

Mid-Coast Partnership Coordinating Committee Meeting

DRAFT Meeting Notes

June 12, 2025 | 9:00 – 10:00 am via MS Teams

Attendees

Adam Denlinger	Seal Rock Water District
Alan Gibson	Gibson Farms
Alyssa Mucken	Oregon Water Resources Dept. (facilitating)
Billie Jo Smith	Lincoln County Water Systems Alliance
David Rupp	Oregon State University
Steve Parrett	Oregon Dept. of Environmental Quality
Tyler Clouse	Lincoln Soil & Water Conservation District

Unable to Attend

Mike Broili	MidCoast Watersheds Council
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Action Item Summary

- ☐ Alyssa – look for GSI’s document about the value of the Mid-Coast Partnership for text/information to share during Kayak Float Series.
- ☐ All – Share any water conservation materials with Tyler for an upcoming float event.
- ☐ David will check on whether a flyer exists for the Compound Flooding Project, and he will share out slides from the workshop.
- ☐ Alyssa will send information about the State’s drought declaration process to Alan and Adam. Steve will send the contact information for the State’s Drought Council coordinator.

Agenda & Meeting Notes Review

- Committee reviewed the [5/08/2025 meeting notes](#). No changes need to be made.

Discussion & Consensus Decision: Tyler Clouse, Lincoln SWCD, as new convener

- Tyler kicked off the discussion, noting that the Partnership has needed an additional convener for quite some time, and several members have noted a local presence is preferred to continue making forward progress. Tyler joined the Mid-Coast planning effort in the early days as a charter signatory, being engaged throughout, while learning a lot about the Mid-Coast Partnership. Tyler has also been involved in various water initiatives throughout Lincoln County and thinks the Lincoln SWCD is poised to take on the role of a convener, especially with grant recently awarded. Currently, Tyler has time to continue with different projects (e.g., source water protection, restoration work, weed removal projects), while taking on a convener role and plans to stay working within the community.
- Billie Jo noted her preference to move on with our consensus decision. Everyone knows Tyler, he’s been active, all will be grateful to have him on board as a convener. Nearly impossible for someone to do this. It’s a lot of responsibility, as Adam knows. We have been talking about a new convener forever; everything he is doing is appreciated. I think we can decide today.
- **Consensus Decision** – Should we select Tyler as our new convener? All Coordinating Committee Members voted with a thumbs up, signaling yes. Tyler is our new convener.

Roundhouse Grant Update (Tyler)

- Received nearly the full amount requested (\$14K for the year).
- Tyler showed the goals of the Roundhouse Grant on the screen. A few tasks are to support the partnership, such as convening meetings and maintaining the Smartsheet project tracker (talking to GSI about that).
- Support Letters – Another grant task is to provide letters of support for five partnership projects. But before doing so, we'll need to figure out how the process looks, who reviews, and approves. This is still to be determined (a discussion item for the future). For example, it would be simple to author letters related to watershed council projects, but it would be better to engage more, instead of core entities that Tyler works with on a frequent basis.
- Bundle Workgroup Meetings – Lincoln SWCD is busy with weed work during the summer – out in field a lot, which means the bundle workgroup meetings won't happen until early Fall. Tyler sending out invites.
- Host 2 tours – those might be late summer, and maybe another one with Adam in the Spring. There is interest in learning more about the Beaver Creek drinking water facility.
- Coordinating Committee – task aimed at convening the coordinating committee; there is some funding to develop a coordinator job description. Do we want a part-time or full-time position? Who would host it? Who will apply for additional funds? I'm happy to apply, not sure SWCD should take on the coordinator role, or outsource it. Several people within the Partnership have expressed concerns about continuing to hire outside consultants.
 - Why not consultant? Expensive, 2-3 times as much, typically not located locally, lack community connections. Advantages of funding within an existing organization.
 - Consultant advantage: you can hire one part-time.
- Conservation Kayak Series – Events occurring this summer, with technical assistance providers joining the floats. First event scheduled for June 18. Water levels are extremely low; some areas we did last year will not work. Lincoln SWCD send up an updated flyer with modified locations. For Siletz, likely moving the location. NRCS will be attending, and a few others. We plan on doing the Kayak Float Series annually.. Big hit last year, about 20 boats per float. How do we want to message information about the Partnership during the float events?
 - **Action Item:** Steve says GSI made something not long ago – value of the partnership – Alyssa will look for this document.
 - Tyler does have access to GSI's work.
 - River floats – good to advertise in the Yachats newsletter. And other local papers.
 - How long do they last, typically? Each float differs, anywhere from 2 to 4 hours.
 - **Float Suggestion:** Can we tie one with a Partnership meeting? Last one is in September, it's an easy float. Tyler likes the idea.
 - For beginners – Siletz is moderate experience, some snags, trees, but it's too shallow right now. All others will be easy; life jackets required.
 - **Action Item All:** Any material on water conservation for the August event? Please send to Tyler.

HB3116

- Bill still sitting in Ways and Means Committee.
- Some outreach to Senator Dick Anderson has occurred.

Placed-Based Planning Fund

- Alyssa noted that OWRD has plans to open a grant solicitation before the end of the year.
- OWRD and other state agencies are currently updating the place-based planning guidelines, using lessons learned from the existing planning groups, evaluations of that process, and discussions from the regional water planning workgroup.

Roundtable Updates

- David shared an update about a compound flooding project on the coast. Work is starting on the Yaquina River, which is not a water supply source here; how it connects to the Mid-Coast Action Plan is unclear. Looking at the influence of compounding factors, riverine and ocean boundaries, using a model that runs quickly, with different scenarios and a suite of adaptation measures. Held a workshop a couple weeks ago. **Action Item:** David will check on whether they have a project flyer and share out slides from the workshop.
 - Billie Jo is interested in this project.
 - On a related note, OSU had a PHD student that looked at water quality and temperature in Yaquina, using a hydrodynamic model, examining the effect on oysters and other things, but not aware of any outreach as part of the project. It would be great if that information can be shared, may talk to her advisor. Maybe she could give a talk, over Zoom, or a seminar. Someone suggested trying the Watershed Council – they host monthly series.
- Adam noted that he and others are trying to establish a date for the Lincoln County Drought Committee (an ad-hoc group, advisory role). The watermaster, Nikki Hendricks, does not have flow results for Beaver Creek, but Seal Rock Water District is experiencing flows that we don't see until late July or early August. Can Alan or Tyler attend?
 - We need to talk about it now, and its impacts in the region. Many drinking water providers in the region. A drought declaration triggers certain steps for Seal Rock and others. It's important that we get in a room and talk about it. Adam will send out an email to set up a meeting.
 - Maybe the Mid Coast Water Conservation Consortium can do some messaging.
 - The State Drought Council meets monthly. Steve is a member. Cameron Greenwood at OWRD is the coordinator.
 - **Action Item:** Alyssa will send along information about the State's Drought Council to Alan and Adam. Steve will send the contact information.