



American Water Works Association
Pacific Northwest Section



PNWS AWWA
ORWARN Committee Report
2017 Fall Trustees Meeting
October 4-6, 2017
Bend, OR

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

2017 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. The last improvement planning meeting was held and ORWARN Board members will continue working on the goals that were captured in the planning process.

Horsley Witten and EPA also conducted a Mutual Aid and Assistance workshop in Pasco, WA November 2016. It was sponsored by the three WARNs in the PNWS AWWA. The second improvement planning call was held in August 2017 for this effort.

Water Operational Plan Training and Field Training Exercise 2018

After the success of the wastewater operational plan training and field exercise earlier this year, ORWARN Board decided to coordinate a similar training for the water sector and are planning on having it in Spring, 2018. The location and dates are still being worked on.

Membership and Outreach

ORWARN currently has 128 member utilities and 14 associate members. In order to help facilitate response during emergency times, the Board is working on a plan to bring more associate members into the group, 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 after the national WARN meeting in October 2016 and an EPA sponsored workshop on WARN website capabilities. The website is 10 years old and in need of a major overhaul. Board Members have been communicating with other WARNs gathering ideas for improvements that allow resource requests to be sent out by a member to the entire membership, resource request tracking, notifications to Emergency Management Agencies (County and State), and other improvements that will make the website much more user friendly and a better tool that members can use during an activation. The Board has obtained a cost proposal from the original website developer and is looking for funding sources to implement changes.