



Meeting Notes
Drinking Water Advisory Group
March 3, 2025

Agenda Item	Notes
<p>1. Welcome Brad Burnham, Meeting Moderator</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Agenda amendment—Matt Hadorn will not be in attendance to present on LCRR.
<p>2. ODW Updates Holly Myers, Office Director</p>	<p>Presentation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ ODW is being proactive with grants and loans, working with governor’s office. ◆ Restraining order preventing release of federal funds. ◆ The Governor’s office is investigating alternates to the deficit. ◆ There will be a new non-permanent Interim Assistant Regional Manager (ARM). ◆ Joseph Perkins of our Eastern Regional Office was hired as interim Regional Manager for the Northwest Regional Office. <p>Questions</p> <p>Q: Will budget cuts impact loan funds for this current cycle? A: Appropriations and reconciliation bills are having difficulty getting passed in DC. EPA is aware that there will be delays. We do have BIL funds and will be waiting for the outcome. ODW is in the best position possible and anticipates writing contracts for the applications approved for July-September timeframe. (Chris Pettit).</p> <p>Q: Will there be a recruitment for ERO Planner and TA Contract Manager? A: Yes.</p>
<p>3. Legislative Updates Brad Burnham, Policy and Planning Section Manager</p>	<p>Presentation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Friday 2/28/25 was the cut-off for fiscal and the next cut-off is 3/12/25 ◆ Bills that have died: HB 1443 (companion SB 5332) Mobile dwellings ◆ HB 1615 Group A connections and population count ◆ HB 1947 SMA requirements for simple group B public water systems ◆ HB 2010—Creating a safe drinking water grant program for economically distressed communities. ◆ SB 5034 (and Companion HB 1064) Maintaining SYNC ◆ HB 1065 Family burial grounds ◆ SB 5055 Promoting Agritourism ◆ SB 5117 Protecting agriculture <p>The SYNC bill Brad mentioned is a proposal to remove sunset date of the SYNC interagency coordination workgroup group. PWB is charged with facilitation of the SYNC group. Promoting Value Planning and Asset Management, emphasizing leveraging federal funding, responding to</p>



	<p>emergencies with funding assistance (Wildfires, flooding, some drought), and now have a data dashboard created to help demonstrate to interested parties the locations of infrastructure investments with and overlay of overburdened, distressed and disadvantages communities. If interested look at the data dashboard the SYNC group has created at SYNC 2.0 (Chris).</p>
<p>4. Update on Lead and Copper Rule Matt Hadorn, Water Quality Emerging Contaminants Lead</p>	<p>Presentation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ No new information received.◆ Ask questions in the chat and Brad will confer with Matt Hadorn <p>Questions</p> <p>Q: Will DOH issue new guidance on performing visual inspections of LSL and lead connectors.</p> <p>A: Uncertain if there have been significant changes. EPA does have guidance and if there are any changes, an update will be shared.</p> <p>Q: Will DOH provide guidance on chain of custody?</p> <p>A: The labs oversee the chain of custody. There are LCR-EPA guidelines as well.</p> <p>Lead Service Line Inventory Guidance 331-711 (PDF)</p> <p>Planning and Developing a Service Line Inventory US EPA</p> <p>Comments</p> <p>There is LSLI TA available for both inventories and improvements (Chris Pettit).</p>
<p>5. Same Farm Exemption John Freitag, Policy Planning Lead</p>	<p>Presentation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Regulatory affairs are set for review, approval and signing◆ Meeting with EPA regarding Group A rules and will propose taking a batch approach that can be managed under current capacity. (Holly)◆ There will also be a proposal to update the RCW and WAC's (Mike) <p>Questions</p> <p>Q: Could you please provide the CFR reference for the federal definition of a water system that WDOH is comparing to for this topic.</p> <p>A: CFR 141.2 and RCW 70.A.125</p>
<p>6. DWSRF Update Chris Pettit, DWSRF Manager</p>	<p>Presentation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Technical Assistance Request Form◆ Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) Washington State Department of Health <p>Questions</p> <p>Q: Given that DWSRF is one year behind on funding and considering the recent budget cuts, what funding opportunities are still available for small community</p>



water systems? Have these cuts affected the likelihood of securing grants for infrastructure improvements, and are there specific project categories that will be prioritized for funding in 2026/2027?

◆ **A:** [Drinking Water State Revolving Fund \(DWSRF\) | Washington State Department of Health](#)

Q: Can we have a link to the White Paper referenced?

A: It is still under development and will be shared once it has been published. Chris shared his email in the chat to follow up on further questions.

Q: Where can we read more about WA DW State Revolving Fund processes and what they encapsulate?

Q: Is there an Advisory Council?

A: There is not a formal advisory council

How often do we update this at the state level?

A: The IACC (Interagency Assistance Coordinating Council) Resource Page provides a summary overview of all funding for water and wastewater projects in Washington State. [Funding Programs for Drinking Water and Wastewater Projects](#)

Q: Is there funding available to assist with the actual consolidation after the feasibility study?

A: There are limited funds available

Q: What is a ballpark number for failing Group A systems (how big a problem is this)? What is the ratio of for-profit vs. public?

A: Once a system is failing, they will be in receivership. It is much better to use funds and resources to work to prevent systems from failing and causing public health concern.

Q: Are we doing anything to prevent privatization of systems?

A: A privately owned system must demonstrate need and work with UTC in setting fees. If public and privately owned systems are being governed correctly, the question is if it is acceptable to turn a profit. There are many philosophies about rates and for-profit vs public. (Chris)

There is a need to ensure that safe, reliable drinking water comes at a cost. It is important and the work that is being done to ensure the delivery of safe and reliable drinking water is also important. (Holly)

7. PFAS Update
Mike Means, Capacity
Development and
Policy Manager

Presentation

- ◆ Rules have been drafted and will be presented for public comment and then adopted into the rules if all things go as planned. We are working on publishing and posting those to webpages this week.
- ◆ What does this mean for implementation? What does this mean for public water systems in WA State? Working with Ecology on the proposal and identifying the fiscal gap. Small water systems are at a disadvantage due to costs, and we are looking at effectiveness and cost analysis.
- ◆ SSB 5033 on PFAS testing is still live and in Rules Comm.

Questions



	<p>Q: What is happening to investigate the PFAS in products like TAGRO and similar sludge products.</p> <p>A: Ecology is looking at this issue and we agree that it is better to prevent contaminants getting in than try to rid them as they come out. (Mike)</p> <p>Q: Has there been any review of requirements for Investor-Owned Utilities that would be burdened by the testing costs?</p> <p>A: All systems: privately owned, investor-owned and publicly owned will have the same requirements regarding treatments and testing. This is why we will continue to work with systems to determine the best path forward. (Mike)</p> <p>Q: Any consideration to start funding now for systems toward WTPO Certification ?</p> <p>A:</p> <p>Q: I've heard DOD is considering lowering their threshold for PFAS concentration in taking responsibility for providing at least some degree of funding for affected neighbors. Any word on that?</p> <p>A: Encourage all to attend the Open House dates of April 23rd and 24th. There was also a memo issued by DoD (Holly and Mike)</p> <p>Q: Is funding for training toward WTPO available?</p> <p>A:</p> <p>Q: Surface water systems that have complete ND results, is there still talk about a waiver for these systems</p> <p>A: There is not a waiver.</p> <p>Q: If a system exceeds the MCL and will be required to put treatment on the system, will there be funding made available ahead of time to put treatment in place before the MCL goes into effect? Or will the MCL need to be in effect first?</p> <p>A: There will be TA available to assist systems in not going into noncompliance. (Mike). Funding Programs for Drinking Water and Wastewater Projects (Holly)</p> <p>THE JBLM Sampling of wells only encompasses the 36 systems identified. (Mike)</p> <p>PFAS Treatment in Drinking Water and Wastewater – State of the Science US EPA</p> <p>PFAS Frequently Asked Questions Lakewood Water District WA</p> <p>Comments</p> <p>These rules would not result in a violation; it would require public notification until 2029 when the MCL’s are updated. (Sophia).</p>
<p>8. Draft Guidance for Climate resilience in Water System Plans Brad Burnham and John Freitag</p>	<p>Presentation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Draft Article shared to DWAG attendees and comments requested. ◆ Reviewed statute ◆ Partnering with University of Washington to update guidebook. UW has been a great resource in researching and assisting with developing a climate resiliency plan with DOH. ◆ WSP Climate Resience Element Supporting Resources PPT (Ann Thebo, UW) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The guidebook language is not intended to be overly prescriptive. These are in draft form and input is encouraged and welcomed. • General comments, feedback or reflections on the documents?



	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• How can we improve the usability of workbook? (Ex: change heading names, additional tables, other worksheet ideas)• Does the document accurately convey flexibility in approaches for water systems to meet the CRE requirement (i.e., this is not a prescriptive approach)?• What other resources might we consider linking to support meeting the CRE requirement? <p>Questions</p> <p>Q: Is the adopted rule effective June 13, "2024" or "2025"?</p> <p>A: The rule has been adopted, and implementation will not be required until June 30, 2025.</p> <p>Q: Does this requirement apply to WSP updates that are being prepared at this time but not yet been submitted for DOH review/approval?</p> <p>A: No, it doesn't apply to this scenario. It will be initiated June 2025. For further assistance, please reach out to the regional planner for your county. (John)</p> <p>Comments</p> <p>Washington State Department of Health Subscribe—New</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Draft documents will be linked to this webpage (Brad)◆ DWSRF provides bonus points for resilience planning in plan and project development (Chris)
<p>9. June 2 Meeting Agenda Planning John Freitag</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Update about changes to Certification Exams coming out this year and when to expect the new exams to be implemented.◆ Reinvigorating work on coordinated water system plans.