



STATE-SUPPORTED REGIONAL WATER PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT WORK GROUP

Meeting Summary

January 31, 2022 from 12:30-3:00pm

Zoom Meeting

ACTION ITEMS:

ACTION	BY WHOM?	BY WHEN?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Send any additional amendments, comments and questions regarding the draft Operating Protocols. 	ALL	February 14
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review participation norms and signal via email if any were missed that are important for the group's work together. 	ALL	February 14
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Post the draft Operating Protocols, OC Assessment Findings Memo, and meeting summary on OWRD webpage. 	OWRD	February 7
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Send the updated Operating Protocols with any feedback integrated to the group for advance review. 	OC	February 22

Meeting Attendees:

Work Group Members: Adam Denlinger, Ana Molina, Anton Chiono, April Snell, Bob Rees, Bobby Brunoe, Calla Hagle, Caylin Barter, Chandra Ferrari, Chrysten Rivard, Courtney Warner Crowell, Dan Thorndike, Daniel Newberry, Holly Mondo, Jeff Stone, JR Cook, Kate Fitzpatrick, Kathleen George, Kelly Timchak, Kimberley Priestley, Margaret Magruder, Mary Anne Cooper, Niki Iverson, Oriana Magnera, Peggy Lynch, Roselynn Lwenya, Richard Whitman, Tiffany Monroe, Tom Byler, Wally McCullough.

Facilitation Team: Robin Harkless and Jennah Stillman, Oregon Consensus

Process Leadership: Representative Reardon, Representative Helm, Representative Owens, OWRC Chair Meg Reeves

MEETING SUMMARY:

Welcome, Opening Remarks and Group Charge

Facilitator Robin Harkless, Oregon Consensus, welcomed the group and invited members of the HB 5006 Process Leadership Team to provide opening remarks. All shared their appreciation for everyone making the time to be there today and for their commitment to this work.



Meg Reeves, OWRC Chair, acknowledged the importance of this group's work ahead regarding the many water resource challenges across the state. Noting the significant efforts of past and current regional planning efforts, she highlighted the value of planning from the ground up that includes diverse community voices and localized knowledge into the process.

Representative Reardon acknowledged that although there are many considerations for Oregon's water future relative to climate disruption, population growth and pollution, the legislative direction for this group's scope of work is to improve approaches to water planning and funding decisions. By developing a framework for state-supported regional and basin-level planning, the intention is to build on past efforts and the 100 Year Water Vision, and to further the goals of the IWRS, which will serve all Oregonians.

Representative Owens shared that there are now more water challenges facing Oregon than ever and as such, the state can't take a 'one size fits all' approach. He noted that the Place-based Planning Pilot funding will sunset in 2023 and there are lessons to be learned in order to inform what model comes next. He also spoke to the scope of the work group and acknowledged that although conversations may be needed for topics such as permitting, water rights, prior appropriations, etc. that they should not drift into the goal of this process. This group can determine recommendations for how regions and communities can best meet the current and future water needs and balance respective water interests in the state, and how the state can best support those planning and implementation efforts moving forward. He noted that the work of this group is anticipated to manifest in policy recommendations for the 2023 legislative session, and that the representatives will support the process and outcomes.

Representative Helm acknowledged the historic moment and need for this group, with the opportunity to have an important impact on the future of Oregon's water management. He noted the current challenges and climate threats facing society, recognizing the persisting reality of drought and the incremental pressure on resources and people. He encouraged the work group members to come together for collective progress, for recommendations and priorities that will be handed to the next Governor to make those ideas a reality.

Courtney Warner Crowell, Water Policy Advisor for Governor Brown, shared that she and Morgan Gratz-Weiser from the Governor's Natural Resource Office will be engaged throughout the process and are committed to shepherding this work into the next Governor's administration. She noted that managing state water resources will become more challenging over time and they look forward to supporting this collaborative work in order to build resilient and forward-looking systems.

Tom Byler, OWRD Director, echoed his appreciation for the points shared and stated that the HB 5006 legislation directed OWRD and Oregon Consensus to convene this work group. OWRD and



other state agencies will participate in an ex-officio role, to listen and serve as technical resource experts. He noted that OWRD will also be responsible for communications and are in the process of developing a dedicated webpage ([here](#)) for this effort where information regarding the process, upcoming meetings, and summaries and materials for past meetings will be available. Also, OWRD will be looking at a variety of ways to communicate about this work more broadly and bring as many voices as possible in. OWRD is committed to keeping this group updated about other important conversations underway, such as the Tribal Task Force on Water, engagement with environmental justice communities, and others, and that information would flow both ways regarding this effort in order to understand different processes, where and how they may connect. He added that OWRD recently hired a new employee, Lili Prah, who will soon join this effort.

Oregon Consensus and Agenda Overview

Robin Harkless, Oregon Consensus, noted that the OC facilitation team has been working closely with the Process Leadership team to get this effort organized to this point. She shared that Oregon Consensus is a program housed at Mark Hatfield School of Government at Portland State University that serves as a public policy alternate dispute resolution service for Oregon governments and communities, with specialization in collaborative governance and decision-making on behalf of the public. OC will work in service to the work group members to guide the process and help build collaboration and consensus recommendations. She then discussed the initial assessment that OC conducted and reviewed the themes that emerged. She noted that the assessment, in consultation with Process Leadership, informed and organized the process structure to ensure meaningful discovery, deliberation and consensus-building for recommendations on structuring a system that integrates regional and local efforts with state tools and resources, and creates a state framework for decision-making.

Work Group Introductions

The work group members each introduced themselves and shared their hopes and expectations for this effort. A summary of the responses pertaining to process hopes included, but was not limited to:

- Advancing and modernizing water management for longevity
- Building upon existing strategies to update the IWRS
- Integrating the full breadth of state tools and working beyond silos
- Balancing in stream and out of stream uses
- Developing recommendations for the next legislative session
- Building trust and relationships, co-learning from different perspectives and experiences, and addressing differences in a productive way
- Identifying a resilient, adaptable, and feasible framework for planning and implementation



- Addressing species facing extinction and the connection to native people, and incorporating Traditional Ecological Knowledge into planning
- Effectively translating deliverables to communities and bringing more voices to the table
- Bringing accountability and water justice into work moving forward
- Incorporating hydroelectric interest

Following this, Robin mentioned that all nine federally recognized tribes have been invited to serve on the Work Group. Membership may change as more tribes respond, but otherwise the work group as it stands is set for the next year.

Operating Protocols

Robin then reviewed the proposed draft Operating Protocols, which she noted were intended to set-up the collaborative process, develop a shared understanding and alignment on procedures, and allow the group to focus on the substantive issues moving forward. She provided a very high level overview of the draft document, pointing to the purpose, make up and deliverables of the group; decision making and communication protocols; and the approach and timeline sections.

She also discussed opportunities for broader engagement and input, which she noted would be based on direction from the work group but could be developed for information sharing and feedback in external forums; bringing voices in to the Work Group process; or other channels. Regarding communications for the work group, Robin shared that meetings will be open to the public and the facilitation team will document the meetings with high level summaries that capture the discussions, action items, and any clear areas of alignment or consensus. The meetings are not intended to be recorded. Meeting summaries and supporting materials will be posted on the OWRD webpage. She noted it is proposed that OWRD be the point of contact for media and will coordinate with the work group as needed to confirm information going through media channels. This process is set up to be consensus- or agreement-seeking and a consensus tool will be offered at the next meeting and the group will look to approve the Protocols at that time.

Feedback and Questions:

- There was a suggestion made to be more specific regarding work group members not speaking on behalf of the whole group unless specifically delegated to do so, to clarify that this is specifically connected to this work group and process and not others.
- A question was raised regarding who would be responsible for writing the final recommendations. In response, Robin shared that as a best practice, the group would consider writing their own and potentially use a Task Group to draft recommendations for the full work group to review, provide feedback, and approve. Oregon Consensus will



directly support the consensus recommendations drafting efforts and can assist with pen-holding for the time being if the group prefers.

- An inquiry regarding the process to communicate questions or topics of interest to address in future meeting agendas was raised. In response, Robin noted that those requests should be sent to her and Jennah Stillman (Oregon Consensus Project Associate). OC will initiate a system for gathering and compiling information sources before the next meeting.
- One member shared that they felt the purpose of the work group still felt a bit unclear, particularly regarding the sideboards for management and for who a recommended decision making framework would apply to.
- A question was raised regarding whether the need for more data to support regional planning efforts would be addressed.
- A suggestion was made that it could be helpful to post examples of similar efforts and lessons learned on the OWRD webpage or shared forum to inform the work group and others, in an effort to not reinvent the wheel.

Next Steps

In closing, Robin shared that a robust discovery process will be important for the first couple months of work and that at the next meeting, the group would dive into substantive topics. She also shared that we will aim to set a regular cadence for the meeting schedule moving forward based on general availability of the group. She invited work group members to review the Operating Protocols and send any friendly amendments by way of email, which would be integrated into an updated version and would be sent back to the group for advance review before Meeting #2. She also acknowledged that there are many voices and communities that aren't necessarily sitting at the table, and that there is intention to work in partnership to reach out and make connections to bring information and to share information out throughout the process. There will be more to come regarding this broader engagement approach.

Tom added that Meeting #2 will aim to develop a shared baseline understanding of the system that we have today and the context of how things work. This will likely include a presentation from OWRD and perhaps additional state agency staff, and will be paired with reflections from on the ground experiences in basin- community, or regional- scale planning around the state and their experiences in navigating the current system. Meeting #3 will add in reflections from models outside the state and perhaps other sectors.

The meeting adjourned at 3:05pm