



**Mt. Tabor Reservoirs Public Meeting  
November 19, 2014  
Warner Pacific College**

**Public Comment Summary**

**Speakers:**

Commissioner Amanda Fritz  
Commissioner Nick Fish  
Brett Horner, Portland Parks & Recreation  
Teresa Elliott, Water Bureau

**Facilitator:**

Teri Pierson, Resolutions Northwest

Members of the public were invited to participate in a discussion about the future of the Mt. Tabor Reservoirs. Three concepts were presented as possible alternative treatments for the reservoirs after they are taken off line. The option for the community to suggest another concept was also available.

The feedback from this meeting and the public comments received will be used by Commissioner Fritz and Commissioner Fish to frame their recommendations for the reservoirs to City Council. Funding for the identified preferred alternative will be requested in the FY 2015-16 Budget Process.

**Below is a summary of the themes repeated throughout the meeting on November 19<sup>th</sup>.**

- **Participants felt that the Water Bureau has not been transparent or communicative.**
- **Maintaining the historic aspects of the reservoirs and their relationship to the park is important.**  
Participants were proud of the link between the reservoirs and the Bull Run Watershed and view this as a valuable historic asset for the City. They want the integrity and beauty of the reservoirs to be maintained.
- **Health concerns related to reservoir disconnection**  
Some participants indicated that a covered reservoir doesn't provide the same health benefits as an open reservoir system.
- **Opposition to the Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule (LT2)**  
Some participants indicated that the City hasn't fought hard enough against the ruling, and that the City needs to understand the tension between federal law and what's best for the people.

It should be noted that there were several participants that felt intimidated and overshadowed by a vocal and assertive group of reservoir advocates. Please also see comment summary.

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**Public Meeting Summary Notes - the following represents the perspectives of individuals who participated in the November 19<sup>th</sup> meeting.**

- Request for line item budget for \$90K in Concept 1
- Tour of Powell Butte – budget impacts of cracks in tanks. Water Bureau didn't provide a reason for cracks.
- Radon – Columbia South Shore well field could be expanded in response to climate change
- Proud of Mt. Tabor park. Would like Commissioners to hear what people have to say tonight.
- Speaking as a youth—encourage speaking to youth with music and media. Want to work with you to make voices heard.
- Contracts awarded to corporate “cronyism”, reduces power of the people to make decisions.
- EPA may change reservoir requirements in 2016
- Concern about radon and other chemicals in a covered water system; impacts to human and animal health. Very serious concern about pristine Bull Run Water.
- Attendee sang “Eyes on the Prize”
- Hurt by what's happening to reservoirs, the City hasn't fought as hard as they could have.
- Want the reservoirs left alone. Local government not responding to public will. Take it very seriously and at least want this to be reversible easily.
- Washington Park Reservoirs wasted money. Waiver process has been unacceptable, not based on scientific info. Public health issues, including radon and decay particles. Open reservoir is a perfect ecosystem and covered does not provide same benefits
- Kids are interested in this issue. Four concepts don't address core issue. Why submit to federal government? How to oppose? How to support the City in opposition to Federal Government?
- Don't feel that the City answers are always truthful when there are other options to oppose federal regulations, including:
  - suing OHA on legislative intent
  - The City vacates resolution on arbitrary deadline and follow New York and New Jersey
- Understand tension between federal law and what is best for the people. Inspired by citizens and counties standing up for their health and welfare of ask city to do more—address people.
- Speculation of corruption and call upon city to care for our health.
- Working on multiple fronts. Reservoir 6 was drained and Commissioner Fish put water back in. There is an ongoing process including CAC and historical hearing. Looking at OARs and not clear if air gap disconnect is necessary. Also, value of historic integration of water to park. And importance of redundancy in water system and look at concepts that maintain integrity of reservoirs.
- Mt. Tabor is a gorgeous place and fed law is based on post 9/11 fear. Based on political level. Don't want to see the reservoirs covered.
- Joe Glicker “manipulate public opinion”

- Former Head of Water Bureau – Contracts and consultancy wrote LT2 rule – corporate set up
    - Why are we paying him? Why are we putting out “no cap” contracts?
- Resolution to change the deadline for decommissioning
  - Metaphor of bride going to arranged marriage
  - Model courage vs. leadership
- Quoted Nick Fish fixing something that doesn’t need it poisonedwater@camplajunne
  - Beverly Hills H.S. – 7 member of soccer team have CA (?)
- Mt. Tabor Reservoirs are tip of iceberg
  - Corruption is rampant – no bid contracts – costs exceed contract amounts
- Commissioner Fish
  - Will answer all questions including ones related to corruption. Desire for transparency. Debate on turning water control to private company has history of increasing voice of the people.
- Commissioner Fritz
  - Committed to answering questions.
  - Change format for December meeting
  - Encourage public comment

**Next Process:**

- Both Commissioner Fish and Fritz will discuss the issues and concerns addressed by the public while continuing to encourage public commentary and feedback. Then, they will answer all questions with special attention towards the public’s mistrust of the Water Bureau revisit the format for the December 10 meeting.
- Participant’s Request
  - Resolution to change the EPA federal mandate