

Mid-Coast Water Planning Partnership Coordinating Committee Meeting Notes

Date: Tuesday, May 2, 2023, 10 AM-11 AM

Location: Zoom

Coordinating Committee Meeting Attendees

Adam Denlinger -- Seal Rock Water District
Billie Jo Smith – Lincoln County Water Systems Alliance
David Rupp — Oregon State University
Steve Parrett – Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
Alan Fujishin – Gibson Farms
Suzanne de Szoeki – GSI Water Solutions, Inc.
Leah Cogan – GSI Water Solutions, Inc.

Meeting Agenda

- Prioritization Work Group agenda
- Prioritization approaches
- Charter updates
- Co-convenor role
- Partnership meeting

Summary of Major Points of Discussion

- Suzanne described the role of the Coordinating Committee according to the Partnership's Charter, including the committee's role in updating the Charter
- The committee discussed potential additional members to invite to the Coordinating Committee and to reach out to about becoming a Co-convenor
 - Current Co-convenor (Adam) works for a water supplier; Suzanne mentioned there is interest in seeing a second Co-convenor representing a different sector for balance
 - Suzanne suggested contacting Lincoln County Soil and Water Conservation District and MidCoast Watersheds Council to gauge interest in the Co-convenor role
 - Alan described the previous Co-convenors and Coordinating Committee members, and suggested contacting the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians (CTSI), Lincoln County Commissioners, and local economic development organizations
 - Billie Jo supported contacting CTSI and the Watersheds Council
 - Adam agreed that other pilot place-based planning groups had strong County support, and it may be a good time to reengage with Lincoln County
 - Steve noted that the place-based planning program guidelines emphasize having a locally led and initiated process, so the Co-convenor should be local and should look out for the interests of the Partnership as a whole
 - Suzanne stated that she would review contact lists for the Partnership and individuals who have been involved in local source water protection efforts to identify potential committee members/Co-convenors to reach out to

- Suzanne presented a draft meeting agenda for the Prioritization Work Group meeting scheduled for May 9
- Suzanne showed a project information form that was sent out last week to collect data on projects that will be used in a later phase to determine how the Partnership can support projects
 - No responses have been submitted yet, and Suzanne suggested setting aside time at the full Partnership meeting in June to discuss projects and collect this information
 - Suzanne will resend the email with the link to the project information form to the Coordinating Committee before the Work Group meeting next week
- Suzanne presented potential updates to the Charter now that the Water Action Plan has been completed
 - No comments have been received yet
 - Time will be set aside at the Work Group meeting to review the suggested changes
 - Alan suggested adding clarification in the Charter about letters of support for projects, and whether decisions about support should be made at the project team level, Coordinating Committee level, full Partnership level, or by a separate committee making recommendations to the Partnership
 - Alan suggested that the letter of support language should focus simply on whether the project is consistent with the Water Action Plan and the Charter
 - Billie Jo agreed that a support letter could describe how the project aligns with the Water Action Plan and would not need to be evaluated by the full Partnership
 - Steve suggested that if the Coordinating Committee will be making decisions on letters of support, this should be made clear to the Partnership and the decision-making process should be confirmed
 - Steve described the Lower John Day place-based planning group's current efforts to update their charter
- Adam stated that he would work on having the travel reimbursement form ready to share at the next meeting
- Suzanne stated that no requests for funding to participate based on financial need have been received yet
- Suzanne described the three prioritization approaches that have been discussed by the Work Group and were sent out in an email last week
- Leah described test runs using the suggested criteria to evaluate different types of projects, such as a Drinking Water Protection Plan, a habitat restoration project, and a water meter upgrade project
 - Leah noted that the criteria may be subjective, and that it may be beneficial to use separate criteria to evaluate planning projects, implementation projects, and monitoring
 - Leah suggested that the criteria could be used to consider ways to enhance a project, connect potential partners, and discuss ways for the Partnership to support a project such as through identifying funding sources
 - Suzanne suggested holding separate meetings to discuss projects under specific imperatives
 - Alan supported tracking projects that are fully funded and ready for implementation to increase awareness and support among the Partnership members

- Billie Jo agreed that support from the Partnership includes sharing expertise and knowledge, not only helping obtain funding
- Suzanne described the plans for the Partnership meeting on June 14
 - Currently planned presentations will be from Aaron Collett from the City of Newport on the Newport dams project, David Rupp on the OSU project on streamflow analyses, and the Mid-Coast Water Conservation Consortium
 - Time will be set aside for collecting project information
 - The meeting will be from 12-3, and Suzanne is working to get a field trip set up in the morning before the meeting, potentially at the Newport dam site

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