be held.

Ms. Rooney noted the next Oversight Committee meeting would be held October 11th at 5:30 and suggested it be held in the Pilkington Room at Lake Oswego Public Works.

7. ADJOURN

There being no further business **Chair Goodhouse** adjourned the meeting at 6:26 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susie Anderson
Administrative Assistant

Approved by the Oversight Committee:

October 11, 2021