

# **CROSS CONNECTION ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES**

## **Tenth Public Meeting**

**Wednesday February 20, 2008  
10:00 am to 12:00 pm  
Balzhiser & Hubbard Engineers  
100 W 13th Ave  
Eugene OR 97401  
971-673-1220 Michael Perry**

### **Board Members in Attendance**

1. Monica Anderson - Balzhiser & Hubbard Engineers [Engineers]
2. Elmer Ostling - [DHS Backflow Assembly Testers]
3. Jerry Thomas - United Pip & Supply [Assembly Manufacturers & Authorized Reps.]
4. Stephen West - Eugene Water & Electric Board [Certified Instructors]

### **Board Members not in Attendance:**

1. Mary Howell [DHS Cross Connection Specialist]
2. Ray Johnson [Water Suppliers]
3. Joe McNelly [Oregon Plumbing Inspectors]
4. Ronald Robertson [Oregon Licensed Plumbers]
5. Vacant [General Public]

### **Other Attendees & Staff:**

- \* Mike Briesemeister - Eugene Water & Electric Board
- \* Jill Hoyenga - Eugene Water & Electric Board
- \* Arlo Langford - City of The Dalles
- \* Michael Perry - DHS CC/BP Coordinator

### **1. Call to Order / Welcome**

Chair, Monica Anderson, called the meeting to order at 10:00 am. She welcomed all attendees. This meeting initiates Monica's year as the CCAB's Chairperson.

### **2. Introductions - Board and Attendees**

The Board members and other attendees introduced themselves. The chair noted that the four Board members in attendance did not constitute a quorum.

### **3. Additions to the Agenda**

There were no formal additions to the agenda.

#### **4. Approval of the November 2007 minutes.**

The minutes of the CCAB meeting for November 28, 2007 were approved.

#### **5. DHS Reports - Michael Perry**

##### 1. Annual Summary Reports.

The ASR forms for 2007 were mailed to the public water systems the week of January 14, 2008. These forms are also available on line. They are to be returned by March 31, 2008. The rate of return for the ASRs for 2006 was 70% which is up from 62% for 2005. ASR forms for 2005 were mailed out and have been mailed since then as this clearly enhances compliance. We hope to keep increasing returns toward our goal of 100%.

##### 2. Appointment and terms of service to the Cross Connection Advisory Board.

There was a discussion in November about avoiding having all Board members' terms end at the same time. Board terms are for three years and there are no provisions in the bylaws for limiting the number of terms an individual may serve. It was agreed at this February meeting to have Mike Perry choose groups of three current Board members to complete their terms on December 31st of 2008, 2009 and 2010. Addendum 1 to these minutes is attached showing a proposed list of Board terms and will be formally voted on at the next Board Meeting on May 14, 2008 when we will hopefully have a quorum.

##### 3. Michael Perry was appointed to the DHS seat on the Plumbers Board.

Their meeting on February 22, 2008 was canceled. The next meeting is scheduled for April 11, 2008.

##### 4. Current Data on Testers and Specialists.

As of 2/11/08 there are:

853 Active Certified Testers.

300 Active Certified Specialists.

142 Active Certified as both Testers and Specialists.

This is a total of 1,295 active certified professionals thru June 30, 2009.

##### 5. Program funding.

About 60% of the 2008 budget for the Cross Connection/Backflow Prevention Program comes from the Annual Fee to the community water systems. About 40% comes from Tester and Specialist certification fees.

##### 6. SDWIS.

The Drinking Water Program has an on line information system, (SDWIS) covering many aspects of the program. We now have some CC/BP information on SDWIS. Besides raising the awareness of our program, this will allow water districts and water consumers more immediate access to our information.

--If you go to (<http://170.104.158.45>) or (<http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/ph/dwp/index.shtml>) then highlight Data Online you will come to the first page of this system

--You can choose information on water systems either by Water System name or by Identification Number.

\*For example, Eugene's PWS ID# is 41- 00287.

\*Choose either "Eugene" or "00287"

\*If you go to the fifth blue bar you will see "Cross Connection Summary Reports". Then you will see three areas.

\*First is "Ordinance Received" which will either be "Yes" if DHS has your Enabling Ordinance or 'blank' if DHS does not have this.

\*Second you will see "Ordinance Status". If the first area above is "Yes", then this will say final. If the first area shows nothing, then this will also be blank. We will be fine tuning this column as we review and finalize prior submittals.

\*Third is "Annual Summary Report Received". This will show the three most current ASRs on file at DHS. Eugene shows 2006, 2005 and 2004. These are the most current ASRs until we enter the data for 2007. If this is blank, no ASR have ever been turned in. If this showed 2005, 2003 and 1999, this means they did not submit an ASR for 2006, 2004, 2002, 2001 and 2000.

#### 7. State Drinking Water Advisory Committee.

The Drinking Water Advisory Committee (DWAC) was set up to advise and assist the Department of Human Services on policies related to the protection, safety and regulation of public drinking water in Oregon. The 2007 legislature put this committee in statute. One of the new positions is dedicated to the Cross Connection industry. Gail Shibley, the Office of Environmental Public Health Administrator has requested a candidate to fill a vacancy on this Committee. Per our discussion, Monica will contact Steve West, Ray Johnson and Mary Howell about filling this position. This needs to be filled before our next CCAB meeting. A candidate needs to fill out a short biography. During a discussion, the makeup of the committee was reviewed. Mike Perry was asked to provide a list of current committee members and the groups they represent. (see Addendum 2). This is a list of the fifteen DWAC positions:

- (1.) Public water systems of cities with a population over 100,000.
- (2.) Privately owned water systems.
- (3.) Environmental advocacy groups.
- (4.) The American Council of Engineering Companies of Oregon.
- (5.) The Conference of Local Health officials created by ORS 431.330.
- (6.) The League of Oregon Cities.
- (7.) The League of Women Voters of Oregon.
- (8.) The Oregon Association of Water Utilities.
- (9.) The Oregon Environmental Health Association.
- (10.) The Oregon Environmental Laboratory Association.
- (11.) The Pacific Northwest Section of American Water Works Assn.

(continued)

- (12.) The Special Districts Association of Oregon.
- \*(13.) Organizations representing plumbers or backflow testers.
- (14.) Water consumers.
- (15.) Watershed councils.

## 6. Old Business - Committee Reports

### 1. Repairs.

Elmer suggested that someone approach the Plumbers Board and see if they would allow a limited plumbing license for repairing backflow devices only. This would have a precedence, since this is similar to what landscapers had originally with a LIBDI license. It was also pointed out that in the beginning, Testers did repairs. Also, there are courses available to those who wish to repair. Washington also allows Testers to repair devices.

Mike Perry passed out copies of emails between Floyd Hensley (OR-ABPA) and Terry Swisher which also addressed repair issues.

Steve West passed out copies of recent proposed changes from the Plumbing Board's Terry Swisher. He reported that Mark Long, Administrator of the Building Codes Division, vetoed these proposed changes referring to Backflow Devices including **"The Authority having Jurisdiction or other department having jurisdiction may inspect such devices or assemblies and, if found to be defective or inoperative, shall require the repair or replacement thereof."** The vetoed elements, at least in part, were said to have been an attempt to come closer to the national model code and to avoid areas they felt they had no jurisdiction.

### 2. Carbonators were discussed and there is a wide variety of local enforcements. IAPMO has rolled back these rules to allow vented dual checks.

### 3. Guidance documents.

No report.

### 4. Statewide Guidelines. [Current Issues]

Steve West proposed that under these guidelines; since the 2007 ASRs are out, the Board's work on ASRs, for now, is completed and this item should be dropped. The board agreed, although they would like Mike Perry to bring any new proposed changes [if any] before the Board for the 2008 ASRs.

### 5. Gauge Calibrations [Jerry Thomas]

Jerry brought and distributed copies of an 11-22-06 report on calibration issues. A discussion ensued about the relative merits of the USC approved water column methodology and the NIST calibrated method. In the correct circumstances both methods are very good. There are concerns over methodology, gauge verification not calibration, approval of people testing gauges, increasing the number of approved places to verify gauges in order to give testers more options, concerns over digital devices and

possible problems in shipping of new gauges. These are areas for the Board and DHS to discuss and resolve in the future.

## **7. New Business**

1. Plumbing Board Code Revisions.  
There are no new additional code revisions pending related to Cross Connection.
2. DCBS Tester Certification Update.  
Nothing to report.
3. Education Programs [individuals and systems]  
Mike Perry said that he was not aware of any PWS system education programs, which are required by the OAR's, in any Ordinances or elsewhere. Board members shared items they were aware of such as Buster Backflow [the third edition is due shortly]. It was also suggested that Mike to contact Ernie Castro of the city of Tualatin who has a good program. Board members agreed that the general public is very unaware of potential problems, the need for backflow devices and testing and cross connections and backflow problems in general. It was suggested that the Drinking Water Program add to their site a general, simple explanation of terms and the like. For those who want a little more information, there could also be another area with more technical information.
4. CCAB Evaluations and Accomplishments.  
The Cross Connection Advisory Board is relatively new and it has taken some time evolve into its present form. It was proposed by Steve West and agreed to by the Board that we spend significant time at the May 14, 2008 meeting to evaluate accomplishments, disseminate information in the future, discuss strategies to accomplish future goals and to generally evaluate the Board.

## **8. Correspondence**

None

## **9. Public Comment**

Nothing new - there were comments as we discussed individual items.

## **10. Next Meetings/Adjourn**

1. The next meeting of the Cross Connection Advisory Board will be:  
May 14, 2008  
10:00 am to 12:00 pm  
Portland State Office Building - Room 1C  
800 NE Oregon ST.  
Portland Oregon
2. Future Meetings:  
August 20, 2008 - Tentative The Dalles  
November 19, 2008 - Portland
3. The meeting was adjourned by Monica Anderson at 11:59 am.

## ADENDUM 1

### **Proposed Term Completion**

- (1.) The following three people/positions will have their initial term end on December 31, 2008:
  1. Monica Anderson [Engineers]
  2. Mary Howell [DHS Cross Connection Specialists]
  3. Ray Johnson [Water Suppliers]
  
- (2.) The following three people/positions will have their initial term end on December 31, 2009:
  1. Joe McNelly [Oregon Plumbing Inspectors]
  2. Elmer Ostling [DHS Backflow Assembly Testers]
  3. Ronald Robertson [Oregon Licensed Plumbers]
  
- (3.) The following three people/positions will have their initial term end on December 31, 2010:
  1. Jerry Thomas [Assembly Manufacturing and Authorized Representatives]
  2. Stephen West [Certified Instructors]
  3. Vacant [General public]

Then in 2011 the persons in the following positions will have their term expire:

1. [Engineers]
2. [DHS Cross Connection Specialist]
3. [Water Suppliers]

And so on in future rotations

## ADENDUM 2

### Representatives on the State Drinking Water Committee

<b>Name &amp; Employer</b>	<b>Representing</b>
Greg Baird Clackamas County Public Health	9. Oregon Environmental Health Association
Ed Butts 4B Engineering	8. Oregon Association of Water Utilities
Sarah Chaplen .	7. Oregon League of Women Voters
Bob Fuller - Chair CH2M Hill	4. American Council of Engineering Companies - Oregon
Todd Heidgerken Tualatin Valley Water District	1. Large Water Systems
Mike Kurtz Suburban East Salem Water District	12. Special Districts Association of Oregon
John McEvoy Linn County Environmental Health	? Conference of Local Environmental Health Supervisors
Kathy Miller Public Utility Commission	2. Privately Owned Water Systems
Beth E Meyers Waterlab Corp.	10. Oregon Environmental Lab Association
Brian Stahl City of Gresham	11. Pacific Northwest Section, American Water Works Association
Steven Weaver City of Carlton	6. League of Oregon Cities
Vacant	? Oregon Public Health Association
Vacant	5. Conference of Public Health Officials
Vacant	13. Plumbers or Backflow Testers
<i>Alternate</i> Paul Eckley City of Salem	11. Pacific Northwest Section of American Water Works Association
<i>Alternate</i> Ed Campbell Portland Water Bureau	1. Large Water Systems
<i>Alternate</i> Mark Snyder Kernville-Gleneden-Lincoln Beach WD	8. Oregon Association of Water Utilities