

Removing Barriers Rule Subtask Force

October 10, 2007 1:00 – 4:00

Lacey, Washington

Meeting Summary

Attendees

Walt Canter, Washington Association of Sewer and Water Districts
Clint Perry, Evergreen Valley Utilities
Bill Peacock, City of Spokane
Dave Lenning, Dept. of Health
Tikva Glantz, City of Olympia
Heather Trim (by phone), People for Puget Sound
Bill Clark, Association of Washington Businesses and WWGSCA

Ecology

Melissa McEachron, Subtask Force Chair
Resources to Committee:

- Katharine Cupps, Ecology Reclaimed Water Lead
- Nancy Winters, Ecology Water Quality Program
- Alissa Ferrell, Ecology Reclaimed Water

Facilitator

Penny Mabie, EnviroIssues

Guests

Lang Marsh, Environmental Law Institute

Ecology Action Items for November 13th Meeting

- Melissa will coordinate with Bill Clark and Sarah Mack to work through the unresolved legal issues (#4) and present their findings at the next meeting, November 13.
- Arrange for updates from the other groups. [Melissa scheduled updates at the **Rule Advisory Committee Meetings**]
- Add each person's role and responsibilities to the state agency organizational structure presented.
- Create a project flow chart. Start with when a project is submitted and detail for both agencies the step-by-step process. For each step, include the specific staff and resources involved.

Subtask Force Action Items for November 13th Meeting

- Complete the 2008 work plan. Narrow the broad topics discussed and set priorities.
- Develop a top 5 - priority list.

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- Provide additional information on the methods or process Ecology used to distribute the reclaimed water survey. [Eugene presented additional information on this at the October Rule Advisory Committee meeting.]

Introductions and Agenda Review

Follow-up on Action Items from Last Meeting:

- Melissa checked into “net meeting” possibilities for subtask force meetings and described the pilot video conferencing and “net meeting” opportunities Ecology.
- Ecology and Health are ready to present information describing staffing roles and responsibilities.
- Ecology is still looking at how to best present information on project planning.
- The Rule Advisory Committee provided direction (September meeting) to this subtask force to develop a work plan for 2008.

Task 1–Overview of Feedback from the Reclaimed Water Use Rule Advisory Committee

- “Brainstorm” results
- Assignment=Develop a work plan

Handout: Reclaimed Water Use: What Are the Barriers?

Melissa created a handout containing the list of five Legislative directives to the Barriers group and the brainstorm list from the September Rule Advisory Committee meeting.

The categories include:

1. Issues assigned by the Rule Advisory Committee
2. Staffing levels, resources, and roles within both state agencies
3. Optimizing organizational structure (ECY and DOH)
4. Unresolved legal issues
5. More appropriate name to describe reclaimed water

Penny asked if addressing the issues in this format worked for the group to sort through the issues and develop a work plan. Member agreed it did.

Task 2 -Develop a Work Plan (Game Plan)

Members evaluated and discussed each bulleted item on the handout in each topic category. The discussion produced several questions and observations:

- Some items are “stand alone” issues.
- A strong need for consistency and direction across agencies exists, including the local government, involved in reclaimed water policy.
- Ecology (and Health) needs to develop a guidance document that takes projects through the regulatory process from start to finish
- Some issues require further information or group coordination.
- It is going to take a great deal time to get these issues resolved and create change.

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- The unresolved legal issues category received little attention. (Not enough time to get into the unresolved legal issues (#4—see handout) during this meeting.)

The subtask force also discussed the relationships between all Reclaimed Water groups including the Rule Advisory Committee, Barriers Subtask Force, Funding Subtask Force, and the Water Rights Advisory Committee. These topics included:

- Boundaries of each group's tasks.
- Communication and coordination between the groups.
- Existing overlap between group members.
- Red flagged issues gaining attention from multiple groups.
- Barriers Subtask Force acts as the “conscience” or “sounding board” of the committee. [Melissa's Note: This group is a subtask force of the Reclaimed Water Use Rule Advisory Committee. The subtask force struggled with the best phrase to describe the concept].
- Provide input into other group's work plans and items.
- Duration of each group—unresolved issues may get passed onto those that are continuing.

Task 3 - Conservation and Reuse Survey Information (PowerPoint)

Eugene Radcliff

Eugene Radcliff presented the preliminary results of his informal survey/questionnaire. (Distributed to various public utility districts, water and sewer districts, cities and counties, and other water related associations). The information provides a snapshot of the reclaimed water world in the State and addresses specific questions from the legislature.

The group generated several questions and provided feedback on further information they would like to have regarding the results. They asked for more information on the distribution and number of respondents.

Task 4- Department of Ecology and Department of Health-Organizational Structure, Roles, and Responsibilities

Roles and Responsibilities of the Reclaimed Water Permit Program (PowerPoint)

Melissa presented a side-by-side overview of Ecology and Health roles and responsibilities for a variety of areas.

Organizational Structure (PowerPoint)

Melissa also provided information describing where reclaimed water staff fit in the organizational structure for Ecology and Health.

The group noted one of the barriers is the staffing level and where reclaimed water is located in each agency. Melissa reminded the group that staff level depends on

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funding from the legislature. The group suggested adding more detail to the organizational charts. Suggestions included:

- Describe staff person's responsibilities.
- Create a reclaimed water project flowchart through agencies and describe each step and which staff is involved.
- Add more detail to the Organizational Charts and highlight the "funded" positions.

Melissa agreed to re-structure the Org. Chart PowerPoint before posting it on the web and pull together additional information on funding and duties.

Wrap up:

Melissa discussed the group's opportunity to look at the draft Removing Barriers chapter of the report and comment on it. Due to the deadline, it will be a short window for feedback. The chapter will be sent out on October 22, 2007 with responses are due by October 24, 2007. The group discussed it and still wanted the opportunity to comment. Melissa agreed to email the chapter no later than Oct. 22, 2007.

For the next meeting:

1. Continue to develop the work plan: break the topics and issues down further.
2. Ecology and Health - Provide additional information on the staffing resources within both agencies and revise the Org. structure PowerPoint.
3. Melissa agreed to work with Bill Clarke and Sarah Mack to sort through the unresolved legal issues category and come up with top priorities.

Announcement:

The Rule Advisory Committee meetings will be held the fourth Wednesday of every month beginning in 2008. Members again requested Subtask Force meeting dates either the day before or after the Rule Advisory Committee meetings.

Adjourn - 4:00 pm