



**Lake Oswego Tigard Water Partnership
Summary of Partnership Committee Meeting
August 4, 2025**

City of Lake Oswego: **Oversight Committee:** Councilor Afghan, Councilor Wendland
Staff: Erica Rooney, Public Works Director/City Engineer; Dave Trotter,
Water Treatment Plant Manager; Susie Anderson, Administrative
Assistant

City of Tigard: **Oversight Committee:** Councilor Hu, Councilor Robbins
Staff: Rob Murchison, Assistant Public Works Director; Jennifer Joe,
Water Quality Coordinator

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Councilor Hu called the meeting of the Lake Oswego Tigard Water Partnership Committee to order at 4:26 pm. The meeting was held at Lake Oswego Public Works, 17601 Pilkington Road, Lake Oswego OR 97035.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Hu asked if anyone had comments on the minutes of the meeting held April 21, 2025. **Councilor Robbins** stated she wanted to follow up on the discussion regarding condensing the minutes and hear what Lake Oswego's response was. **Councilor Wendland** stated he spoke with the City Attorney, City Manager, and City Recorder who all indicated they would like to continue with detailed minutes as it's the norm for Lake Oswego and details how decisions are made. It's helpful from a historical aspect. Because the partnership includes two different entities it's important to have record of the history, what was done and how it was done. Whether the minutes are detailed or concise, there were no legal ramifications. **Councilor Robbins** stated the compromise was that the full recordings would be available on the website. **Councilor Afghan** added the City Manager stated often people read through the minutes and understand whereas if it's summarized it may not be as clear. **Councilor Hu** asked to be reminded of the original concern. **Councilor Robbins** said typically minutes weren't recorded in a conversational manner but rather the topic of discussion and the decision. **Councilor Hu** stated the consensus seemed to be that people don't mind reading the longer minutes. **Councilor Wendland** moved to approve the minutes of the meeting held April 21, 2025. **Councilor Afghan** seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

4. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

4.1 Water Conservation Specialist, Jason Hoye, submitted a presentation about the City of Lake Oswego's Water Conservation Program. The program was largely developed under the requirements of the state approved Water Management and Conservation Plan (WMCP). The plan contains 28 benchmarks for implementation and/or continuation of water conservation activities. He would review the areas where he spends most of his time. The City is partners in regional groups including the Regional Water Providers Consortium (RWPC), Clackamas River Water Providers (CRWP), and EPA WaterSense. The groups allow for collaboration and resource sharing and engagement locally to help address issues that come up as a water utility.

One of the main requirements of the WMCP is public messaging and education. Primarily this is accomplished through city-wide publications like Hello LO, The LODown, city website, and social media messaging. He works closely with the city's communications team to coordinate messaging about the program and water conservation needs. He also participates in a couple of children's educational events each year. He distributes free water conservation kits to citizens which include hose nozzles, hose timers, shower timers, toilet dye test kits, faucet aerators, low flow shower heads, and literature. They have been popular. There is toilet rebate program and a new program he developed last year, water use assessment rebate program that gives citizens up to \$200 toward the cost of an irrigation professional to inspect their water system. The program has been pretty popular with residents and has been really effective in saving water.

Another part of his job is monitoring seasonal water supply, particularly toward the end of summer when demand for water is increasing and the supply from the Clackamas River is decreasing. The WMCP calls out curtailment measures based on river flows. June 1 - September 15 it's 650 cubic feet per second (cfs) but on September 16th it jumps up to a minimum of 800 cfs to meet fish persistence requirements. As demand spikes in the summer, river flow also reduces by quite a bit. Last year stage 2 curtailment was enforced which is only internal measures like not washing city vehicles, no water line testing projects or flushing, limit irrigation of city parks to morning hours, and prohibit street washing.

Water loss control and planning is another aspect of the conservation program. Each year he runs the state required and nationally recognized AWWA M36 annual water audit that determines how much of a utility's produced water is being lost and where that water might be going. In 2021 Lake Oswego had 16% loss. There wasn't data available for 2022 before he started the position, but 2023 loss was 17% and 2024 was down to 14% loss. That amount is important to consider when trying to reduce the amount of non-revenue water loss. The audit is also very helpful in showing a utility where to focus their water loss control program. Currently Lake Oswego has leak detection efforts including a program through Eterra satellite leak detection, a technology that recognizes surface water or un-surface water from satellite imagery. Another program with Mueller Acoustic Waters helps correlate and detect leaks in the distribution system. The AWWA water audit helps identify and guide efforts to get water loss to a manageable range.

Mr. Hoye stated this was a high-level overview and if there were any questions or a need for more in depth information, to please contact him. **Councilor Robbins** commented that the conservation program seemed to focus solely on Lake Oswego and asked if Tigard had comparable messaging and rebate programs. **Mr. Murchison** replied Tigard had focused on the education and outreach for years and have shifted the focus on water loss in the distribution system which was at 7 - 9 %. Focus had been

on repair and replacement since 2020, about \$5M per year. The city was exploring engaging CRWP to provide outreach for about \$20K per year. **Councilor Wendland** asked why Lake Oswego had such a high percentage of water loss. **Mr. Trotter** responded that was a good question but the percentage was steadily dropping and the new AMI meters installed throughout the city had helped cut down on some of the water loss. **Mr. Murchison** noted Tigard had found some pipes were getting pin holes from stray PGE currents in the ground.

4.2 Water Quality Program - City of Tigard

Jennifer Joe introduced herself as the Water Quality Coordinator for the City of Tigard. She explained Tigard conducted monthly microbiological testing of a minimum of 70 samples based on Tigard's population. She explained chlorine can interact with organic materials creating byproducts that can be carcinogenic so quarterly testing for disinfection byproducts was conducted. When Tigard switched to Lake Oswego water they were conducting lead and copper testing every six months of 60 homes, until they could get on a reduced monitoring schedule of every 3 years of 30 homes. She explained lead and copper doesn't come from the system but rather pipes and/or fixtures in a home. She showed an example of the kit a homeowner would use/receive to collect their sample. She continued Tigard had two aquifer storage and recovery (ASR) wells with another under construction. They are filled during the winter months when water is plentiful and less in demand then used in summer when river levels may be low and demand is up. The ASRS are tested for arsenic, inorganic compounds, nitrate, nitrite, radionuclides, synthetic organic compounds, and volatile organic compounds. Most are on a three-year rotation with some on a nine year, and nitrate is annually. Testing for Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR) as determined by the EPA was conducted every few years. The latest, UCMR 5, focused on PFAS and lithium.

Ms. Joe discussed emerging contaminants. She noted there were about 4,000 PFAS or forever chemicals which are manmade and known for their non-stick, non-staining, and water proof properties. They are found in food packaging, stain resistant carpeting, waxes and cosmetics. What she had learned at conferences is that some treatment plants are able to treat them out of the water but disposing of the solids is still problematic. Microplastics are plastic particles less than 5 mm in size, created in commercial products that break down through wear. They come from single use plastics, food packaging, and wear on tires. Lake Oswego and Tigard source water doesn't contain microplastics because there isn't any industry upstream from the intake discharging them in to the river.

Pharmaceuticals are another emerging contaminant but testing for them is not regulated at this time.

Ms. Rooney noted that PFAS were an issue in Vancouver, WA and that was in the news from time to time. She reiterated there weren't PFAS in our source water and regulatory testing would continue as required. **Mr. Murchison** added it was more of a problem in other parts of the country like the mid-West. Vancouver and Milwaukie were the only local jurisdictions with PFAS and the source for both was ground water. **Ms. Joe** added the ASRS were tested under UCMR5 and all came back non-detect. **Mr. Murchison** clarified the ground Milwaukie and Vancouver pulls from was gravel and much different than the basalts that Tigard pulls out of. **Councilor Afghan** asked Ms. Joe to elaborate on pharmaceuticals. She responded the main concern was if a wastewater treatment plant were discharging upstream from a water treatment plant, then pharmaceuticals, endocrine disrupters, could be discharged in to source water. **Councilor Hu** asked for clarification regarding the frequency of lead and copper testing. **Ms. Joe** responded they were currently on a reduced monitoring schedule but when the new ASR comes online they would do at least one round of 60 homes at 6 months. **Mr. Trotter** added citizens could pick up lead and copper sample bottles at their respective City Halls but the regulatory testing conducted was at

specific homes selected by the State. **Ms. Joe** said the homes sampled must have been built between 1980 and 1985.

Ms. Joe discussed customer complaints and noted the most common inquiries were for taste and odor and were usually resolved by flushing. Discoloration was another common complaint but less frequent since switching from Portland to Lake Oswego water.

4.3 Operations Report

Mr. Trotter reviewed the information in the meeting packet and noted water use was up. **Councilor Afghan** noted use seemed to be higher than the five-year average. **Mr. Trotter** attributed that to Tigard population growth and the Spring of 2022 being very wet which impacted the five-year average. **Ms. Rooney** added it had been a pretty dry year so far with less than average rainfall. **Mr. Trotter** stated the WTP was fully staffed after back-filling the instrumentation and maintenance positions. The backup power project was at substantial completion. Other small projects included replacing a failing polymer tank, some HVAC upgrades in building 18, and continuing to build out water quality instrument installations in the filters. An onsite generation study was underway which would examine the feasibility of converting salt to chlorine on site rather than buying chlorine in bulk which would be less expensive and provide resiliency having multiple product sources for salt vs. just one source for bulk chlorine. **Ms. Rooney** explained that in 2021 there was a chlorine crisis because the one provider in the region had an emergency shut down prompting conservation and emergency response measures. **Mr. Trotter** added the lack of redundancy for chlorine supply was highlighted in the recent Risk and Resiliency Assessment.

Mr. Trotter referenced the river flow chart in the meeting packet and noted river flow was below the five-year median level due to the dry spring and summer. He pointed out the line at September 16 when the river flow requirements change and anything below 800 CFS triggers curtailment measures which happens almost every year now. **Councilor Afghan** clarified demand was a small draw and still within the bandwidth of the river. **Mr. Trotter** affirmed. **Mr. Murchison** referenced the water use graph and noted demand starts to drop in September as the river level drops. At the end of summer there may be rain, people turn off irrigation systems, and water use drops when kids return to school. **Councilor Wendland** asked if the stage 2 curtailment measures resulted in significant amount of water saved. **Mr. Trotter** stated he didn't believe so but it was a state requirement. **Ms. Rooney** added it set the stage for the next level which would be to ask citizens to reduce water use. A lead by example effort. **Councilor Hu** asked for more information regarding the onsite chlorine generation study. **Mr. Trotter** explained space within existing buildings would be considered since any significant land use effort would likely be a deal breaker. The consultant would be looking at size of existing chemical storage, power, infrastructure, and where physical equipment could be placed. He anticipated a couple of different options would be developed as part of the study. **Councilor Hu** asked if it were decided to move forward if there would be additional budget considerations. **Ms. Rooney** confirmed there would be a conversation to move it in to the CIP budget.

4.4 Budget Report

Mr. Trotter stated expenditures were tracking on budget and there hadn't been any large unforeseen expenditures like a pump repair or replacement. There had been tariff activity on chemicals.

5.0 ADJOURN

There being no further business, **Councilor Robbins** moved to adjourn. **Councilor Wendland** seconded the motion. **Councilor Hu** adjourned the meeting at 5:25 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Susie Anderson
Administrative Assistant

Approved by the Partnership Committee:

October 20, 2025