

# ***ORWARN WORKS!***

**PNWS-AWWA Section Conference  
Salem, Oregon**

**May 7, 2009**

# Objectives

- What is a WARN?
- Why a WARN?
- How did Oregon get started?
- ORWARN Status, Issues and 2009 Goals
- How to Join ORWARN?
- 2009 ORWARN Conference  
October 14-16 in Pendleton
- Presentation Goal:  
*No reason not to join!*



# ***What is a WARN?***

- Intrastate mutual aid network for water and wastewater utilities-public and private
- Provides utility-to-utility response
- Can be activated with or without any type of disaster declaration
- Meets FEMA requirements for mutual aid
- Complies with NIMS requirements.
- No cost to join---no obligation

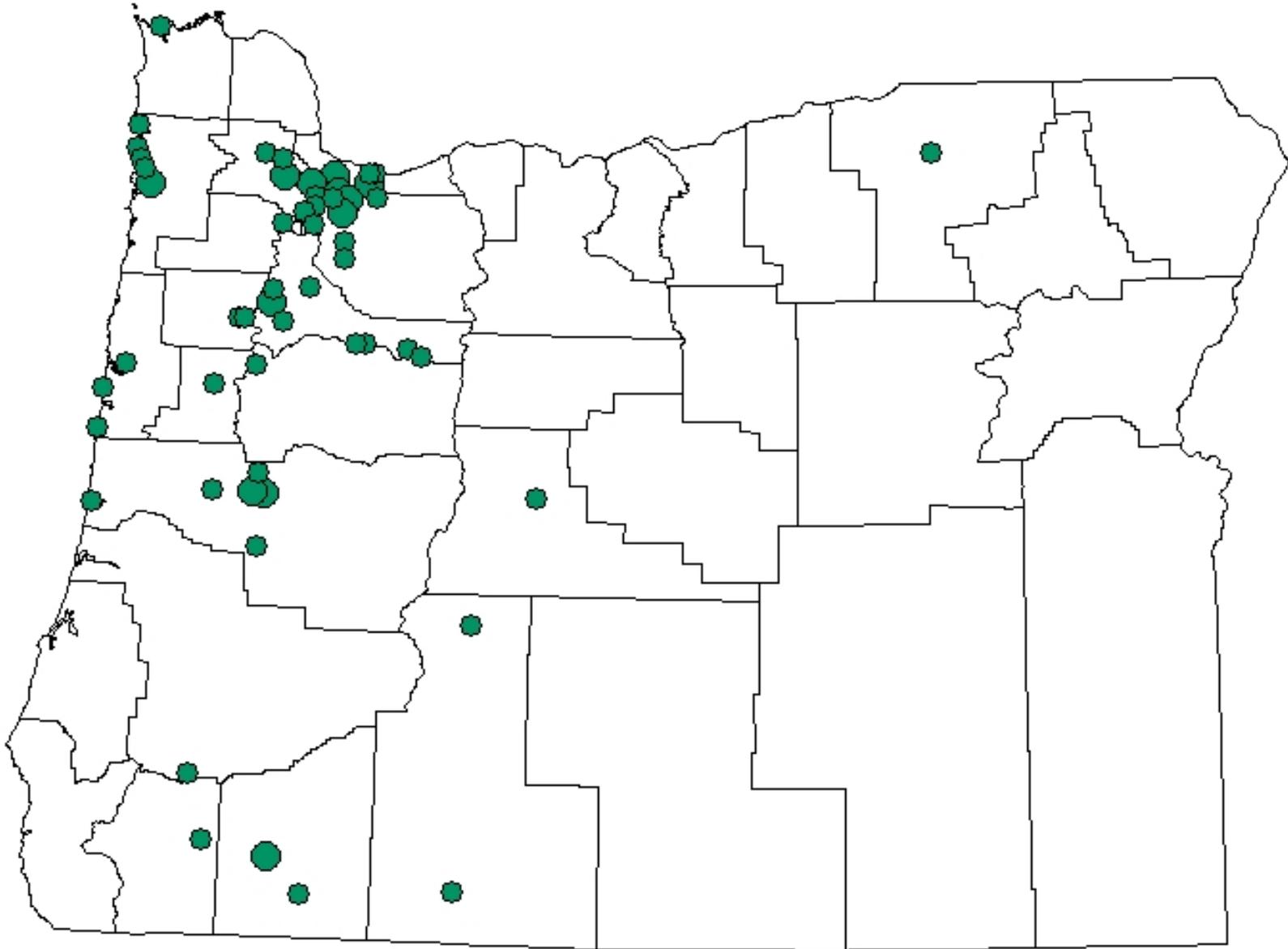
# *Why WARN?*

- Multiple reasons – each utility may have different reasons
- 1996 Floods, September 11,  
    Katrina & Rita, NW Winter Storms
- Portland – Principal driver Katrina experience
- Work with Local Emergency Management
- Utility-to-utility – Be prepared to provide help and manage the help you receive
- EMAC – Interstate challenges

# WARN Status



# ***ORWARN Members***



# ***ORWARN Milestones***

- May 2006 CalWARN Workshop – EBMUD
  - Portland, Salem, Oregon ACWA attended
- First Meeting, August 16, 2006-Salem
  - More players: Eugene, Tualatin Valley Water, Gresham, Hillsboro, Oregon Office of Emergency Management
  - Established initial responsibilities & interim officers
- Monthly meetings
  - Sidebars with attorneys-Agreement January 2007
  - First Signatory-City of Gates (March 15, 2007)
- Marketing campaign underway June 2007
- First annual meeting-September 2007-Bend (76 attendees) Adopted Bylaws and elected Board of Directors
- Second annual meeting-October 2008-Florence (94 attendees)

# *Issues & Non-Issues*

- Funding – Volunteering time and resources
- Agreement Issues
  - Tort limits and liability waivers
  - Public/Private Utility support
- Non-issues
  - State Agency Support (DHS-DEQ-OEM)
  - Association Support



# *Marketing Campaign*

- Presentations/visitations/newsletters/ associations/conferences (AWWA, APWA, LOC, OEMA, DWAC, ACWA, OAWU, PNCWA-WEF)
- Mailings to all water (DHS), and wastewater utilities (DEQ)
- Mailings to city/county emergency managers (OEM)
- Annual Conferences, 2007-Bend , 2008-Florence
- Recommendations from City of Detroit, Oregon Emergency Management, word of mouth
- **Seventy-six members as of April 14, 2009!**

## ORWARN - Oregon Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network

Oregon Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network (ORWARN) is participating in a [national effort by water and wastewater utilities](#) to establish intrastate mutual aid and assistance networks. The objective is to provide rapid, short term deployment of emergency services to restore critical operations to utilities that have sustained damages from natural or man-made events.

### News Releases

[This is an Official ORWARN News Release](#)

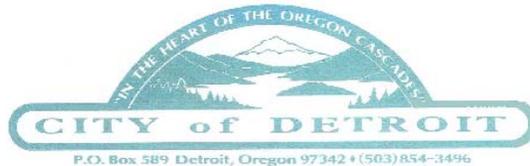
Jan 12, 2009 5:39 pm by [IWPI](#)

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# 2008 Recognition

## City of Detroit Thank You Letter



March 11, 2008

Mike Gotterba  
Emergency Preparedness/Communications Manager  
Salem Public Works  
555 Liberty Street SE, Room 325  
Salem, OR 97301-3503

RE: Oregon Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network (ORWARN)

Dear Mr. Gotterba,

In the June 16, 2007 Detroit City Council meeting, Council unanimously voted to join ORWARN. It was a no-brainer; not only was it free to join, but the idea of cities helping each other in time of need made sense.

Little did we know that the City of Detroit would need help just a few months later!

The now legendary snowstorm that started in December of 2007 and continued into February 2008 took its toll. We knew we were in trouble when we no longer could access the water plant. Desperate to find a solution, we turned to ORWARN for help.

Mr. Gotterba, as the coordinator of ORWARN, we are greatly indebted to you. The enormously quick response to our call superseded all expectations. The City of Salem crew arrived well equipped and had our road to the water plant open in no time at all. They even came up the next day to help us out of immediate danger, despite the fact that Detroit presented a big challenge to their equipment.

The Detroit City Council and the citizens of Detroit wish to thank ORWARN and the City of Salem, a fellow ORWARN member, for the superb and generous service they provided during our time of need. We will never forget.

## OEMA Partner Award: Innovation



# ***2009 Goals***

- Continue marketing statewide. Focused outreach- eastern and southern Oregon
- Offer training/Board Meetings in other parts of Oregon
- Website fully operational
- Work with members to populate website
- Complete ORWARN Operational Plan
- Third Annual Conference, Pendleton  
October 15 & 16

# ***ORWARN Board of Directors***

- Mike Gotterba, City of Salem
- Mike Stuhr, Portland Water Bureau
- Kristel Fesler, City of Hillsboro, Secretary
- Neil Kennedy, Tualatin Valley Water District, Outreach & Membership
- Todd Simmons, EWEB, Training & Exercises

# ***WASHINGTON WARN***

- **WA WARN has just finalized Mutual Aid Agreement!**
- Three utilities presenting agreement to boards this week.
- The WA WARN program enjoys participation from the US EPA, Washington State Department of Health, Washington State Emergency Management Division, Washington State Public Health Laboratory, Evergreen Rural Water of Washington, a Rural Community Assistance Compact.
- 58 water systems/public utilities have expressed interest.
- Contact: Jim Harksen  
(360) 236-3180  
jim.harksen@doh.wa.gov

# ***IDAHO WARN***

- IDWARN is Up and Running!
- Six members to date with another two or three very close.
- Completed two exercises
- Contact: Bill Carr  
United Water  
(208) 362-7369  
bill.carr@unitedwater.com
- <http://www.idwarn.org/default.aspx>
- Bill Carr quote (5/6/09): “We are small but mighty!”

# ***Benefits Summary***

- No cost to join
- Drives internal emergency preparedness thinking and activity
- Fosters utility-to-utility relationship building
- Fosters utility-to-emergency management relationship building
- **WARNs are Resources. They are Free!**  
Can get you help quicker and possibly save you money!
- **ORWARN Works!**-Just ask Detroit.

# ***Contact Information***

Mike Gotterba  
Emergency Preparedness/Communications Manager  
Salem Public Works  
555 Liberty Street SE  
Salem, OR 97301-3503  
503-588-6347 direct  
503-949-1015 cell  
503-588-6025 fax  
mgotterba@cityofsalem.net



# Questions?

