

Briefing for PWSRCAC Board of Directors – May 2025

ACTION ITEM

Sponsor: Danielle Verna and the Scientific Advisory Committee

Project number and name or topic: 6560 - Peer Listener Manual Distribution

1. **Description of agenda item:** The Board is being asked to accept the distribution plan and outreach materials for the Peer Listener Manual finalized by Agnew::Beck Consulting in April 2025. The Peer Listener Manual is an appendix to the Council’s “Coping with Technological Disasters – A User-Friendly Guidebook.” Originally developed in the 1990s, the Peer Listener Manual has recently been updated and revised to reflect our current understanding of mental health and community resiliency. In this project, a distribution plan was developed and outreach tools were created to aid Council staff and others when sharing and broadening the reach of the manual within our region and beyond. These outreach tools include a one-page version of the manual, a rack card, social media posts, and an audio version of the manual. Project Managers from Agnew::Beck will present the plan and outreach materials, and will be available to answer questions.

2. **Why is this item important to PWSRCAC:** The Peer Listener program was a flagship social sciences program of the Council when it was first offered in the 1990s, and at the time was cutting edge in its acknowledgement of the pervasive impacts of technological disasters in a community. The extensive human impact of a major oil spill continues to be largely overlooked in contingency planning and response structures. The Council recognizes the importance of helping local residents cope with the sociological effects of an oil spill. The fields of peer-to-peer support and mental health have evolved substantially since the original manual was developed. The revised manual builds on the latest understanding of active listening and informal support needs and benefits. The intended outcome of the Peer Listener program is resilient communities with strong social support systems in place before an incident occurs. In order for this to happen, community members must be aware of the manual and how to use it.

3. **Previous actions taken by the Board on this item:**

Meeting	Date	Action
Board	9/21/2023	The Board accepted the “Peer Listener Training Manual” by Agnew::Beck Consulting, Inc., dated August 1, 2023, as meeting the terms and conditions of Contract 6560.23.01, and for distribution to the public.
Board	5/2/2024	The Board adopted the FY2025 budget as presented during the Budget Workshop on April 25, 2024, to include this project.

4. **Summary of policy, issues, support, or opposition:** None.

5. **Committee Recommendation:** The Scientific Advisory Committee recommended the Board of Directors accept these materials as revised at its meeting on March 20, 2025.

Report Acceptance: Peer Listener Manual Distribution Plan 4-9

6. **Relationship to LRP and Budget:** Work associated with this project was completed under contract 6560.25.01 with a not to exceed amount of \$32,885.
7. **Action Requested of the Board of Directors:** Accept the Peer Listener Manual distribution plan and outreach materials prepared by Agnew::Beck Consulting, Inc. dated April 2025, as meeting the terms and conditions of contract number 6560.25.01, and for distribution to the public.
8. **Alternatives:** None recommended.
9. **Attachments:**
 - Peer Listener Manual Distribution Plan
 - Peer Listener Manual Article
 - Peer Listener Manual One Page Manual
 - Peer Listener Manual Rack Card
 - Peer Listener Manual Social Media Carousel Posts
 - Peer Listener Manual (audio version)
 - Peer Listener Moments (audio)