

# Table Topic Discussions at ACWA Summer Conference, July – 2016 Summary

## Clean Water Services Watershed NPDES Permit Renewal – Lessons Learned

- Difficulty in getting permits:
  - Lack of DEQ ability to process permits
  - Threat of EPA taking over permits
  - Third Party challenges

## Copper Water Quality Standard – Revisions ahead

No report available

## Electronic DMR Reporting

Key issues included:

- Broad implementation strategies for NPDES permit holders such as timing and training
- Permittees will not make the 12/21/16 deadline
- Phased in implementation
  - Majors: Jan – March, 2017
  - Minors: April – June, 2017
  - General permits: July, 2017...

Municipalities and Districts should:

- Watch for DEQ letter
- Plan for electronic reporting by:
  - Updating permit signatory information
  - Register for Net DMR/Net access in November or December
  - Take on –line training
  - Test enter a DMR
  - Use live system with final DEQ approval

ACWA should:

- Encourage training and use of test system
- Submit questions to DEQ

## Greener Disinfection Processes

No report available

## Hot Topics for WQ Permit Renewal

Key topics included:

- QLS – Additional monitoring; not meeting QLS and having a permit violation
- Washington is requiring permittees to provide ambient water quality data
- Copper standard – ambient and effluent sampling 12 times per year for 2 years; will require a sampling plan
- Mercury minimization plans
- Hauled Waste plan
- Temperature issues
- Toxics – variance discussion

Municipalities and districts should:

- Test for copper-standard related parameters; be prepared to gather site specific data
- Keep trying
- Stay informed

ACWA should:

- Continue the work of the Water Quality committee
- Develop standard templates

## MS4 Phase II Permit Renewal

Key topics included:

- Permit development process overview
- Areas of concern in Phase II permit (could be issues for Phase I renewal also)
  - ‘Reasonable Potential’ language/permit shield
  - Post construction controls
  - IDDE section intensification
  - TMDL section
  - Timeline for new permittees
  - Discrepancies between permit and Permit Evaluation Report
  - Calendar year reporting
- Municipalities and districts should:
  - Review draft permit and provide public comments
  - Consider communicating economic and staffing impact and actual implementation issues to increase understanding
- ACWA should:
  - Request public comment extension
  - Key issues
    - Important stakeholders such as development community not included
    - Key documents referenced in the permit not provided by DEQ
    - New additions not previously discussed added to permit (303(d) and TMDL sections)
  - Work together to provide suggested language modifications

## OR WARN

See <http://www.orwarn.org>

## Oregon Legislative Update & Preview

No report available

## Stormwater Issues

No report available

## Water Quality Trading - DEQ Rule and IMD Update

Key topics included:

- National perspective on trading
- Clean Water Services trading program
- Recent actions by DEQ have put trading on a somewhat firmer ground
- Ensure that DEQ takes trading into consideration in their actions (TMDLs, permits)
- Ensure that the necessary framework exists for utilities interested in trading

## Using Insurance for Bond Sale Reserves

No report available

## WestCoast Infrastructure Exchange

Key topics included:

- Background on how the West Coast Infrastructure Exchange (WCX) was formed (approximately 2-years) and the services it provides to link private partners with public agencies to deliver Performance Based Infrastructure (PBI) projects.
- WCX serves as the translation point between the public and private sectors.
- Public sector decision-makers use WCX to develop best practices and access hands-on training in innovative financing and maintenance methods.
- Potential investors and stakeholders have welcomed WCX’s efforts at developing standards common to multiple infrastructure types across the three states.

- Union and public employee pension funds, which jointly direct hundreds of billions of dollars of investment decisions, are especially interested in WCX's efforts for multiple reasons: the opportunity for long-term investments that match their liabilities, the resulting living-wage jobs, and the economic growth fostered by improved infrastructure.
- PBI (formerly known as Public Private Partnerships or P3) typically utilizes the Design-Build-(Finance)-Operate and Maintain (DB(F)OM) project delivery approach. The Private Sector partner manages the design and construction of the project (typically water and wastewater treatment plants) then operates and maintains the investments for a minimum of 15-years (up to 30-years). The investment remains under the ownership of the agency (i.e. municipality, utility district, etc.) and the public sector partner is required to meet strict performance criteria.
- Municipalities & districts should take this action:
  - It seemed that most of the participants were interested to learn about the PBI project delivery model; however there didn't seem to be much interest to pursue additional information at this time.
- ACWA should:
  - It may be of interest for ACWA to monitor (i.e. check in with) WCX in a couple of years to see if any PBI projects have been completed (or have been initiated) in Oregon. WCX has provided training to public agencies regarding the PBI project process, yet here haven't been any actual PBI projects facilitated by WCX in Oregon to date.