

Notes from Coordinating Committee Meeting, May 7, 2019

In attendance from the Coordinating Committee were Tim Gross, Matt Thomas, Harmony Burreight, Jim Tooke, and Adam Denlinger. Also attending were Steve Greenwood from the National Policy Consensus Center, Wendy Willis from Oregon's Kitchen Table, and Lee Ann Prchal.

OKT Survey Results – Wendy Willis

Wendy reported that 680 people participated in the survey in some way, either online, by turning in a paper survey, or attending a listening session. There were three listening sessions, all in Spanish. Wendy said that 11% indicated they were Spanish speakers, which means Spanish is their preferred language. This is higher than our census data.

Key takeaways

- Demographics – large number over age of 61
- Water is high priority with Health being #1 and Water & Environment #2
- Education was low priority, probably due to older population
- Within water being high – top concern was sufficient water for home use
- 57% thought that water bills are not too high
- Regarding the question, “What to do about water shortages,” open answers indicate that people don't know about water shortages or think others don't know. Responses were widely spread on strategies.
- Not many people know about the Partnership's work.
- Summary from Spanish sessions – the Spanish speakers had to conserve water in their home countries, so they are very familiar with this concept.

Jim asked what Wendy thought about the number of participants. Wendy thinks it was a good turnout considering this isn't a hot or controversial topic right now. Jim said Yachats has had two drought seasons so he is surprised that people don't know. Wendy said it could be that people don't think it's a long-term problem. Jim said it would be helpful to show the history. Wendy said that repetition is important to keep exposing people to understandable data.

Harmony was surprised that people rated water so high. She also said that people don't see how dependent the economy is on water. Wendy pointed out that people don't know where their water comes from, and she noticed that industry isn't participating in the Partnership. Jim said that people don't think in terms of what it would mean if there is no water. Tim said that people don't respond until they have no water or their water bill goes up.

Harmony asked Wendy for her thoughts about how to use the data to improve engagement with broader public. Wendy said it is good to know that water access at home is important to people, which means we can connect with their concerns through that door. She also pointed out that people here have a scenic enjoyment of water because of the ocean. This indicates there is a ripe public to talk about water issues. She said to be visible, give water-saving tips, show up at the Fair. People are up for conservation. That's positive. Because water at their homes is important, people have concern for infrastructure. She said to remember the Spanish-

speaking population. We need to be visible with them and be where people are already gathering. She pointed out there was nothing in the results about people not caring, which is really good.

Harmony asked, where do we go from here? Jim said that local control is important and we need to come up with solutions at a local level. He suggested sharing this information with residents, business owners, and city councils. Wendy said to put it online, share with the participants and the Tribe, make it public. Harmony said we could send an email to the Partnership list with a cover letter saying ways we will use the information and ways people can use the information, send a press release. She asked Jim to write up bullet points listing what people can do with this information. Harmony said she will work with Jim, putting together a cover letter to review. She will also ask Alan to help with a press release.

(Adam Denlinger joined the call.)

Opportunity to Build Collaboration Skills – Steven Greenwood, National Policy Consensus Center

Steven said the NPCC can offer free collaboration training. He said he facilitates free trainings on how to work with others, what successful collaboration looks like, avoiding pitfalls, trust issues, guidelines to speed up outcomes, what each person can do, and using science to make decisions. He asked what we need.

Tim said this would not be useful at this time. He said that Step 5 would be the appropriate time, which is 6-9 months down the road. He also said that no one has the time right now. He pointed out that collaborative training was given when the Charter was developed. He thinks that right now, we need to get a new person on board and get through Step 4.

Harmony said she thinks we need to equip people with needed skills right now, and we need to reaffirm what we need to do to be collaborative. People are drifting. Tim said we just can't take on more right now.

Jim said he was looking at what Steve does online and thinks it could help unite us and could be useful. He said he is interested in talking to Steve more.

Harmony said she knows we are in the information-gathering phase now but asked how people feel we are doing right now and how are we all working together in the partnership as a whole.

Tim said people are working well in their groups. He noticed some tension at the last Partnership Meeting. There were some contentious people. But the majority of the stakeholders who have been engaged throughout the process understand what the overall objective is. Some issues come and go, such as biosolids application in the Siletz basin. There were some outspoken Instream people who were lashing out at some of the municipal people. He thinks the more large-group meetings we have where we cast the collaborative vision we have, the better off we will be. He said when there is a long gap between meetings, people can lose what the overall objectives are.

Harmony said that she has seen some contention emerge and it worries her. She asked what

others have noticed.

Jim said he has noticed some issues coming up like the biosolids and has had conversations with people about them. He agreed with Tim and thought the last Partnership Meeting went well with no major problems.

Adam concurs with Tim. He would like to see more engagement with the Working Groups and he would like to see the Partnership Meetings happen more often.

Matt agrees. He said he has built relationships with lots of groups that he didn't have before.

Harmony asked if anyone on the call is involved with the Instream group. She sees a line drawn between them and the others and is seeing it play out and wants to take this into account.

Steve said he is willing to step in at any time and is available when needed.

Partnership Meeting Debrief

Harmony asked what everyone thinks went well or what would be done differently for the last Partnership Meeting. She said she has heard concerns about letting too much time pass between meetings but also that no one has much time. The local coordinator position is high priority.

Adam thought the Municipal Working Group did well putting the meeting together, the presentations were timely and gave good information. He wouldn't do much differently. He agrees that having a Coordinator will be very beneficial. No one else can devote so much time to planning Partnership Meetings. It involves a lot of work, and preparations have to start early. He said the venue is very important. Side Door was the perfect size and he feels it was well attended. He said it would be helpful if people who are asking questions or making comments identify themselves. He said that Partnership Meetings really help keep us connected. He was concerned with it being so long since the last Partnership Meeting, we would have low attendance. But we had good attendance and it was good to see people are still engaged and wanted to attend. He said it's important to have a field tour this summer and looks forward to supporting that effort.

Matt said the venue was nice. He thinks it is important to keep changing locations so others in in different areas can attend. He agrees that it would be helpful for anyone speaking to identify themselves. Overall he thinks it went well.

Jim said it was really good, great presentations, and lots of new information.

Lee Ann said that having two entrances made it hard to get everyone signed in. She thinks she probably missed some people. She agreed that it would be helpful for people with comments and questions to identify themselves. And she pointed out that notes were not taken as planned. Harmony asked if Lee Ann has the presentations. Lee Ann said she has some of them and has posted them online. Harmony asked if she would try to track down the others. Lee Ann will do this.

Harmony agreed that it was a great meeting.

Jim said earlier on the day of the Partnership Meeting, the people from the McKenzie River Trust had come over and met with him and then attended the meeting. Harmony said Joe Moll from OWRD was also there and signed the Charter.

Where are things, and what can we do?

Harmony asked, where are things, and what can we do? She asked Adam why he thinks there is a low level of engagement.

Adam said it is a difficult season for municipalities with budget time and projects. He said that's why there has been a low level of engagement in the Working Group and they haven't been meeting. He said they hope to meet next week.

Matt said it's always a busy season for him.

Harmony asked what we can do.

Jim said to have things that are appealing to people.

Harmony talked about having resources available to help us move along and make progress. She reported there is \$200,000 in the pipeline for the Mid-Coast group.

Tim said that he has reached out to Meyer to identify how we can use the money and if we can use it for the Planning Coordinator. He hasn't heard back yet. He also said that we currently have about \$230,000 remaining. Some is obligated for stipends. He said the bulk of this is Meyer and thinks they will be ok with us using the funds as needed.

Tim thinks we will always struggle to have people who have time. Harmony said she is really noticing this and said we need to figure out what to do about it. She asked Tim about the status of the Planning Coordinator position. Tim said that we have some applications. The deadline to turn them in is next Friday, May 17th.

Harmony said that the Instream group has been struggling but seems to be doing better with Emily Bell's help. Self-supplied has made a lot of progress. She asked if there is anything proactive we can do. Adam said we need to focus on what is the most valuable. He said we should focus on having a field tour this summer. The past ones have been very valuable and appreciated.

Harmony asked what else we can do to engage the Partnership and asked if people would come to a BBQ. Adam mentioned State Parks and wondered if we could borrow their kayaks for a tour. He thought there might be liability issues. Harmony said we need to talk to Emily Bell because she was talking about something similar. She said we need to focus on something fun that keeps people connected during the summer and leaning on our outside resources to make progress on technical work. She said the agencies are making considerable progress on some technical input. ODFW has agreed to work on an instream prioritization and status of protection for the mid-coast. They are using this as an opportunity to pilot a new approach. It's

an input that can be useful to the Partnership. It's not a Partnership product, but it could be really beneficial to help guide some of the work for the Instream group. They estimate having that sometime this summer and could give a presentation in the Fall. The Oregon Climate Change Research Institute has developed a report on climate change projections and risks for the mid-coast which is imminent. Harmony has heard that it is essentially done but hasn't been distributed yet. Army Corps is also doing some climate change work and CIRC can help with climate change work to help figure out a strategy. They might be looking for some direction from the Working Groups. DEQ is working on their TMDL process and has agreed to share any output that might be useful to the Partnership. Harmony is working to finish up on water use and water rights assessment. When we are able to engage some consultants, they will have some good materials to work with. Harmony predicts that all the Working Groups are going to struggle through the summer.

Jim said that he and Tim will be going to the meeting in Condon and looks forward to some discussion about the OKT results. Harmony said that Bill Montgomery will also be going. He's in the Instream Group.

Harmony is going to follow up on some things with OKT. Lee Ann is going to try to track down the missing presentations. Tim is working on securing funds for the Planning Coordinator. It is agreed we need to plan a really fun field tour.

The meeting was adjourned. The next Coordinating Committee Meeting has not been scheduled.