



Mid-Coast Water Planning Partnership

Partnership Meeting Notes - DRAFT

March 29, 2017



Next Steps

- **Next meeting of Partnership May 31, 2017, 4 -7 pm.** Samaritan Pacific Health Education Center, 740 SW 9th Street, Newport, OR 97365.
- The adopted **Charter** will be circulated to Partners (who were not able to attend the March meeting) for electronic signatures.
- The Coordinating Committee will work with the Project Team to refine the **Technical Work Plan** to present to the Partnership at the May 31 meeting. A copy of the work plan will be displayed on the Partnership Website by May 24, 2017 for review by the Partnership prior to the May 31 meeting.
- The **Communication, Education and Outreach Committee (CEO)** will meet in April and will report progress at next Partnership Meeting on May 31.
- **Stay in touch at www.midcoastwaterpartners.com**

Date: March 29, 2017, 4:00 – 7:00 pm

Location: Board Room, Rogue Brewers on the Bay, Newport, Oregon

Participants: Approximately 40 people representing a broad range of water-related interests (see page 12 for list of participants)

Conveners: Timothy Gross, Public Works Director and City Engineer, City of Newport, and Harmony Burright, Planning Coordinator, Oregon Water Resources Department

Project Team: Jeanne Nyquist and Shirlene Warnock, Facilitators, Innovative Growth Solutions.

Meeting Objectives:

- Review and develop final draft of Charter for Mid-Coast Water Planning Partnership.
- Provide updates on Technical Work Plan and Communication, Education and Outreach efforts.
- Technical session on Water and the Mid-Coast



Discussion Notes

Welcome and Introductions

The facilitator, Jeanne Nyquist, welcomed the Partnership to their fourth meeting and explained that the overall purpose of the Partnership is to work together to develop a plan to best manage our collective water resources and define our water resources destiny.

Members of the Partnership, Coordinating Committee, and Project Team were recognized for their contributions. Jeanne welcomed First Timers to the Partnership meeting.

Jeanne reviewed the schedule for the planning process and encouraged everyone to check the Partnership website frequently to review meeting notes and stay up to date on progress.

The Partnership website is: www.midcoastwaterpartners.com Notes and presentations from tonight's meeting will be posted on the website.

Charter

Jeanne introduced version 6.2 of the Charter. She thanked the Partnership for providing input to develop the Charter and recognized the Coordinating Committee for their work on editing the Charter to ensure that the intent of the Partnership is reflected in the document. Facilitator Shirlene Warnock gave special recognition to Alan Fujishin and Wayne Hoffman for their work on developing the document.

Jeanne presented a summary of each section of the document, highlighting key points discussed by the Partnership and Coordinating Committee. She invited questions and comments on the document from the Partnership, which are summarized below:

Goals Section:

Conservation – Cyndi Karp suggested that a goal should be included to address conservation. She commented that Oregon is far behind other states in implementing water conservation efforts, and this needs to be a primary goal because this is a pilot project and we should be leading the rest of the state.

Discussion:

- Conservation means something different to everyone. To cattlemen, it may mean taking pasture land to form a wetland, which would have a severe impact on the viability of the cattle operation.
- The concept of conservation is inherent in all of our goals and will play a part in achieving each of our goals.
- When we developed these goals, it was our intent to write overarching goals that can encompass the viewpoints of all. As we implement our Technical Work Plan, we will develop specific objectives and desired outcomes that will further define these broad goals. Then, as we approach our work in Step 5 of this process, we will really dig into potential solutions.

- As we work through the next steps of our process, we will define specific objectives for each of these goals, which will include conservation.
- Conservation will also be included in the Technical Work Plan.

Decision Making Section –

Mary Camarata questioned if state and federal agencies should be included in the decision-making process since this process really needs to reflect the needs and perspectives of the local community. The agencies are here to advise and provide information and do not necessarily have a role in decision making.

Discussion:

- Jeanne explained that this topic was discussed at Partnership Meeting 2, and also was discussed extensively by the Coordinating Committee (CC). The CC determined that we should not have ‘levels’ or ‘classes’ of membership, recognizing that is important to be inclusive and provide an opportunity for all voices to be heard.
- Harmony Burrigh commented that there are some federal agencies that put restrictions on levels of participation by their staff. Agency staff who are Partners in this process should participate at the level their agency is comfortable with. The opportunity to participate in decision making is open to all Partners, but Partners are not *required* to participate in decision-making.
- Harmony also indicated that OWRD is working with all four Pilot Place-Based Planning Processes across the state. The OWRD Director has emphasized that staff should work it out within their agencies and with their local partners as to their level of participation. It is important that agencies weigh in on any actions that are likely to require agency action or support.
- Mary emphasized that this is the community’s plan and we are here to support its development.
- Alan and Wayne summarized the CC’s discussion, indicating that everyone on the Partnership should have a voice, and no one should be excluded just because they work for an agency.

Charter Modifications Section –

There was discussion about the language in the Charter Modifications section to clarify if the Charter will be reviewed at specific times. If that is the intent, then the schedule for review should be specified.

Coordinating Committee members explained that the intent was to keep the Charter open to review and modification at any time that the Partnership identifies a need. We all need to pay attention to how the process is working and identify potential changes for the Partnership to discuss. The discussion concluded to leave the language as currently written.

Charter Adoption –

The facilitators proposed adoption of the Charter and explained the process to test for consensus on the proposal using Green, Yellow, and Red Cards that were distributed to all of the participants.

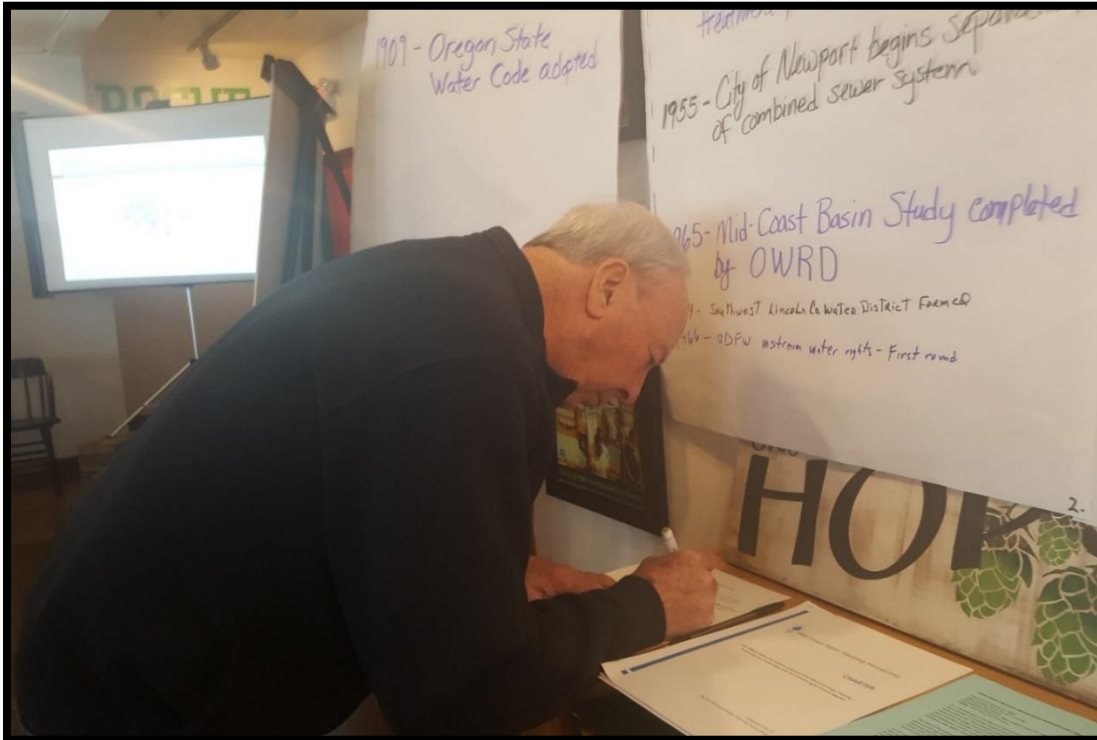
- Green – ‘Good to Go’ – accept the Charter as written
- Yellow – ‘More Discussion Needed’

- Red – ‘Significant Issues – Need for More Work’

The Partnership displayed all GREEN CARDS. Consensus was reached. The Charter was adopted as submitted.

The facilitators explained that Partners could sign the Charter tonight, or sign it electronically after reviewing it with their organization.

The adopted Charter is attached.



- **ACTION:** The adopted Charter will be circulated to Partners who were not able to attend the meeting for their electronic signatures.

Technical Work Plan Update – Tim Gross

Tim Gross, Public Works Director and City Engineer for City of Newport, explained that he was providing an update on the Technical Work Plan because Adam Sussman, GSI Water Solutions, is out of town.

Tim explained that we are completing Step One of the Planning Process and getting ready to embark on Step Two, beginning June 1. Step Two will focus on characterizing our Water Resources so we all have a common understanding. This step will be based primarily on existing information. During this step we will be:

- Developing the information we need to understand our water resources, and
- Conducting analysis to develop baseline information.

Tim commented that:

- The Partnership has provided significant input at the last 3 Partnership meetings, and this input has been reviewed at the Coordinating Committee meetings.
- GSI has done a lot of work on developing the Technical Work Plan. It will be reviewed with the Coordinating Committee on April 14 and the Partnership on May 31.
- GSI will orchestrate implementation of the Technical Work Plan, and Partnership members will help us work on gathering technical data. The Partnership will help us identify members who can work on specific topics, and the Coordinating Committee will help us coordinate the work with individuals and focus groups.
- GSI will coordinate compiling the data, and they will be seeking input and information from the Partnership.
- **ACTION:** The Coordinating Committee will work with the Project Team to refine the Technical Work Plan, which will be presented to the Partnership at the May 31 meeting. A copy of the work plan will be displayed on the Partnership Website by May 24, 2017, for review by the Partnership prior to the May 31 meeting.

Communication, Education, Outreach Update – Harmony Burrig

Harmony Burrig reported that a Communication, Education, and Outreach (CEO) Sub-Group has been formed, members include:

- Maryann Bozza, Hatfield Marine Science Center
- Paul Englemeyer, The Wetlands Conservancy
- Scott Andry, City of Waldport
- Rick McClung, City of Yachats
- Cyndi Karp, Watershed Resident/Advocate
- Jacquie Fern and Mary Camarata, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
- Patti Ferry, Newport Chamber of Commerce
- Charlie Plybon, Newport Surfrider
- Joyce Sherman, Steelheaders
- Jerry Anderson, Hancock Forest Management
- Margaret Matter, Oregon Department of Agriculture
- Nikki Hendricks, Oregon Water Resources Department
- Caroline Bauman, Economic Development Alliance
- Deb Wilkins, US Forest Service

The CEO Sub-Group will:

- Develop a communication and outreach strategy
- Hone the Partnership's key messages
- Develop effective communication tools/materials
- Coordinate outreach activities
- Promote and coordinate learning opportunities for the Partnership and the broader community

To date, a number of communication tools have been developed, communication activities have occurred, and the first draft of a Communication and Outreach Plan has been created. In addition, the Partnership identified a number of topics for educational presentations to the Partnership and/or to other groups.

Jacque Fern was recognized for her efforts in reaching out to the Partnership to remind them of the Partnership meetings.

- **ACTION:** The CEO will meet in April and will report progress at the next Partnership Meeting on May 31.

Technical Presentation:

Water and the Mid-Coast – Oregon Water Resources Dept.

The presentation ‘Water and the Mid-Coast’ is available on the Partnership website at www.Mid-CoastWaterPartners.com Notes from questions and discussion are summarized below:

Nikki Hendricks, OWRD Water Master for Mid-Coast Region



Nikki explained the priority for water rights in Oregon. Water rights are based primarily on dates. When a user is not getting their water right, they can make a call on their water and every water right that is more “junior” (i.e. more recently issued) will be regulated off of the system. The majority of In-Stream Water Rights (ISWR) in District 1 have priority dates of 1966 -1974. During the summer months Nikki primarily regulates off users that are junior to the instream water right. But it was explained that the

Instream Right is also junior to other water rights and thus a senior user may be allowed to divert water despite Instream Rights not being met. Also, human consumption is exempt from regulation.

Question: How does Endangered Species designation affect existing water rights?

Response: I am not sure how a designation would affect water rights. Water rights are handled at the state level and do not have a clear nexus with federal legislation, like the Endangered Species Act. Most ISWR are in place to protect critical habitat for ESA listed species.

Question: Does OWRD look at impact of wells on ground water?

Response: If a private well is for human consumption, then it is not regulated. There are exemptions for human and stock water supplies. For wells that are permitted, they do look at the impacts to groundwater as well as the impacts to nearby streams. New GW permits are very hard to obtain in district 1 due to the impacts of the GW to SW connectivity. (Explained below in GW presentation)

Question: How often are in-stream flows measured by OWRD?

Response: OWRD monitors in-stream flows on an as-needed basis, primarily in the summer months. Our network of gaging stations have trigger stages that let us know it is time to start measuring those watersheds' ISWR. Also, all of our gaging stations are measured or inspected monthly to ensure the data is accurate.

Mike Thoma – OWRD Hydrogeologist



Question: Given that ground water capacity is low in Mid-Coast region, should our focus for our plan be on surface water?

Response: (Mike) I won't tell you specifically what to look at and what not to look at – that's up to you. I will say that based on my knowledge of this region, there are limited ground water resources. Groundwater is not likely to meet your region's water needs, though it might help to meet the water needs of specific users. It's possible that considerable groundwater can be found in dune and beach deposits, but those may be isolated pockets.

Question: (Wayne Hoffman) I would draw the same conclusion regarding a municipal and district water supply – options are pretty limited to surface water. We get substantial precipitation between October and April, but there are periods in between when stream flow is low. What % of streamflow is last winter's rain, and what % is water that has been in ground for one year or more?

Response: (Mike) Stream flows are low in summer. Groundwater circulation is limited to the top few hundred feet and new precipitation can't infiltrate quickly, so much of it runs into the streams. Short circulation paths mean that there is little groundwater discharge to streams sustained over summer and fall. Mid-Coast does not have a significant groundwater storage. This is very different from other regions in Oregon, such as the Deschutes, which is fed by big springs and groundwater that sustains summer stream flows.

Question: What about water quality?

Response: (Mike) This is a question for DEQ. Some of the deeper wells in mid Coast contain salt water that is trapped in the wells. These are old aquifers that haven't been "flushed out," highlighting the fact that there are very few deep circulation paths.

Question: I've heard it said that on the coast our problem is that we have insufficient storage. In other words, we have enough water but not enough storage.

Response: (Mike) Yes – this is the problem throughout the west. We get all of our rain in the winter and most of our use is in the summer. Given the makeup of the Mid-Coast region, there isn't good groundwater storage. There are a lot of options for water storage that can be explored through the planning process.

Question: How much water is lost to evaporation?

Response: (Mike) We don't have answers with us tonight. OWRD does basin-scale water budget studies on an as-needed basis by basin. We don't have an exact answer tonight, but we do know that evaporation is a small component. Harmony also commented that OWRD performed demand forecasts on municipal and agricultural water use looking at different climate projections. These demand forecasts did not look at the future instream demands (water for rivers) under different climate scenarios, and it also didn't

look at the changing water demands of forests and native vegetation. There are a lot of variables, and we haven't looked at all of them yet.

Question: (Cyndi Karp) There are some artesian wells that put out a lot of water (such as Cape Perpetua). How many artesian wells are there in the Region? Also there is research that old growth forests use less water than younger forests and therefore put out more water in the summer.

Response: (Mike) Vegetation plays a big role in the water cycle. OWRD doesn't track artesian wells differently. There is a misconception that artesian wells are an abundant source of water. Water springs out of the ground because of pressures in the system. This does not necessarily mean that there is ample source of water there. Artesian wells can go dry.

Question: (Cyndi Karp) Studies have shown that winding rivers are capable of storing more water. Could this be way of increasing our water storage?

Response: (Mike) The biggest benefit to winding rivers is that they help to cool the water and provide more nutrients. This strategy might extend your water storage a little, but it would not have a big impact. There is no down side to doing it, but it likely wouldn't extend summer stream flows and will not be a large-scale solution.

Question: (Dave) Rainwater harvesting and storage is hard to sell on the coast. We have 70" of rainfall, so people think there is no need for rainwater harvesting. Is the information presented here tonight available to us?

Response: (Harmony) YES, it is public information. We at OWRD are trying to figure out how to make this information more available and accessible.

Question: How much rainwater can an individual collect?

Response: (Nikki) You can collect as much rainwater as you want from an impermeable surface (such as roofs and pavement).

Comment: Our ancient pump failed after 55 years of service. It cost nearly \$2,000 to replace. We calculated the cost of municipal water and discovered that it would have cost us \$60,000 to get connected to a municipal system. So we determined that it was much more economically feasible to get a new pump for our well. We need to support the concept of collecting rainwater for irrigation purposes because it costs much less and also reduces consumption from our municipal systems.

Harmony thanked Nikki and Mike for their presentations. She commented that we presented a snapshot of information tonight. Many of our Partners have even more information. We will figure out what information we have and share it with one another and grapple with what this all means to the future of water in the Mid-Coast region.

Comment Cards:

Following are general comments submitted on 3x5 comment cards at the end of the meeting:

- Need to have meeting award for member who traveled the furthest. Starbucks Coffee Card Award.
- Having a meeting under a working restaurant is very distracting due to the noise.



Appendix

Attendance List – Partnership Meeting March 29, 2017

Alan Fujishin	Gibson Farms
Billie Jo Smith	City of Toledo - Mayor
Bob Cowen	Hatfield Marine Science Center
Charlie Plybon	Surfrider Foundation - Newport Chapter
Craig Herman	Oregon Cattlemen's Association
Craig Martin	City of Toledo
Cyndi Karp	Watershed Advocate
Dave Wilson	Landowner
David Westgate	Lincoln Soil and Water Conservation District
Debbie Pickering	The Nature Conservancy
Harmony Burrigh	Oregon Water Resources Department
Jackie Mikalonis	Governor's Office - Regional Solutions
Jacque Fern	Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
Jeanne Anstine	Newport Community Garden
Jenni Franks	NOAA Fisheries
Jennifer Beathe	Starker Forests, Inc.
Jerry Anderson	Hancock Forest Management
Jitesh Pattni	Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
Jo Morgan	Oregon Department of Agriculture
John Spangler	Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
John Sullivan	Landowner
Joyce Sherman	Stewards of Rocky Creek - Northwest Steelheaders
Margaret Matter	Oregon Department of Agriculture
Mark Saelens	Lincoln County
Mary Camarata	Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
Maryann Bozza	Hatfield Marine Science Center
Maryanne Reiter	Weyerhaeuser Co.
Matt Thomas	Oregon Department of Forestry
Mike Adams	City of Toledo
Mike Thoma	Oregon Water Resources Department
Nikki Hendriks	Oregon Water Resources Department
Olaf Sweetman	City of Newport
Pam Barlow Lind	Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians
Patti Ferry	Newport Chamber of Commerce
Paul Robertson	Lincoln Soil and Water Conservation District
Steven Bemis	Citizen
Terry Thompson	Lincoln County
Tim Gross	City of Newport
Tim Miller	Oregon Cattlemen's Association & Oregon Farm Bureau
Wayne Hoffman	Mid-Coast Watersheds Council