

**STATE-SUPPORTED REGIONAL WATER PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT WORK GROUP**

Meeting Summary

March 8, 2022 from 11:00am-3:00pm

Zoom Meeting

**ACTION ITEMS:**

ACTION	BY WHOM?	BY WHEN?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Compose and send out a survey to gauge interest and availability for possible in-person meetings, as well as any safety or logistical considerations.</li></ul>	OC	Next week
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Review the updated Operating Protocols and confirm that they are complete and clear enough to move forward in this process, or, identify any major lingering questions or concerns that need to be addressed in the protocols as a suggested edit.</li></ul>	Work Group	March 18
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Schedule a meeting with the volunteer Coordination Committee</li></ul>	OC	Next week: (scheduled- 3/18)

**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, Donna Beverage, Holly Mondo, Jason Fenton, JR Cook, Kathleen George, Kimberley Priestley, Margaret Magruder, Mary Anne Cooper, Oriana Magnera, Peggy Lynch, Richard Whitman, Roselynn Lwenya, Tiffany Monroe, Tom Byler, Wally McCullough.

Facilitation Team: Robin Harkless and Jennah Stillman, Oregon Consensus

**MEETING SUMMARY:**

***Welcome and Introductions***

Facilitator Robin Harkless, Oregon Consensus, welcomed the group and invited members to introduce themselves and where they were currently located. She shared that a couple work group members were unable to attend the meeting that day, but were still engaged in the effort. Lili Prah, the new WRD Regional Planning Coordinator, was introduced and acknowledged that she would be available to provide support for the work group moving forward. Robin then reviewed the meeting agenda and noted the objectives to continue providing an orientation to, and understanding of the process, and working towards agreement in initiating that work together.

***Operating Protocols and Meeting #1 Follow-up***

Robin shared appreciation for the feedback, comments, suggestions, and questions that members provided on the Draft Operating Protocols. She acknowledged that reviewing and discussing the

protocols would serve as a critical step in the Work Group determining its norms to be most effective and accountable in working together to deliver tangible results and meet the legislative direction from HB 5006. She suggested that the goal for today was for the work group to reach a place of sufficient comfort and clarity in their operating procedures to take the next step into content and set the course for task-oriented work and directed information gathering.

The group then reviewed the Draft Operating Protocols (previous version can be found [here](#)). A summary of the following themes discussed included, but were not limited to:

- **Purpose and Deliverables.** Many acknowledged the significant amount of work, broad deliverables, and ability to accomplish that in one year, as well as the challenges of doing so in a virtual forum. Some shared that developing a recommended structure for regional/basin planning felt manageable, but also noted that the state's role in support and integration of regional efforts was a critical component for success. Some expressed that addressing and modernizing the state's decision making framework was important but may be too large of a lift for the timeline at hand. Recognizing the diversity and wealth of experience embodied in the work group composition, there was general agreement around the importance of evaluating and building upon past efforts, cultivating shared learning, and building trust and relationships, as well as concrete shared ideas or recommendations.
- **Information Gathering.** Individuals offered suggestions for topics or information they wanted to see, this was a brainstorming format and not a discussion among the group at this meeting. Some raised the suggestion and desire for the group to understand the history and current status of water planning and management in Oregon, as well as lessons learned from various regional efforts in order to identify successful components, gaps, roadblocks, and opportunities for improvement, both on the regional and state level. Some of the initial inquiry areas identified by work group members were around how other states have supported and integrated regional planning to develop a state water plan with clear region-level goals and strategies; inventorying what has/hasn't worked in the past; participatory engagement in past planning; identifying who wasn't at the table and how they were impacted by planning efforts; how accountability has/hasn't been addressed and what that should look like; engaging the Racial Justice Council in collecting statewide data to inform investment decisions and identify opportunities to make meaningful impacts; engaging other state agencies based on their roles with water and regional planning as needed (ODA, DSL, DLCD, OWEB and ODF); and developing shared definitions for 'regional,' 'state-supported,' and 'local.'
- **Task Groups.** As the work group focus shifts to substance and the inquiry needs/areas become more defined, the work group will determine what content is most important to cover during full meetings together in support of shared learning, and what topic-specific work or questions should be directed to task groups. The task groups can identify and recruit additional expertise or resources needed in order to inform the needs and ideas directed by the work group. A question was raised regarding how to balance the time commitment and challenges of capacity with the various work spaces and timeline.

- **Coordination Committee.** There was general agreement about the need for a volunteer subset of the work group to work with Oregon Consensus and help coordinate content in-between meetings to ensure that agendas are being developed to meet the group's needs, and help organize process elements so that the work group space can be focused on issue substance. Robin noted that this coordination work will be transparent and shared with the full group, and anyone will have the opportunity to provide feedback. Volunteers for this group included: Oriana Magnera, Holly Mondo, April Snell, Margaret Magruder, Kimberley Priestley and Caylin Barter.
- **Tribal Engagement.** Some members expressed a desire to learn more about different tribal perspectives related to water planning and management, and asked how to integrate tribal representation in the process that is different from other stakeholders.

Robin also shared a visual representation of the work group's process structure and proposed timeline ([here](#)). Based on the group's overall direction, discussion and refinement, Robin proposed to revise the protocols once more in order to get the document to a more finalized place before the group confirms it and moves forward. She suggested that as the Work Group's conversations and information sharing ensues, more specific scope and deliverables will become clearer. There was general agreement to revisit the topic of deliverables in a few months.

### *State of the System- State Lens*

Tom Byler, OWRD, provided a brief overview of the history around the state's water planning and the ways in which it has, or hasn't, changed to exist today. He also spoke about what is involved with planning, how it ties to key strategic documents, how it intersects with various state agencies and their authorities and responsibilities, and how it links to this group's work ahead. Kim Fritz-Ogren, OWRD, introduced the presentation where she, Jennifer Wigal and Rian Hooff from DEQ, Curtis Cude from OHA, Chandra Ferrari from ODFW, and Eric Hartstein from OWEB each briefly spoke to their respective agency's various roles, programs, tools and responsibilities related to regional and statewide water planning and management; capacity considerations; and areas of interagency coordination. You can view the [presentation slides](#) and watch [the recording](#) for more detailed information.

### *Work Group Debrief and Thoughts, Themes, and Questions Emerging*

Some work group members acknowledged that other state agencies, beyond those that presented during the meeting, are also involved in water programs and responsibilities, and as such, should be considered to bring into the process. The suggested agencies and potential topics to consider included, but were not limited to: ODA (agricultural use), OHA (drinking water systems), ODF (work with DEQ on water quality), DLCDC (siting of storage/land use program), and DSL (wetlands/natural systems).

In its debrief of the presentations, individuals offered suggestions for topics or information they wanted to see, this was a brainstorming format and not a discussion among the group at this meeting. Some noted that although state management is not a 'one size fits all,' the structure appears

to be siloed as it relates to natural resource agencies involved in water related efforts. Many expressed a desire for better integration of state agency work, management, resources, and data sets, which was acknowledged would take time but also that there are many building blocks (e.g. IWRS, basin plans, agency planning efforts, etc.) to start with. It was also acknowledged this work group's effort is not intended to divest the state in management authority, but to identify mechanisms and pathways to better integrate regional efforts with the state structure.

A couple members raised questions about additional information they hoped to learn from state agencies, like what gaps the agencies themselves saw in engaging with regional planning and implementation, or barriers that they encountered when serving people and projects around the state. Related to the interaction between state agencies and regional planning efforts, another suggestion was made to consider hearing from community perspectives about how the agency engagement, gaps, or barriers were experienced on the ground, and to learn how different regional planning efforts have or haven't engaged with these state programs, tools, and resources.

### ***Next Steps***

Operating Protocols: Robin shared that OC will send-out the updated protocols based on today's discussion for work group member final review and approval, to confirm that they are complete and clear enough to move forward in this process. Any major lingering questions or concerns regarding the process for the group should be shared as a suggested edit. Any suggested edits will be shared with the rest of the group via email.

April Meeting Content: As directed by the work group, the next meeting will focus on hearing from various regional/basin planning groups in Oregon to share their experiential perspectives on what worked well, or what didn't, and any thoughts on gaps or experiences working with the state. This initial round of presentations will feature efforts that involved work group members, like the Place-Based Planning pilots (and evaluation results), Deschutes Basin Collaborative, Columbia River-Umatilla Solutions Team, and Tualatin Basin Flow Management. This learning process will be ongoing, but this next round of information sharing and dialogue could help direct the topics and needs of potential task groups, which will likely initiate in April or May. The coordination committee will discuss this approach as well as emerging needs, and can offer ideas back to the full work group.

In-Person Meetings: The group signaled a general desire to meet in-person. Robin shared that OC will send-out a poll to gauge interest, availability, and considerations for safety and logistics, and would possibly look to May or June for a potential in-person meeting, depending on the will of the group. The group also discussed the idea of possibly adding on additional community forums, field tours, etc. to in-person meetings, but acknowledged the current uncertainties due to COVID-19 mandates in transition. Robin shared that resources are available to support work group member travel for in-person meetings.

Closing Remarks: Courtney Warner Crowell shared that the Governor's office signed the first drought declaration of the year, which signals why this discussion and work around regional water management is critical. Representatives Reardon, Owens and Helm affirmed the group's direction and noted the importance of the work group members having ownership of the process and products, as well as adhering to the sideboards previously discussed, and following guidance from the legislation and budget note. They shared their appreciation for the commitment to this critical effort, and providing an eventual product that helps direct the state.

Upcoming Meetings: The OWRC will meet on March 17 and 18th, and the initial Place-Based Planning Evaluation will be presented on the 18th tentatively around 10:45am. The meeting recording will be posted on the website afterwards ([here](#)).

The next work group meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 5th from 11am-3pm on Zoom.