

## Mid-Coast Water Planning Partnership Coordinating Committee Meeting Notes

**Date:** Thursday, February 1, 2024, 10:00-11:30 AM

**Location:** Zoom

### **Coordinating Committee Meeting Attendees**

*Coordinating Committee Members Present:*

Adam Denlinger – Seal Rock Water District

Alan Fujishin – Gibson Farms

Steve Parrett – Oregon Department of Environmental Quality

Alyssa Mucken – Oregon Water Resources Department

David Rupp – Oregon State University

Billie Jo Smith – Lincoln County Water Systems Alliance

Henry Pitts – Oregon State University student

*Coordinating Committee Members Absent:*

Mike Broili (MidCoast Watersheds Council)

*Facilitators:*

Suzanne de Szoeka – GSI Water Solutions, Inc.

Leah Cogan – GSI Water Solutions, Inc.

### **Meeting Agenda**

- February 13 Work Group meeting agenda
  - New work plan approach
- Partnership participant engagement
- Information sharing among Partnership participants
- Scheduling next Coordinating Committee meetings
- Funding possibilities to support Partnership post-ARPA funding
- Financial report

### **Summary of Major Points of Discussion**

- The committee discussed the new work plan approach
  - Billie Jo put together a table of lead entities and participating entities associated with each action in the Water Action Plan, and GSI added related actions
  - Suzanne discussed a flowchart showing how the Partnership could support implementation, depending on whether or not there are existing projects
  - Committee members wanted to see how the prioritization process fit into the flowchart
  - The flowchart initially showed the Coordinating Committee reviewing projects brought by Partner organizations, but members suggested that a separate review committee would be more appropriate

- Alan noted that the review process would be for determining ways the Partnership could support and improve projects, not an approval/rejection process
- Billie Jo noted that groups may work toward addressing actions in Priority Group A, but that Priority Groups B and C are still important
- Alyssa asked about the deliverables under the ARPA grant, and Suzanne described the work plans and action implementation support tools
- Alan suggested reaching out to Partnership members where no projects have been identified to verify whether there are projects we don't know about
- Billie Jo suggested that grant writing workshops or proposal review assistance could be a Partnership activity to support implementation by member entities
- David pointed out that full Partnership don't occur often enough to be the right venue for reviewing proposed projects, so a technical work group would be better
- **Action Item:** GSI will update the flowchart for the next Work Group meeting
- Billie Jo described the successful model of the Puget Sound Partnership and would like to see a presentation about it
- The committee discussed options for project tracking databases
  - Alan noted that it will take investment to populate and maintain, but will be valuable for identifying gaps in implementation
  - Suzanne described Smart Sheets and ProjectFirma, and has contacted OWEB and other place-based planning groups
  - Leah described the performance metric monitoring in the Water Action Plan, which will be valuable for tracking implementation, reporting to OWRD, and obtaining funding
  - When the Partnership is ready to track performance metrics, the Coordinating Committee thinks it will be important to contact Partnership members to understand what baseline data is already being collected to avoid duplication of effort and to identify gaps
- The committee discussed ways to encourage attendance and participation in Partnership meetings and activities
  - Potential methods include personalized phone and email contact, presentations at organizations' meetings, outreach at events, and developing outreach materials
  - Charter signatories have attendance requirements to be able to participate in consensus decisions, but there is no other attendance requirement
  - Steve suggested other media such as radio and newspaper; messaging should focus on the value and benefits of the Partnership
  - Billie Jo agreed about focusing on the value, what's in it for attendees, and how participation contributes to meaningful benefits for water resources in the area
  - Alan noted that the website is also a good method of outreach and Leah shared the website traffic reports; he noted that phone calls are effective but time-consuming so it may be more cost-effective to use personalized emails

- Adam agreed that individual outreach is effective but still needs to articulate the value statement; planning fatigue has set in for some people; he suggested creating a 1-page outreach flyer describing the value of maintaining connection with the Partnership
- Steve suggested surveying the Partnership list about how they would find value in the Partnership and what they want to see at meetings
- Time will be allocated at meetings for Partner organizations to share news and projects they are working on
- News may also be shared through a bulletin board on the website, emails, and newsletters
- **Action Item:** GSI and the Coordinating Committee will work on developing messaging for outreach (potentially for flyer and website)
- The committee discussed scheduling of the next Coordinating Committee meetings
  - One meeting will focus on the charter updates
  - Committee members want to see previous comment versions ahead of time to review and be able to get through all proposed changes at the meeting
  - Coordinating Committee members will suggest proposed changes, and GSI will record proposed changes
  - **Action Item:** GSI will send out previous comment versions to the committee
  - Next Coordinating Committee meetings are scheduled for 2/20/24 at 9 AM to discuss the charter and 2/27/24 at 9 AM to discuss the next Work Group agenda
- Billie Jo shared that she met with Stan van de Wetering about the convener position, but he does not have capacity at this time
- Suzanne shared that an individual from Lincoln Soil and Water Conservation District expressed interest in the convener position, and she will follow up
- The committee discussed funding options for an ongoing coordinator position
  - Steve shared information about the place-based planning funding approved in the last legislative session, but OWRD wants to do a rulemaking before making grants to place-based planning groups; he suggested that if the conveners of all the groups presented unified request/recommendation to OWRD to use grant funding to coordinate implementation work without needing a rulemaking, they may listen—otherwise funding would not be available until at least mid-2025
  - Adam agreed OWRD seems headed in the direction of rulemaking, but he is willing to have a conversation about the process; it would be good to have the conveners participate on the Rules Advisory Committee if there is rulemaking
  - Suzanne discussed sustaining place-based planning after ARPA with OWRD, and they said it would take over a year for rulemaking and making funding available; it will be an agenda item at the next all-group meeting
  - Steve suggested that WaterSMART grants could also support implementation and it would be good to have a presentation about it
- Suzanne presented the financial report through Q4 2023
  - The grant is about halfway through the timeline and funding, so it's on target
  - The first inquiry for participant support reimbursement has been received from McKenzie River Trust

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