



# American Water Works Association Pacific Northwest Section

## PNWS-AWWA Government Relations Division Report

Submitted by Ronda Farmer Past Chair and Government Relations Liaison

### IDWARN:

- Continued COVID 19 response with keeping a list of available operators to assist systems as needed due to staff shortages.
- Supply chain shortages have been a concern as a byproduct of the pandemic. We have circulated several surveys from DEQ, EPA, and other industry representatives throughout the year working to gather information about the supply change shortages.
- IRWA and Idaho DEQ entered into an agreement wherein Idaho DEQ purchased two portable potable drinking water trailers to dispatch to communities in need of temporary drinking water supplies in lieu of bottled water. IRWA on behalf of WARN maintains and dispatches the trailers. The trailers have been dispatched to two locations since the trailers were purchased late summer: Genesee, ID and Harvard, ID. The trailer in Genesee has been used long-term pending installation of a new water source.
- Worked with Water Information Sharing and Analysis Center (WaterISAC) in asking utilities to respond to a survey about physical and cyber incidents and suspicious activities they have experienced.
- Onaway, Idaho serves 187 citizens and was on boil order after their pump went down unexpectedly. A replacement pump was on order but was several weeks out. After a call from a concerned citizen IdWARN was dispatched and a replacement pump was identified in a neighboring community and installed within a couple of days. The community water service was back-up and operational after a clean drinking water sample was received. The pump on order was received as scheduled and is being held in storage.
- Kootenai County Water District #1 lost the ability to supply water due to an extended power outage. A temporary generator was connected but temporary water supply was needed to allow the utility time to flush the system and obtain a clean sample. IdWARN was activated and the local Office of Emergency Management was notified. The Director of the local OEM was able to help secure portable toilets and 2 pallets of donated bottled water to serve as temporary water supply.
- Provided systems information and guidance for AWIA compliance focusing on developing risk and resilience assessments that included a review of their cyber security and coordination with their local emergency planning committee or county emergency manager.

### ORWARN:

No report submitted

**WAWARN:**

No report submitted.

**Idaho Water Utility Council:**

No report submitted.

**Oregon Water Utility Council:**

No report submitted.

**Washington Water Utilities Council:**

The WUC was very active in the last part of 2021 and into the start of 2022. In addition the OWUC hosted the Tri-State WUC virtually in November.

**Issues and Priorities**

Each month we share updates on Washington legal cases of interest to our members. Of particular note is the *Westwater* case (L&I water pipe construction prevailing wage issue). In addition, the WWUC met with Department of Ecology and Department of Health leadership in separate meetings to build relationships with new leadership and share our purpose.

**Water Rights**

The WWUC Water Rights Committee has led our participation and involvement with the Foster Joint Legislative Task Force, provided input on the Department of Ecology's Policy 1050, and monitored and planned for engagement related to Ecology's efforts associated with Policy 2030 and the Municipal Water Law. The WWUC is jointly funding work associated with water mitigation and impairment laws to analyze other states. Work was also coordinated to collaborate and present to the Foster Joint Legislative task force on conservation, water use and recharge.

**Legislative**

Federal and state legislative updates are provided at least monthly, including the federal infrastructure bill, Washington's shut-off moratorium, bill assistance and LIHWAP, arrearages, the salmon package and more. Weekly legislative calls are actively happening during the state session to share legislative agendas, bill status and language, and collaborate and coordinate lobbying and education related to active bills. We also share information on state budget proposals.