



## **Cooperative Public Agencies of Washington County Minutes for January 8, 2015**

**Members Present:**           **Chair, Dave Willer – Forest Grove**  
**Mark Crowell – City of Cornelius**  
**DJ Ezell – Rivergrove Water District**  
**Dale Fishback – Tualatin Valley Water District**  
**Guy Graham– City of Lake Oswego**  
**Arnie Gray – City of Wilsonville**  
**Lynn Johnson – City of Sherwood**  
**Melissa Koons – City of Tualatin**  
**Steve Lampert – City of Hillsboro**  
**Keith Lewis – Washington County**  
**Mike Lueck – City of Tigard**  
**Bert Olheiser – City of Tualatin**  
**Ryan Sandhu– Clean Water Services**  
**Mel Schultz – City of Beaverton**  
**Vance Walker – City of Tigard**

Chair Dave Willer called the meeting to order at 9am. The meeting took place at 1850 SW 170<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Beaverton, Oregon.

### **INTRODUCTIONS**

All members present and our guests Rene Redelsperger from the City of Cornelius and Joshua Ayres from Tualatin Valley Water District introduced themselves.

### **HOST PRESENTATIONS**

Dale Fishback, Field Operations Manager at Tualatin Valley Water District (TVWD), presented on the newly acquired electric Meter Reading Vehicle, Firefly ESV (Essential Services Vehicle).

Dale invited Josh Ayres to our meeting because he is currently using the new vehicle and can provide additional input and answer questions. TVWD started using postal vehicles about 30 years ago. The benefits to the postal vehicles include: right hand driving and easy in and out of the vehicle. The only problem is that the post office makes them and the last time they manufactured them was in the mid 90's. In order to get by, TVWD had purchased used vehicles or wrecked ones, using the parts to build a vehicle.

So, they needed to look for other options. This vehicle was order 1.5 years ago from a startup company in Texas. They originally looked at the Go-4, but the FireFly prevailed. Top on the list for pursuing this option was that the vehicle was electric. There were some initial concerns about the ergonomics, but they were comparable to what the staff are used to.

The FireFly ESV model, purchased at \$38,000, and although high, it was customized to TVWD specifications has now been running for two weeks, part of a two month pilot period. They are hopeful for a positive outcome as they have not yet found other viable options. Josh added that they started the trial period in the Cooper Mountain area. He and Dale spoke about the steeper grades and larger area to cover making it a good starting point.

Dale spoke about the technical specifications of the vehicle stating it has a sophisticated data monitoring system, on board computer, don't know anticipated life of vehicle, but battery life is about 4 years.

Regarding method of taking meter reads, it would take approximately 1/3 longer to walk and take reads, vs. this method. Josh stated this vehicle is as fast as what they were able to accomplish in other vehicles. Long-term plan is to go to radio reads; remote reading will be the standard, but not there yet. Additional comment about battery powered transmitter in each meter and that satellites are very expensive.

Mark Crowell spoke about how it's done in City of Cornelius. He also spoke about how it's done in Forest Grove since his wife is a meter reader in Forest Grove.

Dale spoke about the challenges, bi-monthly reads, 5 readers, do reads 5 days a week, TVWD also does contract reads for City of Beaverton.

Lynn Johnson also spoke about challenges they face in Sherwood, they only have one reader.

Bert Olheiser said we contract it out and the contractors use scooters. How does that compare? Dale said it didn't work well for TVWD because of balance issues on the scooters and not being able to carrying enough equipment on board. Staff will do whatever needs to be done to get an accurate read as well as clean out the meter or note maintenance needs vs. the scooter can't keep enough equipment on it to do that type of work. Dale added that they also looked at Segways as an option, but ruled them out.

Keith Lewis asked about how significantly these changes are and if this vehicle doesn't work out what will they do with this vehicle? Dale wasn't sure, it's just too early to know and they don't have any other options up to this point. The end users are going to have to decide what they want to use.

Vance Walker asked why they didn't go with the Go-4's. Dale answered that the narrow door opening was a challenge and there were a couple other problems.

Dave spoke about the area that they are trying to cover vs. what many of us are working with which can be less. These are built to go 45mph. Licensed as a motorcycle, but issued full-sized plates.

Question was asked about service options for this vehicle. MC Electric is where they go for local service. Not a lot to service on the vehicle, most of the parts are standard. If issues come up, they plan to call the dealer for electrical issues. Don't know replacement cost of battery. They are getting 40-60 miles on a battery charge depending on the route. There is a limp mode available that will give you 20 more miles once the battery is "out" and you can always go to a charging station if needed. They are charging on a 110 station and it takes 12 hours to charge using the same as standard car charging stations.

Mel Schultz asked if Dale thought the cost of the vehicle would come down. Dale thought the costs would come down eventually, but since they are currently only being built by the 100's and only being built for 1.5 years probably not too soon. They are being used in Seattle, but TVWD is the only place in Oregon.

Dave Willer said that \$38,000 may seem like a large layout in price, but compared to a vehicle and the costs of a 3/4 ton pickup that they are costing out right now, at \$46,000 and comparing the fuel cost savings over 10 years, it is something to keep in mind. Keith Lewis mentioned the cost of replacement batteries, but still big savings over fuel.

This is the first meter reading application, which was why the vehicle needed customized. The company keeps sending out their rep, so they seem to be viable. They had a backlog in production so seem to have a large number of orders. Dale said a rep will be visiting Oregon later this month if anyone is interested he will provide the contact information.

We went outside to view the vehicle.

## **FINANCIAL REPORT**

Dave Willer reported the current balance of \$10,925.57 ending December 31, 2014.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Fleet**

None

### **RDPO Update**

Keith Lewis has received some sporadic emails, but hasn't been to any meetings in several months. No recent actions for grants or funds and a short turn-around time for projects. Money continues to dwindle down from previous years. Some availability for water purification systems, but that's about it.

### **Storm/Sanitary**

None

## **Training**

Keith Lewis didn't get a chance to speak to Deb Dalenberg, but knows that standard training opportunities are available. Feel free to contact Deb directly or speak to Keith after the meeting. One option that is available is the Lead Worker training, which is going very well. Steve Lampert asked about the availability of having a large group attend the lead worker session and who will be putting the training on. Keith stated that Learning Point Incorporated in Vancouver is the group and he thought that a large group was possible, to contact Deb for details.

Mel Schultz asked Steve Lampert about Hillsboro University that is currently taking place. Steve said it's just internal, mandatory training, but that CEU's are being offered, utilizing both in-house trainers and vendors.

## **Fall Workshop**

Dave Willer spoke about the need for a subcommittee for the Fall Workshop. He asked for volunteers. Steve Lampert, Keith Lewis and Mel Schultz all volunteered to serve. Keith spoke about the Emergency Management training sessions from back East and how we might be able to incorporate those into the next workshop. Vance Walker asked if EMI might help out with the costs of bringing any of the speakers that they had at the training. Dave asked that anyone who attends a helpful training session to bring the information back to the group.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Resource Directory**

Dave Willer presented on behalf of Chris Walsh of Washington County about the Resource Directory.

The directory has been a joint Washington County/CPAWC project for the last 13 years. Original project partners include Washington County, Clackamas County, and Portland Water Bureau. Last year total participants grew to five counties: Clackamas; Clark, Columbia, Multnomah, and Washington, and the Portland Water Bureau dropped out.

Last year's directory update \$25,000 was paid for the State Homeland Security Funds, which are not available this year. Current (FK2015) update: after negotiations, the proposal from Healthcare Business Education (HBE) has a cost reduction of about \$10,000 from last year resulting in a cost to each of the five participating counties of \$3,275.

Mark Crowell asked what did we budget and do we ever use it. We don't, but we would need it during an emergency. Mel Schultz asked if we were duplicating efforts for what we are doing in our own agencies. Mike Lueck said that we use it in our EOC's regularly and during exercises. Mel then asked if there is a budget in the Emergency Management budgets in the individual cities. Past practice is that we have funded it, but that we got a printed copy for each of us.

General discussion around the table including Mel Schultz said that Beaverton may have printing available and Keith Lewis spoke about it as a risk analysis.

Mark Crowell made a motion that we proceed and purchase. Lynn Johnson 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Dale Fishback asked a question, that we go back and ask questions about them kicking in funding. Guy Graham asked about using the next year to evaluate the process. Took a vote of all members: all that voted, were in favor.

Chris Walsh had another question he sent to the group: how many hard copies would members want? Dave Willer passed a sheet around for agencies to record what they wanted. After brief discussion there was a change of plan and Melissa Koons will email out a PDF of the request for hardcopy. Each agency will also be asking their own agency about funding options.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Storm/Sanitary Subcommittee Transition**

Dave Willer introduced Ryan Sandhu, Field Operations Manager from CWS. Ryan appreciates the sharing opportunities afforded to CWS from being part of CPAWC and wants continued representation for CWS since Ted Classen's retirement. Ryan plans to continue supporting CPAWC by having staff attend the subcommittee and CPAWC meetings. He has two supervisors available to send that he is considering; Don Janek who has been with the district since 1990, a current Line Maintenance supervisor or Gabe Sohler, Field Operations Construction supervisor, who has been with the district 10+ years. Ryan plans to bring Don to the next meeting. Dave Willer agreed that it is helpful to have someone from Ted's committee attend our meeting, although they don't have to both be the same person, one can be in charge of the subcommittee and the other can attend the CPAWC meeting.

## **CPAWC AT WORK**

Please submit your sharing logs online at [www.cpawc.org](http://www.cpawc.org).

### **Sharing Around the Table**

Recent sharing was discussed around the table and will be reported online.

Vance Walker mentioned that City of Tigard has two projects that they may need assistance with; 1) a large equipment trailer to move large concrete stackable blocks and 2) a loader, not a backhoe, to move very large boulders. Guy Graham responded that Lake Oswego may be able to help, Keith Lewis said the County has equipment that may work, and theirs has a thumb too. Mark Crowell said Cornelius may have something that would work for the boulders, but not sure about their trailer, but that Dave Willer's trailer in Forest Grove would work. Steve Lampert added that Hillsboro also had some options.

Mark Crowell asked who has a used big tilt trailer that they may be considering selling. He has about \$5,000 budgeted. Ryan Sandhu has a possibility of one they are phasing

out. Dave Willer said they have one that is working out very well for them. They don't use it often, but it's one he would recommend.

Keith Lewis suggested that members consider borrowing a piece of equipment before making a purchase. He recently borrowed a vac trailer which helped him make a better purchase.

Steve Lampert shared that Hillsboro has a couple of brand new traffic control trucks that are almost ready to go out, they just needed backup alarms on them. They have reader boards on them.

Guy Graham asked if APAA has ever done an article on what CPAWC does. Mark Crowell said it would nice to update our current video. Dave Willer said that even the workshop participants weren't very familiar with who we are and what we do. All agreed that it would be a good project to pursue.

The meeting was adjourned at 11am.

### **FUTURE CPAWC MEETINGS**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Hosting Agency</b>	<b>Location</b>
February 12, 2015	City of Cornelius	1300 S. Kodiak Circle, Cornelius
March 12, 2015	Washington County	1400 SW Walnut Street, Hillsboro
April 9, 2015	City of Beaverton/Public Works Facility	9600 SW Allen Blvd, Beaverton
May 14, 2015	City of Forest Grove	1915 Main Street, Forest Grove
June 11, 2015	City of Tualatin/Operations Facility	10699 SW Herman Road, Tualatin
July 09, 2015	City of Tigard	13125 SW Hall Blvd., Tigard
August 2015	No Meeting	
September 10, 2015	City of Hillsboro	150 East Main, Hillsboro
October 08, 2015	Fall Workshop	
November 12, 2015	City of Sherwood/Operations Facility	15527 SW Willamette St., Sherwood
December 10, 2015	Clean Water Services	2025 SW Merlo Court, Beaverton