



American Water Works Association
Pacific Northwest Section



PNWS AWWA
ORWARN Committee Report
2017 Spring Trustees Meeting
Kennewick, WA
May 2, 2017

2017-2018 Board Members

Current Board members are:

Mary Ellen Collentine, Portland Water Bureau, Chair
Jeremiah Hunt, Eugene Water and Electric Board, Vice-Chair
Gina Johnson, City of Klamath Falls, Secretary
Stephanie Penselin, Eugene Water and Electric Board, Treasurer
Michelle Owen, City of Baker City, At-Large
Dwayne Barnes, City of Salem, At-Large
Ronnie Mompellier, Portland Bureau of Environmental Services, At-Large
Chris Miccolis, City of Redmond, At-Large

2016 Goals

The Board set 5 goals for 2017. They are:

- Outreach to increase wastewater membership
- Training and exercises
- OEM participation
- Non-utility mutual aid
- Website Improvements

ORWARN Improvement Planning

The EPA through the Horsley Witten Group helped facilitate the tabletop exercise at ORWARN's conference in February of 2016. The Board, Horsley Witten Group and representatives from the EPA continue to meet to discuss improvement planning for ORWARN. There is one more meeting slated in this improvement planning process. ORWARN Board members have also been participating in Horsley Witten Group/EPA sponsored webinars learning more about other WARNs across the Nation, their response abilities, website usage, and EMA/WARN coordination.

Operational Plan Training and Field Training Exercise

This field training exercise took place on March 21 and 22, 2017 in Redmond, Oregon and was a sewer repair response. City of Redmond requested resources from the Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT) and PBOT travelled to Redmond, providing equipment and experienced staff in sewer slip-lining. On the first day traffic plans were laid out and ORWARN 101 was given to the participants and helped make them aware of utility-to-utility response capabilities and coordination. City of Madras staff also attended this event, Madras is not yet a member of ORWARN so this was a good outreach opportunity. The second day the actual slip-lining took place. There was nice media coverage on this even as well.

OAWU Spring Conference

ORWARN Board Members presented at this conference on March 2, 2017, giving the ORWARN 101 presentation as well as a NIMS/ICS presentation. The Board Member that presented was encouraged by response at the ORWARN 101 presentation relating that 1/3 to 1/2 of the room was either aware of ORWARN or knew that their organization was a member.

Cascade to Coast Short School

ORWARN Board Members conducted a table top exercise at the Cascade to Coast Short School in Eugene on March 15, 2017.

Eastern Oregon Operators Conference

Board Members also attended and presented at this conference April 4, 2017, held in Pendleton. ORWARN helped sponsor and arrange the key note speaker for this event from Red Cross. The ORWARN 101 presentation was given as well as speakers from OEM and CH2M. A 2-hour table top exercise was also conducted for attendees. The Annual Membership meeting was held directly at the end of the table top exercise where elections were held.

PNWS/AWWA Conference

ORWARN will be presenting a half day track at the 2017 PNWS AWWA Conference in Kennewick.

Membership and Outreach

ORWARN currently has 125 member utilities and 14 associate members. In order to help facilitate response during emergency times, the Board is working on a plan to increase associate membership, such as local county emergency managers.

In an effort to include more membership agencies in the monthly Board meetings, we will be taking them on the road to member agency facilities. Our March, 2017 Board meeting was held “on the road” in Eugene.

Website

Ways to improve the ORWARN website are being explored. Board Members have been communicating with other WARNS gathering ideas for improvement for ease of member use.