

Meeting Minutes

Drinking Water Advisory Group Monday, May 5, 2014

Location: Kent, WA with video conference to Spokane and Tumwater
Time: 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

1. Clark Halvorson: **Welcome and emerging issues**

- Discussion for today's meeting:
 - Water Quality Monitoring Schedule (WQMS) – Live Demonstration
 - Small Water Systems Workshops
- Updates include:
 - Electronic Distribution of Consumer Confidence Reports
 - DWSRF: Upcoming loan application workshops; use of equivalency (crosscutters); and site visit changes
 - Group B - Recent petition and State Board of Health response
 - Satellite Management Agencies

2. Clark: **Drinking Water Week awards**

- Clark reviewed six Drinking Water Week award winners for 2014.
- They include:
 - Lifetime Achievement Award—Bill Evans Jr.
 - Grace Under Pressure Award—Randy Russell and Kirk Lally
 - Ongoing Excellence Award—Steve Coke
 - Grace Under Pressure Award—Albert Darrow
 - Lifetime Achievement Award—Dan Katsel

3. Clark: **Office of Drinking Water updates**

- April Operational Team meeting:
 - Proposed Group A Rule revisions
 - SMA project
 - Revised Coliform rule including assessments and reduced monitoring

4. Mike Means: **WQMS**

- Mike and Steve Deem discussed the interactive portal.
- Discussed old waiver model and new waiver model based on data gathered from the portal.
- Data will include assessment of counties from around the state, the system's total sampling history, as well the history of sampling overall.

- WQMS will show sample taken, but doesn't show repeat bad samples.
- This is a new system for the monitoring team and will provide an ongoing monitoring structure.
- When entering your system's number, please enter numerical digits only. If you enter an alpha character, WQMS will not recognize the search.
- No system information will be displayed.
- The following regional office staff are available for any questions:
 - Northwest Region: Steve Hulsman at 253-395-6777
 - Southwest Region: Sophia Petro at 360-236-3046
 - Eastern Region: Please call one of the other regions until June.
- An email will be sent out to all water system managers explaining the WQMS.
- Check the WQMS for quarterly updates.

Questions:

Do the "real-time" functions of the WQMS portal affect our approach toward monitoring compliance?

- In the future, there may be some compliance derivative, but not at this time.

Will there be some sort of statewide training or webinar to help operators get used to using the portal?

- Everyone will be receiving the same directions you received today. If there is a need, yes we will distribute additional user information hints.
- A Question/Answer document will be developed and posted for your use.

Will you still need a letter for those sources that do not get used during a calendar year and or those systems testing for nitrates?

- Yes. You will need to submit a written letter or email requesting an exemption.
- If there is a three year requirement and it is the end of that source's three year period, there will be identifiers posted for that source indicating action needs to be taken.
 - The requirement was met (testing is complete).
 - A red flag indicating testing is past due (will appear 45 days after the end of the requirement period and/or the end of the calendar year, mid-December).
 - For the red flag, please send an email or letter requesting an exemption.

5. Paula Smith: **Small Water Systems Workshops**

- We hosted three Small Water Systems Workshops in three locations statewide – Mt. Vernon, Spokane and Olympia...
- Utilized input from key partners.
- Training targeted for decision makers and operators of small water systems (under 500 connections).
- A total of 90 small system operators and 70 of their decision makers gave us high marks for an innovate approach to topics which included:

- Today's regulatory environment.
- Help available to operators and their systems.
- Options for doing business differently.
- Help from statewide experts covering funding, legal, auditing, technical assistance, restructuring, and system management issues.
- Avoiding legal hot water.
- We hope to provide three more workshops in the fall in three different cities across the state.
- The core group will meet in a few weeks to discuss next steps including possible video recording of a workshop for broadcast and statewide distribution.

6. Paula Smith: **Drinking water website updates**

- Our website has a new feature. At the top of the page there is a boxed banner that highlights a link to all [Recent Drinking Water Alerts!](#)
- The Alerts page contains a list of health advisories issued within the last two weeks.
 - The sortable columns show the date issued, date lifted, system name, county, any action, and status of the alert.
 - Below each alert is a comments box with information about the alert like "Comments: Precautionary alert. System lost pressure."
 - The comments section may display links to other information like related fact sheets.
 - The site provides system contact information like telephone numbers and a link to a water system's webpage and/or a utilities' website (if available).
- Next steps for the site include the development of an additional web page showing all current health alerts.

Comments from meeting participants:

- It might be helpful to have a link to a map of the impacted service area.

7. Chris McCord, Linda Kildahl, and Scott Torpie: **Updates**

- Chris – *Electronic Distribution of Consumer Confidence Reports*
 - The Consumer Confidence reports are due July 1, 2014 to your Regional Office.
 - EPA gives the option to email the report or post it on a water system's website.

Comments from meeting participants:

- The Covington newspaper, the Maple Valley Reporter, shares a link and a quarterly full-page insert advertising Consumer Confidence Report.
- Lake Haven reported their Consumer Confidence Report will be mailed with monthly statements. Federal Way's newspaper, the *Federal Way Mirror*, is a good way to share the information.

- Lakehaven reported their 2013 Consumer Confidence Report has been published electronically on their website and information with the URL address for viewing the report will be included in monthly customer bills. Using a notice in the local newspaper (such as the Federal Way Mirror) is also a good way to get the information about the electronic publication of the report to those who don't directly receive customer bills from the utility.
- There could be a television commercial developed for statewide release letting everyone know to check their utility for Consumer Confidence Reports.
- There could be a tracking mechanism developed to assure the utility consumers are receiving the message.
- There are two fact sheets on our website for your use with the report (publications 331-279 and 331-470).
- Chris – *Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF): Upcoming loan application workshops, site visit changes, and use of equivalency*
 - Workshops will be held throughout the state at the following locations:
 - June 23, 2014 Skagit PUD Public Meeting Room, 1-3 p.m.
 - June 24, 2014 Tumwater PPE 152-153, 9-11 a.m.
 - June 26, 2014 Ellensburg Hal Homes Library, 1-3 p.m.
 - June 27, 2014 Liberty Lake TBD, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.
- We will send letters to participants announcing there will no longer be DWSRF site visits by our staff.
- To expedite applications, we are separating the historical cultural review and environmental reports for the fall round of the DWSRF.

Questions:

How much money is involved in consolidation and/or loan forgiveness?

- Normally there is 20 to 30 percent of CAP Grant given in loan subsidy for consolidation projects.
- This year there is \$2.9 million in equivalency funds available.
- We are looking at opening more options.

Can you discuss the repayment of state dollars verses raw federal dollars?

- DWSRF is a flexible and dynamic program. We are working with the Department of Commerce (Commerce) to take the next steps by examining the program's functionality by reviewing aspects of the program, including:
 - Defining roles and responsibilities for our office and Commerce
 - Working with the Public Works Board
 - Revolving funds quicker
 - Gaining efficiencies
- We will look to you, our key stakeholders and partners, for feedback as we move forward with process improvements.

- Linda – *Satellite Management Agencies (SMAs)*
 - Collects nitrates at the same time for all systems.
 - The handout outlines the overview of the SMA Workgroup.
 - The workgroup will presented their findings to the ODW Leadership Team for consideration, input, and recommendation.
 - Next steps involve taking the Leadership team’s recommendation, adding structure, and bringing it back for stakeholder feedback.

Questions:

For LHJs that adopt rules and/or local ordinances, how easy is it for them to drop out once those rules are in place?

- Any local government has the delegated authority to opt out of their own ordinances.
 - We want the Group B program for the LHJs to be self-motivated and self-sustaining at the local level.
- Scott – *Group B (recent petition and State Board of Health response)*
 - In 2012, the agency made the decision to stop monitoring Group B water systems.
 - Local health jurisdictions (LHJs) and water systems were given 14 months to transition their processes and procedures to meet the requirements of the new rule.
 - Two implementation options:
 1. LHJ delegated authority
 2. LHJ adopted local ordinances and rules
 - The Northeast Tri County Health District requested we ask the State Board of Health to propose a change in state law allowing them to opt out of the state rule and develop their own rule. The State Board of Health said no.
 - They consider Group B oversight to be an unfunded mandate.

8. Clark: **Queuing up the next meeting**

- Suggested topics:
 - More interaction and participation from meeting participants
 - Continue the LHJ – Group B conversation
 - Water Quality/ Ecology monitoring
 - Climate Change presentation by Jerrod Davis, the Department of Health lead for Climate Change Agency Initiative (will include a panel discussion).
 - Water Quality / Ecology Monitoring conversation

Next meeting:

Monday, June 30, 2014

Time – 9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.