

**DRAFT**



**Board Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, June 9, 2026**

**WRWC Board Members or Alternates present:**

Councilor Keith Mays – City of Sherwood  
Councilor Jake Schlack – City of Tigard  
Councilor Bridget Brooks – City of Tualatin  
Commissioner Todd Sanders – Tualatin Valley Water District (TVWD)

**WRWC Member Staff present:**

Joel Cary – TVWD  
Paul Matthews – TVWD  
Joelle Bennett – TVWD  
Katherine Lipari DeSau – TVWD  
Rich Sattler – City of Sherwood  
Brian Rager – City of Tigard  
Rachel Sykes – City of Tualatin

**Public Members present:**

Deanna Johnson

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**Call to Order**

Chair Schlack called the meeting to order at 4:45 p.m. and announced that Board Members present were Mays, Sanders, and himself.

**1. General Manager's Report**

Joel Cary presented the General Manager's report which included information about Willamette Intake Facilities (WIF), Willamette Water Supply System (WWSS), TVWD's communications for the WWSS integration, the latest water and drought report, and water supply planning efforts (see attached presentation).

Chair Schlack acknowledged that Board Member alternate Brooks joined the meeting during the General Manager's Report (4:50 p.m.).

**2. Public Comment**

There were no public comments.

**3. Consent Agenda**

**A. Approve the February 10, 2026 meeting minutes**

Motion by Mays, second by Sander to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The motion passed with Brooks, Mays, Sanders, and Schlack voting in favor.

**4. Business Agenda**

**A. Election of Officers for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 – Joel Cary**

Joel Cary reminded members that, per the Willamette River Water Coalition's (WRWC) Intergovernmental Agreement, at the beginning of each fiscal year, Board Members must elect a Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary

to serve a one-year term. He also shared information about the Board officer rotation pattern (see attached presentation).

Motion by Sanders, second by Mays to elect Sacco as Chair, Mays as Vice-Chair, and to appoint Katherine Lipari DeSau as Secretary of the WRWC for the 2026-2027 fiscal year. The motion passed with Brooks, Mays, Sanders, and Schlack voting in favor.

Board Member Schlack indicated that he was pleased to have served as WRWC Chair and looks forward to continuing to represent Tigard at future meetings.

## **5. Information Items**

### **A. Willamette Reallocation Update – Joel Cary**

Mr. Cary reported that engagement continues with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) to advance reallocation of Willamette Valley stored water for municipal and industrial (M&I) use. Progress depends on transferring BOR-held stored water rights to the Corps, but BOR has not yet initiated water rights transfer or provided formal written documentation about its concerns. As a result, partners requested the latter and are conducting congressional outreach to help move the process forward.

In response to a question from Board Member Sanders, Mr. Cary conveyed that municipal partners have asked why the M&I portion of the reallocation cannot proceed independently, given that the environmental reviews indicate a viable path forward. However, federal agencies have not provided a clear explanation about why M&I water rights transfers cannot advance while irrigation concerns are addressed separately.

In response to a question, staff stated that BOR has been asked to proceed with M&I transfers while continuing to address irrigation-related concerns; however, no action has been taken to date. Staff have requested and received support from Representatives Salinas and Merkley's offices. Meetings are also scheduled with the delegation in Washington, D.C., to continue advocating on this matter.

### **B. The next meeting is scheduled for October 13, 2026, 4:45 p.m.**

## **6. Communications and Non-Agenda Items**

### **A. Member Updates/Announcements – Tigard, TVWD, Tualatin, and Sherwood.**

Tigard – Mr. Rager conveyed that recruitments are in process and staff are working through the budget process.

TVWD – Mr. Matthews announced that as of July 1, Willamette Water Supply Program Director David Kraska will transition back to the private sector. Joelle Bennett will assume the key leadership role and WRWC will be under her area of charge. Since WWSS construction is not complete, Mr. Kraska will continue his work on this project as a consultant. Mr. Matthews also shared that due to geographics, TVWD is transferring a small number of customers to the City of Tigard in August. He closed by noting that Fitch affirmed TVWD's AA+ bond rating and upgraded the outlook from stable to positive.

Tualatin – Councilor Brooks thanked everyone for their service; she also expressed appreciation for Councilor Sacco's leadership on the WRWC.

Sherwood – Mr. Sattler reported that Sherwood continues working on its water, storm, and sanitary master plan; adoption is anticipated in June 2027.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 5:16 p.m.

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Christen Sacco, Chair


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Keith Mays, Vice-Chair


# WRWC Board Meeting

June 9, 2026

**Joel Cary**  
General Manager




City of Sherwood | City of Tigard | City of Tualatin | Tualatin Valley Water District




1

## WRWC Agenda: June 9, 2026




1. General Manager's Report
2. Public Comment
3. Consent Agenda
  - A. Approve the February 10, 2026 meeting minutes
4. Business Agenda
  - A. Election of Officers for Fiscal Year 2026-2027
5. Information Items
  - A. Willamette Reallocation Update
  - B. The next meeting is scheduled for October 13, 2026, 4:45 p.m.
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  - A. Member Updates/Announcements




2


# General Manager's Report




**I. WIF Commission Updates**




**II. WWSS Updates**




**III. TVWD Communications Update**



**IV. Water and Drought Report**



**V. Water Supply Planning**



3





**WILLAMETTE  
INTAKE FACILITIES  
COMMISSION**

## Watershed Protection Planning Summary

Recent efforts by the project team, partners, and subject matter experts include:

- Finalizing a list of compounds for testing, frequency of monitoring, and how the team will access the river near the intake and 11 river miles upstream.
- Meeting with Marion and Yamhill County emergency management staff to inform the “Geographic Response Plan” slated for finalization in 2027.
- Drafting the first “Watershed Impact Report” to highlight the WIF Commission’s efforts to-date.
- Developing a stakeholder outreach and engagement plan to prioritize resources.

4



## WWSS Updates

- Construction of the WWSS Water Treatment Plant (WTP) continues along with testing of system components.
- The revised timeframe for the end of WTP commissioning and start-up – known as the 30-day test period – is late December.



5

## TVWD Communications Update: Water Supply Integration (WSI)

- To prepare customers for the change to the new WWSS source, TVWD is executing a WSI communications strategy.
- General information via social media continues while other engagement items, such as opinion editorials, have increased to promote community awareness.
- Approximately two months prior to the WWSS WTP start-up, direct customer engagement will increase significantly (e.g., in-home flushing recommendations).


**OPINION: Doing nothing is a choice. Oregon can't afford it.**  
Published 12:00 pm Thursday, May 14, 2026  
By Joel Cary

ENVIRONMENTAL > LOCAL NEWS

### New Water System Coming to Washington County

May 16, 2026 9:37AM PDT

f X SHARE



WASHINGTON COUNTY, Ore. – The Willamette Water Supply System project is about to bring big changes for hundreds of thousands of people in Washington County.

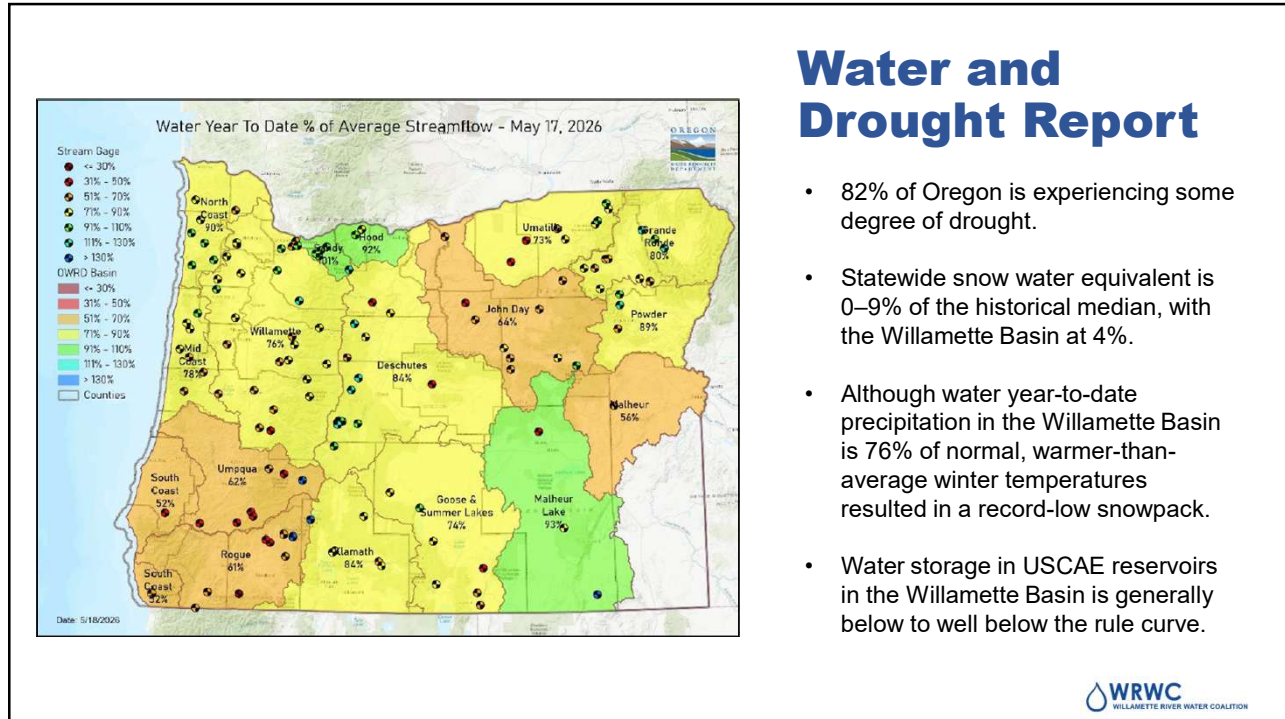
Justin Dyke, with the Tualatin Valley Water District, says it's "Definitely one of the largest water infrastructure projects right now, and we're proud of that effort."

He says it's on track to serve about 350,000 residents and businesses in the Washington County area, once it's finished later this year.

"What we're estimating right now is late 2026, sometime around December."

The Tualatin Valley Water District is partnering with the cities of Hillsboro and Beaverton on the approximately \$1.6 billion project.

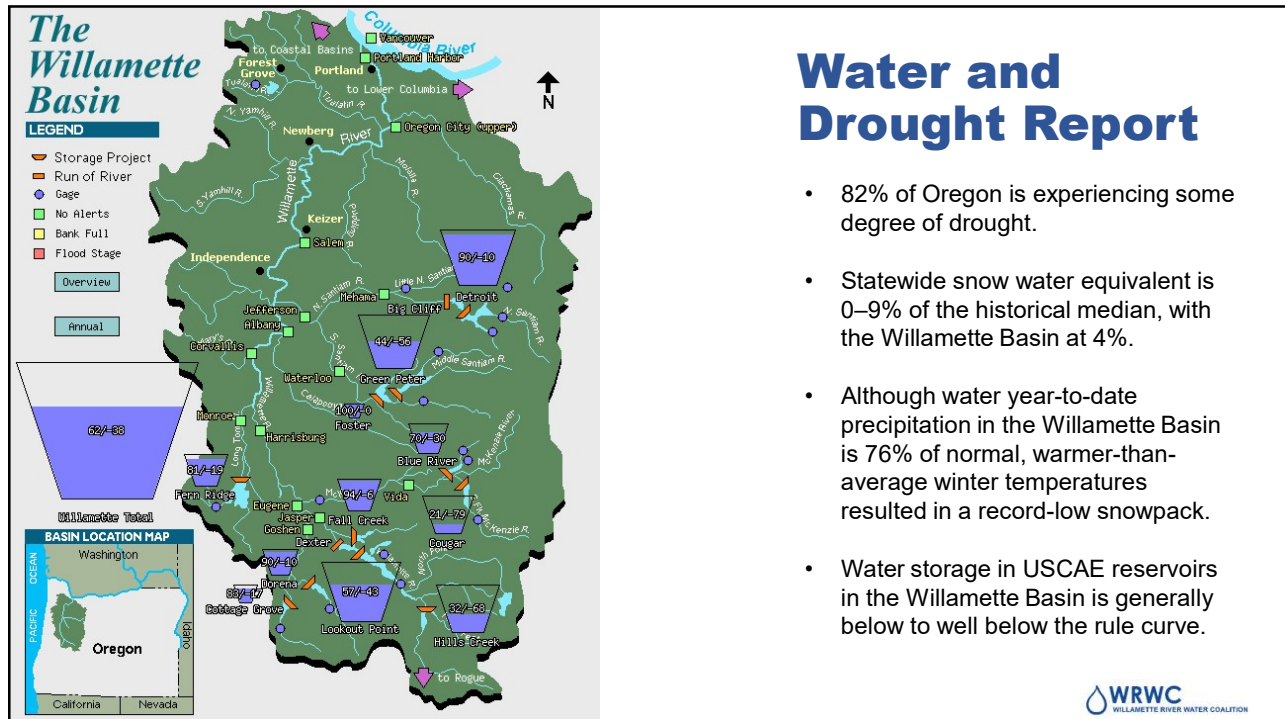
6



- 82% of Oregon is experiencing some degree of drought.
- Statewide snow water equivalent is 0–9% of the historical median, with the Willamette Basin at 4%.
- Although water year-to-date precipitation in the Willamette Basin is 76% of normal, warmer-than-average winter temperatures resulted in a record-low snowpack.
- Water storage in USCAE reservoirs in the Willamette Basin is generally below to well below the rule curve.



7



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8

## Water Supply Planning

- As part of the WRWC's long-term planning efforts related to its water right, Managing Agency staff met with member agency staff in April to capture their current and long-term water supply needs.
- WRWC partners shared their current planning assumptions related to growth and development, water supply and demand outlooks, and ongoing regional partnership coordination.
- These member agency discussions provide a useful planning 'snapshot' to help inform the potential options available for partial perfection of the WRWC permit. Managing Agency staff will continue coordinating with partner agencies as planning efforts continue.

9

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10

## Election of Officers for Fiscal Year 2026-2027

**Joel Cary**  
General Manager



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11

## WRWC Chair and Vice-Chair Positions

- Current Chair position held by Board Member Schlack representing City of Tigard
- Vice-Chair position held by Board Member Sacco representing City of Tualatin
- The WRWC Board needs to elect a Chair and Vice-Chair for the 2026-2027 fiscal year.
- If the Board follows the WRWC officer rotation pattern, Sacco would serve as Chair and Mays, representing City of Sherwood, would serve as Vice-Chair.
- TVWD, as WRWC Managing Agency, provides Secretary services and has designated Katherine Lipari DeSau to serve as Secretary for 2026-2027, if approved by the Board.



12

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13

# Willamette Reallocation Update

**Joel Cary**  
General Manager



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14

# Willamette Reallocation

- Coordination and engagement with the United States Army Corps of Engineers (the Corps) and the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) continues, including efforts at the national level in Washington DC with USACE staff.
- BOR holds the majority of stored water rights necessary to implement the reallocation – currently associated with irrigation use – while the Corps is responsible for reservoir operations and development of storage contracts. As a result, implementation requires coordination between both federal agencies.
- Regional partners continue to coordinate with the Corps DC staff and are working to re-engage BOR. These efforts include congressional outreach to Oregon’s delegates in an effort to encourage federal alignment and progress.

15

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16

**WRWC Board Meeting**  
Member updates and announcements



City of Sherwood | City of Tigard | City of Tualatin | Tualatin Valley Water District

