**Mid-Coast Water Planning Partnership Strategy Development**

The following table includes Tier 2 and Tier 3 actions that were not included as high priorities in the Mid-Coast Water Action Plan.

| **Water Conservation and Efficient Use** | | | |
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| **States** | **Objectives** | **Actions** | **Ranking** |
| Inadequate promotion of information and comprehensive outreach on water conservation.  Lack of adequate use and implementation of available information. | 1. Promote tools and information for water conservation. 2. Develop a culture of water conservation. | 1. Inform property owners about self-assessment tools and information to monitor water use and reduce water usage (OHA/OWRD/DEQ/OSU/EnergyStar/ OWEB/SWCDs/watershed councils) (A/I, RR, B, U). | 2 |
| 1. Promote school education programs (K-12) (RR, B, U). | 2 |
| 1. Conservation kit give-aways (RR, B, U). | 2 |
| 1. Seminars, trainings, classes, and demonstrations in coordination with Oregon Coast Community College Community Education and Small Business Development Center (A). | 2 |
| Insufficient planning for water conservation and curtailment. | C. Expand water conservation planning programs and initiatives. | 1. Develop water conservation programs for businesses, rental management companies, the lodging industry, and other businesses throughout the region (B, U). | 2 |
| 1. Conduct annual, and if possible, monthly water audits (e.g., a “report card” on bills showing account’s use relative to average use, outliers [positive and neutral messages only]) to assess input-output efficiency of municipal systems (WP). | 2 |
| 1. Create training opportunities and support for water managers (i.e., water workforce development) (WP). | 2 |
| 1. Encourage municipalities to become a partner of the WaterSense® program to promote water conservation and leverage resources (A). | 2 |
| 1. Recommend funding the implementation of a water efficiency program at 1 X to 3X the capital and operations cost of what large infrastructure improvements for increased supply might cost (e.g., if a dam or desalination plant cost $100 million, then invest $100 to $300 million in replacing toilets, shower heads, other means of reducing the need) (A). | 3 |
| The Need for Water Conservation and Re-use[[1]](#footnote-1), [[2]](#footnote-2)  Minimal re-use of gray water, harvesting, conservation of water in-home/out-of-home, and in commercial and municipal facilities, hospitality | D. Effectively use limited water supplies, especially during times of water shortage.  E. Reduce water use. | 1. Employ methods of harvesting and storing rainwater by capturing surface runoff and rooftop runoff (RR, B, U, A/I). | 2 |
| 1. Explore the regulatory mechanisms associated with drainage through land use and building codes to facilitate use of rain and gray water for property owners (RR, B, U). | 2 |
| 1. Reduce water use in landscapes by installing xeriscapes and smart landscape irrigation (Mid-Coast Smartscapes) (RR, B, U). | 2 |
| 1. Adopt a recycled water use ordinance (A). | 2 |
| 1. Coordinate with NRCS to create a fund and initiate water conservation incentives – offering rebates for cisterns and rain gutter improvements, toilet replacements, smart controllers, xeric landscaping, more efficient sprinkler systems (See “It Pays to Save.”) (A). | 2 |
| 1. Pass a Water Efficient Landscaping Ordinance (RR, B, U). | 3 |
| 1. Consider water pricing strategies to stimulate conservation and raise revenue (I, WP). | 2 |
| 1. Obtain commitments from the hospitality industry in the Mid-Coast to not serve water at restaurants unless people ask, and to give lodging guests the option to not supply fresh linens daily (B, U). | 2 |
| 1. Install water efficient devices in municipal buildings (WP, B, U). | 2 |
| 1. Install dual plumbing in new facilities (WP, B, U). | 3 |
| 1. Explore innovative techniques and/or research to recycle and reuse water for processing (e.g., seafood, wood products, etc.) by piloting this approach with a county user, seeking funding and technical assistance to implement at a reduced scale initially (A). | 2 |
| 1. Fund a water efficiency program (A). | 2 |

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| **Enhanced Regional Collaboration** | | | |
| **States** | **Objectives** | **Actions** | **Ranking** |
| Limited communication among regional water providers. | B. Promote opportunities to improve communications, share knowledge, and pool resources. | 1. Provide possible solutions for regional water supply sources and infrastructure to county-wide alliance representing all cities and major water districts and charged with developing, funding, and implementing a 50-year water supply plan. | 2 |

| **Reliable Water Infrastructure and Operations** | | | |
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| **States** | **Objectives** | **Actions** | **Ranking** |
| Degradation of aging infrastructure that diverts, stores, treats and conveys water.  Rural residences and agricultural operations often have undocumented, old, inefficient infrastructure that fails to meet current standards. | A. Create more resilient infrastructure.  B. Replace aging infrastructure. | **Self-supplied water users**   1. Recommend well water reporting. | 3 |
| **Water suppliers (Municipal, special districts, and private suppliers)**   1. Create a management structure that incorporates fees, grants and incentives to fund infrastructure updates over time. | 2 |
| 1. Recommend that any major infrastructure repair/replacement projects as well repairs for smaller-sized water providers be included in and approved as part of a Lincoln County regional water supply system plan and funds secured through the overall plan funding. | 2 |
| Lack of adequate workforce of skilled water technicians to maintain present and future water supply systems | C. Support training and professional development to ensure the availability of skilled water technicians. | 1. Address continual turnover of municipal staff that contributes to scheduled maintenance delays. | 2 |
| 1. Advocate for the creation/development of local community college and other local/high school/community programs to provide technical skills for water technicians. | 2 |
| 1. Provide outreach and education to smaller water providers and their boards re: resources available to support them. | 2 |
| 1. Advocate for the expansion the certification process at the state level such that it allows certification from those in addition to those actively working in a distribution. | 3 |
| Lack of identified additional and alternative sources of water. | D. Identify additional and alternative sources of water for the Mid-Coast region of Oregon. | 1. Use OSU Engineering and research on desalinization, e.g., solar and/or wave energy, to seek alternative water sources to conserve streams with anadromous fish runs. | 2 |

| **Ecosystem Protection and Enhancement** | | | |
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| **States** | **Objectives** | **Actions** | **Ranking** |
| Reduced health of watersheds and degraded riparian areas.  Insufficient habitat to facilitate recovery of key native fish species.  Multiple river and stream segments consistently do not meet Oregon and federal water quality standards. | A. Restore watershed ecological function (ridgetop to river approach) | 1. Support land management and development practices that reduce hazard-related impacts and protect and restore water quality. | 2 |
| Inadequate water availability to meet instream and out-of-stream uses (“Balance in the Basin”). | B. Identify, meet, protect, and restore peak and ecological flows. | 1. Expand tracking and sharing of water use information (measure and report) within the Mid-Coast (all users). | 2 |
| 1. Designate Scenic Waterways where needed to protect recreation, fish, and wildlife uses. | 3 |
| 1. Designate Outstanding Resource Waters where needed to protect extraordinary water quality or ecological values. | 2 |
| 1. Expand the use of voluntary programs to protect and restore streamflow, lake levels, and cold water refugia. | 2 |
| Inadequate natural water storage. | C. Promote natural water storage in the region using beavers and green infrastructure.  D. Balance instream and out-of-stream water uses.  E. Ensure summer stream flows are sufficient to meet the instream water needs of fish and wildlife. | 1. Evaluate the information available (peer-reviewed science) on how stream flows are impacted by land use practices and implement actions to better mimic natural hydrology. | 2 |

| **Source Water Development and Protection** | | | |
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| **States** | **Objectives** | **Actions** | **Ranking** |
| Some Mid-Coast waters do not meet Oregon and federal water quality standards for turbidity, E. coli, or other contaminants of concern for drinking water providers.  Source water quality may be at risk from unregulated contaminants, or contaminants, which are currently within water quality standards, but pose a risk to drinking water. | A. Assess the levels and presence/absence of contaminants in Mid-Coast waters and describe negative effects to human health.  B. Consistently attain water quality standards that protect drinking water and other beneficial uses.  C. Anticipate and prepare for the effects of climate change stressors, which are predicted to influence precipitation, temperature, coastal inundation, ecosystem function, and water quality.  D. Prioritize restoration work and support land management practices that reduce contaminants of concern to drinking water. | 1. Develop strategies and actions to address biosolids applications, septic system effluent, unregulated pesticides and pharmaceuticals, and hazardous or toxic chemical use by residents and commercial/industrial sectors. Partner with agencies and OSU to conduct water quality monitoring for contaminants of emerging concern and special situations (e.g., biosolids applications), and participate in Clean Rivers Coalition (https://www.cleanriverscoalition.com) to deliver marketing campaigns to reduce their use. | 2 |
| 1. Advocate for funding and partner with DEQ and local organizations to implement hazardous and toxic chemical roundup events for residents and commercial sectors. | 2 |
| Public information is lacking re: source water protection measures and sources of contamination and concern. | F. Informed self-supplied water users that need and want adequate and timely data to determine regional, local, or site-specific water quality contamination issues that may pose a health risk. | 1. Advocate for herbicide/pesticide data recording and sharing from industrial users. TT | 2 |
| Lack of protected public drinking water source areas reduces water system control over potential impacts to watersheds. | H. Seek opportunities to protect and conserve public drinking water source areas. | 1. Support the development of incentives for landowners, carbon exchange, carbon credits, and watershed acquisition (should this be modified to be “as it relates to limiting water quality contaminants of concern”?) | 2 |
| Research is lacking on a variety of water quality-related issues in the Mid-Coast region, | I. Conduct research to better understand impacts and BMPS associated with water quality | 1. Example of research: Conduct in-depth studies of the effects of applying bio-solids on land. | 3 |

1. Note: Water runoff capture under certain methods and times of year will require permitting through OWRD. Gray water permits are through DEQ. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. <https://www.oregon.gov/deq/wq/programs/Pages/Water-Reuse.aspx> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)