

**DRINKING WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

DEQ State Office

**Conference Room “B”**

Thursday, May 19, 2011

8:30-2:30 MDT

**D R A F T MINUTES**

Attendees:

DWAC Members:

John Wiskus, AWWA/CH2M Hill	Mac Pooler, Mayor, City of Kellogg
Bill Carr, (for Gregg Wyatt) United Water Idaho	Merl Egbert, Health Departments
Dave Six, Water/WW Systems Manager, City of Lewiston	Cyndi Grafe, USEPA-Boise Office
Kody Van Dyk, City Engineer, City of Sandpoint	Steve Tanner, DEQ Coeur d’Alene Office
Lynn Tominaga, Idaho Ground Water Appropriators	Butch Anderson, Idaho Rural Water
Fred Ostler, Project Engineering Consultants	

DEQ

Lance Nielsen	Don Lee
Mike Piechowski	Jerri Henry
Joan Thomas	Tim Wentland

Guests

Shelly Roberts, Idaho Rural Water
Dennis Teller, City of Meridian

**Introductions/Review of December 17 Minutes, and Agenda Items – John Wiskus**

- Roll Call was taken and introductions made.
- This was Shelly Roberts, IRWA and Merl Egbert’s (Health Departments) first DWAC meeting.
- John reviewed agenda items.

**Motion/Action Taken:**

- Minutes of December 17, 2010 meeting were approved as written.

<i>MOTION MADE BY:</i> Lynn Tominaga	<i>SECOND:</i> Mac Pooler
	Vote: Unanimous

**Housekeeping Items – Lance Nielsen**

- DWAC Membership: Two new members are needed to represent the Legislature and the Water and Wastewater Professionals Board. Administration is working on the Legislative member and the WWPB will be recommending someone to represent them.
- Mission Statement: The DWAC Mission Statement was reviewed to see if it was up-to-date. It was agreed a few minor changes needed to be made to Goal #4. DEQ will revise it and send to members to review and comment.
- Frequency of meetings: In the past years there have been full agendas because of all the new rules being promulgated, as well as concerns about sustainable funding. The rules have been promulgated and the frequency of meetings has diminished. Dave Six suggested that more e-mail updates would be helpful to keep the DWAC informed on what is going on with drinking water. DEQ will follow up on this. The DWAC decided that annual meetings would be adequate unless issues arise and DEQ needs to call a meeting. Conference calls can be used when there is only one topic to be addressed.
- Operator Licensing new rules: Lynn Tominaga mentioned a new set of rules will be proposed from WWP Board for drinking water licenses. They hope to adopt the rules by August for the Legislature to approve. The revised rules would require less years of experience at each classification, and thereby allow an operator to advance more quickly from Class 1 to 2, etc. The knowledge base would remain the same in the rules, but the years of experience is more in line with other states requirements.

**Action Items:** 1) DEQ will revise the Mission Statement’s Goal 4, take off “draft” and replace “Resolution

Outline with “Mission Statement”. 2) DEQ will Follow-up with more information E-mails to the DWAC. 3) DEQ sends out information on the new WWP Board rules for licensing to the DWAC and they will submit their comments directly to the Water and Waste Water Professionals Board at <http://www.ibol.idaho.gov/IBOL/BoardAdditional.aspx?Agency=427&AgencyLinkID=910&Bureau=WWP&BureauLinkID=35>.

### **Operator Training Items – Don Lee**

- **Loss of Brown Environmental Training Contract:** Operator training was given a one-time allocation of federal funds in the form of the Expense Reimbursement grant and used to reimburse drinking water operators. A portion was given to Brown Environmental from Capacity Development money for training. Prior to this DEQ used General Fund money to offer free operator training. EPA granted an extension for use of the Expense Reimbursement Grant until the end of September, 2011. This federally subsidized training appeared to have possibly impeded training being developed by other vendors. Bill Carr commented that this was not a sustainable situation.
- A portion of the Capacity Development set-aside was then redirected into expanding the planning grants. When asked what they can deliver in training, Brown Environmental said they would not be able to provide the training expected with less funding and decided they weren't interested in renewing the contract for another year.
- **Response of Idaho Rural Water and AWWA to loss of DEQ trainer:** Idaho Rural Water Association (IRWA) has expanded their classes and only charged a nominal fee. Shelly Roberts talked about the work they have been doing and voiced concern over the expenses to operators and IRWA. She added that EPA has stopped funding two positions at IRWA, one of which is a training coordinator position. IRWA is anticipating this and starting to offer “fee-based training” for approximately \$90.00/day. Lance suggested there might be a partnership for offering operator training between IRWA, Idaho cities, AWWA, and others. Bill Carr agreed it would be useful to coordinate within agencies/associations to get approval for CEUs and facilitate training statewide.
- **AWWA also has increased training opportunities for operators.** There are many on-line trainings available through AWWA. AWWA may have vendor based training at reasonable prices and have CEU approvals. Bill Carr indicated there was an increased attendance because all trainings offered by AWWA include CEU approvals. The City of Meridian is conducting in-house training and are considering expanding it to operators outside of Meridian.
- **Goal of sustainable training that is affordable and appropriate:** DEQ is encouraging vendors and other third party service providers to fill the training void caused by the loss of DEQ's federally funded contract trainer, Brown Environmental. A percent of the interest collected from loans is planned to be used for training on the wastewater side. Don announced a website that can help with coordination of training: [www.smallwatersupply.org](http://www.smallwatersupply.org). This website offers free online resources and support for water and wastewater operators. Vendors can post their classes on this website. However, classes that have not been approved for CEUs by the WWP Board can also be posted. DEQ is planning to put a link to the website on the DEQ website and also gather more information on how successful operators are with obtaining training and CEUs. This question could be part of the connection fee notices that go out adding a survey for operators to ask how training is going and other things. DEQ can separate who the questions go to; administrative, operator, owner, etc.
- The WWP Board hasn't authorized CEUs for webinars. Many trainers have claimed it is difficult to obtain CEU approvals from the WWP Board.

### **Budget Review and Forecast – Lance Nielsen/Cyndi Grafe, EPA**

- Cyndi Grafe, EPA, said the federal funding is going to decrease for the Drinking Water SRF grant. Last year's increased funding had a lot to do with the Federal Stimulus money and now there is a decrease in SRF funding but it may be a small amount.
- Drinking water and wastewater “Earmarks” are also being cut.
- EPA expects deep cuts in 2012 funding to EPA (much like the cuts the states have had to make).
- Lance said that DEQ can sustain the current level of program activity without increasing fees for probably 4 or 5 years. To obtain legislative approval to increase the drinking water connection fees,

DEQ will have to demonstrate why more resources are needed and that current resources are being used efficiently and effectively. The whole rule promulgation process takes approximately two years, so would have to plan accordingly.

#### **Staffing Changes in Drinking Water Program – Lance Nielsen**

- Tom John's main role was managing all the new microbial rules (DBP, LT2, GWR, etc.). Now that the rules have been promulgated, DEQ has converted his position to an "Information Technology" position. The new position will be a computer development person focusing on helping us do our job better with more tasks becoming automated electronically.
- Jerri oversees the microbial rules' day-to-day implementation with the help of Bryan Zibbell and Mike Piechowski taking care of the Lead Copper Rule and Cross Connection Control. Mike is the lead for the DBP and LT2 rules.

#### **DEQ Seeks Guidance for FY2013 Rulemaking – Jerri Henry**

- Mike explained the types of changes that were made to the Cross Connection portion of the rules in the last Legislature: consistency in terms such as residence, premises, facility and connection. Consideration was given to requiring the same CCC standards for non-community systems as for community systems in Section 552.07. Remove the reference in the DEQ rules to the outdated EPA Cross Connection Control Manual – the manual could be interpreted to imply that it is okay to use un-testable dual check valves as "good" backflow protection.
- Upcoming negotiated rulemaking for the 2013 Legislature will primarily include rules for membranes and UV since didn't adequately address membrane filtration plants and UV disinfection. Membrane rule revision language will focus on low pressure membranes versus high pressure membranes, integrity testing, and maintenance issues.
- Steve talked about a coagulating plant replaced with membranes. The original operator passed away and the present operator doesn't know standards for membrane plants with "Alternative Technology". They weren't performing integrity testing for turbidity. These plants should be focusing on low pressure and integrity testing with more maintenance. There was never guidance written for [these](#) types of plants.
- Bill Carr discussed the United Water backflow incidents: In one incident, the assembly was repaired by an unqualified person and installed backwards. Lynn: People must have a license for cross connection assembly testing to legally repair assemblies. Butch: For enforcing CCC programs, systems must have a program and authority to shut the water off etc. in accordance with the rules.
- Don talked about SCADA patches used for system security.
- For requiring alternative water for immediate health problem, we currently do not have clear authority but encourage. The example was a trailer park in north Idaho not taking responsibility to provide water when it could not be rendered safe to use (lead and surface water). There is no emergency fund to provide systems during these situations although there was money used for the Terra Grande incident out of another source of money.

**Action Item:** Need input from the DWAC. Please provide your input to Jerri @ [jerri.henry@deq.idaho.gov](mailto:jerri.henry@deq.idaho.gov) or 373-0471.

#### **SRF Grants and Loans – Tim Wentland**

- Tim Wentland circulated the list of Fundable Loans for 2012 and the FY2012 Drinking Water Planning Grant Priority List. Tim announced that the revised Loan Handbooks are on the website.
- Asked about the American Recovery Act and Bacon Davis wage law, Tim said that cities have to pay more to contractors and some have dropped out of planning grant process. The Loans and Grants group has processed \$13.5 Million dollars for loans last year, and \$9.4 Million this year.
- **Emergency Situations:** There is an allowance for the DEQ Director to waive some costs for health risks. System must write a letter to request costs waived. Tim has a meeting with Phil Everly of EFC and he will ask about emergency funds. (Note: Since the meeting, we found that USDA Rural Development has an "emergency fund available, and the fund is usually coordinated with the Idaho

Department of Commerce.)

**Demonstration of the Drinking Water Switchboard – Don Lee**

- Don demonstrated the capabilities of the drinking water switchboard and asked the DWAC to let him know if DEQ has missed anything or if they have any suggestions.
  - DEQ has set up automated tasks wherever necessary which frees staff from routine tasks.
  - The switchboard has links to everything systems would need to help them such as: Rules, monitoring requirements, lab forms consistent with the database, sample results, public notifications, sanitary survey forms, list of all deadlines, how to find or become an operator, how to sample, lab form (State lab okayed and some labs are using it to give to systems).
  - Don explained how the auto dialer for failure to monitor (FTM) has helped systems stay in compliance. DEQ used the dialer for 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2010 with a reduction of the number of validated violations of 47%.
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- **Summary of Action Items – John Wiskus**
    - 1) Fill vacancies on the DWAC
    - 2) DWAC give their input to Jerri Henry on rule changes and Jerri's definitions (Merl). DEQ make changes and send to DWAC for their review.
    - 3) DEQ will revise the Mission Statement's Goal 4, take off "draft" and replace "Resolution Outline with "Mission Statement".
    - 4) DEQ will follow-up with more informational E-mails to the DWAC.
    - 5) DEQ will send out information on the new WWP Board rules, regarding experience requirements, to the DWAC and they will submit their comments directly to the WWP Board.
    - 6) Bill Carr is going to the AWWA Annual Conference and Exposition in Washington in June and suggested it could benefit Idaho if there were specific topics he could bring up. Talking points can be developed and sent to Bill.

Adjourn at 2:30 p.m.  
Next Meeting TBD

Note: DEQ maintains a Drinking Water Advisory Committee link on the DEQ webpage. It can be accessed at: [http://www.deq.idaho.gov/water/prog\\_issues/drinking\\_water/dwac.cfm](http://www.deq.idaho.gov/water/prog_issues/drinking_water/dwac.cfm)