

Notes from Coordinating Committee Meeting, September 27, 2018

In attendance were Harmony Burrigh, Alan Fujishin, Tim Gross, Adam Denlinger, Jim Tooke, Caroline Bauman, Wayne Hoffman, Matt Thomas, Jackie Mikalonis, and Lee Ann Prchal. Attending by conference phone were Jeanne Nyquist and Shirlene Warnock.

Overview

Decisions:

- The CC agreed (by full consensus) that the Work Plan is on the right path and will be shared at the Partnership meeting along with Working Group updates and ways to be involved

Actions:

- Revise Partnership agenda consistent with feedback – Alan
- Revise Work Plan consistent with feedback – Harmony
- Working Groups will define deliverables for inclusion in Work Plan – Working Group Leads
- Pursue next steps for Local Planning Coordinator position (develop a position description, send to the Watershed Council (Wayne), reach out to the Council of Governments, send draft position description and path forward to conveners and Coordinating Committee for approval) – Adam
- Resolve outstanding issues related to Partners Stipends – Tim, Caroline, and Wayne

Discussion Topics:

- General updates from Coordinating Committee members – things to be aware of
- Work plan discussion, revision, and provisional adoption
- October 30 Partnership meeting agenda
- Local Planning Coordinator position
- Other updates

Future Discussion Topics:

- Coordinating Committee membership

Upcoming Meetings

- Oregon's Kitchen Table Advisory Group Call – October 4
- Communication and Outreach Working Group Call – October 8
- Self-Supplied Working Group – October 5
- Municipal/Water District Supplied Working Group – October 9
- Coordinating Committee Call – October 19
- Partnership Meeting – October 30
- Coordinating Committee Meeting – November 2
- Inter-Working Group Meeting – November 8-12 (to be scheduled)

General Check-In/Updates

Harmony asked for a general check-in from everyone.

Wayne said that the instream group will have a presentation for the Partnership meeting on October 30th. He announced that he will be moving to North Carolina shortly after the meeting so will no longer be able to participate in this. Everyone expressed gratitude for all that Wayne has contributed and acknowledged that his presence and knowledge will be greatly missed.

Alan brought up filling Coordinating Committee vacancies. There was discussion about this topic. Tim mentioned Penelope Kaczmarek, who he met with yesterday. A couple of other people said that they have also met her and think that she would be a good addition. Alan expressed concern for the Committee having a balanced representation. Harmony mentioned revisiting the Charter and what it has to say about balanced representation and the role of this Committee.

Alan is running for the Soil and Water Conservation District Board.

Wayne said the Soil and Water Conservation District is working with Amy Chapman who is the county's public health person on a grant proposal to Oregon Health Authority (OHA) for well testing. He said the county is committed to putting some additional funding in to do other kinds of testing associated with biosolid applications in the County, which are primarily in the Siletz Basin. Application to OHA for well testing money will probably be completed next week. The County's plan is to subcontract. Wayne has been talking to them so that when they are testing wells, they are also going to be collecting basic data that will be useful to this process.

Tim asked why the County got interested and if it was because of the biosolid issue.

Wayne said the County got interested because of the biosolid issue, but OHA's interest is to have a better understanding of water quality of private wells. The County is applying for grants to do testing of wells on a volunteer basis. Because of the biosolids issue, the County has committed resources for learning more about the possibility of contamination and well water quality.

Tim would like to coordinate biosolid application with well testing so we can see the correlation. He would like to work with them.

Wayne said that is part of what was discussed with Amy last week. Wayne mentioned that Wayne Belmont said the County would be teaching its public health authorities protocols for biosolid application and would be asking the various utilities to give them notice so they can have their staff out to observe and cover the gap that DEQ is not providing.

Tim pointed out that they apply every single day and it may not be feasible to provide oversight to every application. Adam said that frequency varies. Alan also talked about this. Tim wants to reach out to Amy so that everyone involved is communicating with each other.

Adam Denlinger brought up a Feasibility Study Grant through OWRD through our region. It is a partnership grant with the City of Newport, Seal Rock Water District, Lincoln City, Waldport, Yachats, and he's going to reach out to Toledo. It is to look at a conservation effort in this region. It's a 50/50 matching grant, \$25,000/\$25,000. GSI is writing the proposal. Adam said they would be talking about

this at their next working group meeting on October 9th. Jackie said they would be happy to make a statement in support. She said to make sure that GSI is coordinating with the Council of Governments on this. Adam also said that at their next working group meeting, they will be talking about the interconnection between municipal water suppliers and invited anyone who is interested to attend.

Alan talked about the self-supplied group and their focus on wells. He said the drought this summer affected agricultural users and industrial water users. Some of their uses were curtailed. There was historically low flow this year. We are still under drought restrictions. He said the impacts were very visible this summer. Alan said he would like to use that this fall for awareness and planning.

Jim talked about attending Legislative Days in Salem this past Monday. Jim and Tim represented the Mid-Coast Water Planning Partnership. This visit was organized by Mark Owens from Harney County. While there, they met with several representatives. They commented that Harney County understands their water issues very well and have the numbers to back up what they're saying. We need to work on the story of the Mid-Coast.

Tim also talked about attending Legislative Days. He said the knowledge the representatives have about the water issues really varied from very knowledgeable to not knowing anything. He thought the Harney County and the Mid-Coast group going together was very valuable. They talked about the planning process itself and about the need to reexamine the way the current water law works in Oregon because most of the issues we are looking to resolve are a result of over-appropriations at some level. He said it was a good opportunity to share.

Jim was very impressed with the people from Harney County because they understand their issues very well. He said Mark Owen talked about how much water they have and how much water is committed and has the numbers. Jim pointed out how this is one issue that unites everyone from all over the state, urban and rural, and he said he pointed this out while they were there. He thought it was very worthwhile that they were there. He said they made an impact because they were not the usual participants.

Jackie offered to help next time they go, and she can help connect them. Tim said that Harney County organized the trip.

Tim said that he met with a local citizen, Penelope Kaczmarek, who wanted accurate information about water planning and biosolids, and he talked about the need to give good information to the public because there isn't a good, accurate source of information readily available. The local newspaper is not always accurate, and that might be all that citizens see. Tim would like the partnership to be aware of this.

Wayne asked if Tim has a list of water sales. Tim said he does, and it shows how much water was sold, when, and who bought it. He will provide this list to the Self-Supplied Working Group who is working on this issue.

Matt and Caroline said they have been busy and didn't have anything to add.

Jackie talked about a meeting she had to discuss water planning with Jason Minor in the Governor's Office so that they can all be on the same page and get questions answered because right now is the time the agencies are developing their budgets for the next biennium. Harmony and Adam were able to

attend for the Mid-Coast. She said that Jim and Tim representing the Water Planning Partnership at Legislative Days was really good, as it's important that everyone has information about what the Partnership is doing and what we need. Jackie felt this meeting was really important and happy that everyone could get the information they need.

Tim said that he will be at the League of Oregon Cities conference tomorrow and will be part of a panel and will talk about Place-Based Planning. Tim also said that Doug from OWRD will be there to talk about the 100-year water vision. Tim is curious what information he will be giving.

Jackie also said that Benton County had met with them because they are interested in what the Water Planning Partnership is doing. They are very interested in collaborating together to do something about water, and they are exploring ways we can work together to move forward. Jackie thought this was a great way to connect. Adam, Alan, and Harmony were able to be there to share perspectives on the Mid-Coast effort.

Jackie brought up the Big Creek Dam and its importance for Newport's infrastructure. She thinks that Regional Solutions will be allocating about \$250,000 to Newport for that project, which will help for engineering and for fish environmental work. She said the emergency board gives money for infrastructure.

Jackie said that there is a coalition of several cities and they are putting a formal request in to the State to do a Clean Water Act 404 assumption, which she knows we've tried several times before without success, and Jackie is happy to talk to State agencies about that later if they aren't already in the loop.

Jackie attended the Oregon Coastal Caucus Economic Summit. They were very focused on climate change the first day, which relates to this group's efforts.

Harmony announced that she will be out for a while because she will be having a baby in November. She is working on who will fill in for her while she is out.

Tim said that he won't have time to represent the Partnership on the Learning Initiative from the Ford Family Foundation. We need to find volunteers from the Coordinating Committee and Partnership.

Work Plan

Harmony said that we need to knock out a work plan in terms of working group structure, priority, and how the other pieces of the partnership fit with that. She referred to the schedule handout. It shows when the Partnership meetings are. She pointed out where the working groups are going to be leading the Partnership meetings. She referred to technical work that other agencies will provide. Outreach and Engagement is also listed, with Oregon's Kitchen Table Public Survey, Field Tours, and Panel of Peers.

Oregon's Kitchen Table will come back with a report at the February meeting. This is phase one of two phases. Phase two has not been scoped out at all. The survey is just to get a feel for values, opinions, beliefs about water from the public.

Field tours – Wayne is very busy right now and cannot plan a fall tour. He will talk to Paul about planning an ecology tour in the Spring.

Panel of Peers is something Caroline is working on. Caroline said they have identified panelists and people to represent different sectors. Alan pointed out how the panel is good in winter because it wouldn't be affected by winter weather like field tours might be.

Harmony said these represent what we identified at the last meeting as areas to focus on. She said with working groups taking on more of a lead role, time will be needed so we're looking at a year-long plus timeline, ending with a summary report/deliverable next summer, compiling everything into a synthesis.

Wayne said the working groups need a calendar with details, and we need to determine work products/deliverables and a timeline for this. This should be developed by the Working Groups

Tim said that he really likes field tours because they keep people engaged and educated. He suggested a field tour to the Wastewater Treatment Plant to teach people about biosolids, which is a big topic right now. All it would take is advertising, then people show up at the City of Newport Wastewater Treatment Plant with no bussing needed. We should think about field tours that are simple and require very little organization/logistics.

Wayne asked about a field tour to the fish plants. Caroline said when she went, the area was very small so there could only be 5-7 people at a time and they have to put on clean suits.

Jackie agrees that field tours are good. She pointed out that the tours would be a great way to target legislators. Wayne asked if there is a day of the week that would be best for them, and Jackie said Saturdays.

Tim also said an hour and a half tour of the water plant would be easy. He said maybe we could join with other cities like Lincoln City so people could tour both water plants on the same day. Maybe a big plant and a small plant. Same with the biosolids.

Caroline agreed that a field tour that addresses biosolids would be very timely.

Wayne said it might be a great way to pull Toledo back into the process.

Harmony talked about the worksheet timeline, saying that she didn't put much in the summer because it's hard to get people together in the summer. She asked for feedback from the group on the proposed schedule. Everyone indicated that they were generally in agreement with the proposal, realizing that we need to work out some additional details.

For the working groups, more detail is needed. Harmony said that the working groups need to be clear about when they need input/help from the Partnership. She said it is not up to the working groups to find solutions. They are to clearly define problems and then give informed alternatives for consideration.

It was discussed that the issues the working groups identify will overlap with other working groups.

Harmony talked about deferring to the working groups to collect information and then report back to the Partnership.

The Committee looked at the green sheet that Harmony had handed out. She said that this is summary of what happened in September. Harmony said the working groups need to go through what is listed on the green sheet and capture what they are doing and focusing on, what assistance they anticipate from the agencies, and anticipated outputs/work products.

Adam and Alan went over the list for their working groups.

Wayne added #3 – Watershed health to Instream/Ecology Focus Issues, and he added CIRC/Corp of Engineers – Climate change scenarios and DEQ – temp modeling and other water quality parameters to Anticipated Agency Assistance.

Harmony plans to join with the working groups and fill in the holes. She will continue to work with agency partners for what is needed as well.

Everyone feels that this plan is helpful.

Caroline thinks we need to reach out to partners who haven't participated yet. She said this needs to be done one-on-one.

Jeanne asked how and when we will synthesize Working Group information. Tim said we don't have to do this yet. We need to hire a coordinator, and this person will help with this.

Partnership Meeting

Harmony said we need to plan the October 30th Partnership Meeting and handed out a draft agenda. The first part of the meeting is for introductions and OKT. The last half is for working groups. She asked what we want to accomplish during the working group time.

Wayne said that they want to communicate to the group what the working groups have been doing, where they are going, what they have accomplished, and any results to date.

Adam said we need to communicate that the work is ongoing, and we need to stress the importance of the working groups and attendance and participation is crucial.

Alan said he would like time for break out and participation.

Jackie said there should be question time.

Wayne said that each working group could give a 15 minute presentation for a total of 45 minutes. Then there could be a 45 minute break out.

Jim said that we need to let people know there is urgency – need to talk about the drought and its impacts. Harmony said that we could talk about the drought at the beginning of the meeting and can give numbers. Alan agrees it is timely to bring up but he doesn't want this to be used as a way for people to beat up on others.

Caroline pointed out that since the Partnership meeting will be in Yachats, some people will be arriving late because of driving time. So she said that it would be good to point it out again around 6:00 p.m.

And she said to frame it. Give context of the big picture before the working groups give their presentations. Then when they break up into small groups, then they can get into the nitty gritty. She also said to give a (very brief) overview of all the steps, including Step 1 and Step 2, not just Step 3.

It was agreed to move the last item on the Partnership Meeting agenda up for framing and to allocate 1 hour to a Working Group breakout session.

Planning Coordinator

The Committee talked about the planning coordinator position. Tim has a detailed job description from Rianne and what she does. He has asked what their job description was when they advertised the position. Adam is going to work on this now. The plan is to share this person with Mid-Coast Watershed Council. It was discussed that this person could possibly be the employee of the Watershed Council and the Partnership would contract with them.

Jackie said that this is what Cascade West does and suggested going through them to hire this person. Several Coordinating Committee members expressed reservations about this given their capacity. Adam is willing to explore it. Jackie recommended reaching out Phil Warnock.

The question came up if this person would be replacing the consultants, and Tim said no.

Harmony asked, what actions do we need and when do they need to happen by?

Adam will develop a preliminary position description and send it to Wayne by October 3 so that he can brief his Board and have a conversation about this possibility. Adam will also reach out to Phil Warnock after the description is developed. After following up with Wayne and getting feedback from the Watershed Council, Adam will send the position description and proposed path forward out to the conveners and Coordinating Committee for their review. We will attempt to review and approve this by email, but may also discuss it on our upcoming Conference Call on October 19.

Harmony asked if the schedule for upcoming Coordinating Committee meetings is ok or if it needs to be changed. October 19th is scheduled for a Coordinating Committee call. The next meeting is scheduled for November 2nd, which is right after the Partnership meeting. She asked if it would be good to change this to a working group game plan huddle meeting instead to talk about data from the Partnership meeting.

Wayne suggested keeping it as a Coordinating Committee meeting and have a working group meeting the next week.

Updates

Caroline gave a grant stipends update. She said three were approved, the Watershed Council and SWCD were both approved for \$5000 and Surfrider was approved for reimbursement from their work on the panel of peers event in June. The three were for Wayne, Audrey Sweet, and Surfrider. Tim said he didn't put Audrey's through because he got notice that she was leaving on the same day. Wayne indicated that she had already done a lot of work for the Partnership and they have information that can be provided with an invoice. Tim will follow-up with Caroline, Wayne, and others to make sure that payments are made if an invoice was submitted.

Adam said that he is working with RCAC and USDA to host the annual workshop on the Oregon coast, which would be a very appropriate venue for the Partnership. The workshop is usually held in February. Adam said he is willing to represent the Partnership and said this would be a huge benefit to the group. We will follow-up on this at a future Coordinating Committee meeting.

Meeting was adjourned.