

WATER RESOURCES COMMISSION

WORK SESSION

NORTH BEND

OCTOBER 3, 1991

MINUTES

Commission members present:

Lorna Stickel, Chair  
Cliff Bentz, Vice-chair  
Jim Howland  
Hadley Akins  
Mike Jewett  
Roger Bachman  
Anita Johnson

Others:

Larry Jebousek  
Audrey Simmons  
John Kelsey  
Anne Perrault  
Larry Trosi  
Jan Boettcher  
Scott Ashcom  
David Moon  
Stephanie Burchfield  
Karen Russell  
Todd Heidgerken  
Tam Moore

Water Resources staff:

Bill Young  
Jan Shaw  
Becky Kreag  
John Borden  
Amin Wahab  
Greg Nelson  
George Robison  
Fred Lissner  
Rick Craiger  
Rick Bastasch  
Randy Selig  
Marc Norton  
Sam Allison  
Steve Sanders  
Tom Kline  
Al Cook  
Randy Moore  
John Drolet  
Steve Applegate  
Bev Hayes  
Steve Brown

The staff reports presented at this meeting, which contain the Director's recommendations mentioned in these minutes, are on file in the Office of the Director of the Water Resources Department, 3850 Portland Road, NE, Salem, Oregon. Written information submitted at this meeting is hereby made a part of this record and is on file at the above address. Audiocassette recording tapes of the meeting are also on file in the Water Resources Department office.

1. INFORMATIONAL REPORT: DETERMINING STREAMFLOWS AND WATER AVAILABILITY IN OREGON

Since the summer of 1990, the Department has made available several tools and databases to help determine streamflows and water availability. In May 1991, a report was published giving results from streamflow analysis, modeling, and water availability evaluations for sites throughout the state. While the database, tools, and report are being used by people inside and outside the Department, there has been some confusion on what the numbers mean and how they can be used. It has become apparent that a report

on how to determine streamflows and water availability using the emerging tools and databases would be beneficial to many. The staff report summarized some of the points of the draft report (Methods for Determining Streamflows and Water Availability in Oregon) and pointed out some key areas in which the emerging tools and information are being utilized by the agency.

#### Director's Recommendation

The staff encouraged the Commission to raise questions concerning streamflow statistics, modeling, and other topics related to water availability. Staff welcomed recommendations for improvement concerning the draft hydrology report.

The Commission and staff discussed surface water information and took no formal action on this item.

#### 2. PROPOSED REVIEW OF DRAFT WILLAMETTE BASIN RULES (OAR CHAPTER 690, DIVISION 502) AND PLAN, AND REQUEST TO POSTPONE ACTION ON THE RULES AND PLAN

The process to update the Willamette Basin program began in August 1988. Based on a public interest survey and citizen input at a series of town hall meetings in January 1989, staff selected five main issues for study in the Willamette Basin. The issues were surface water allocation, groundwater management, reservoir coordination, municipal - domestic water systems and water conservation. Work groups, composed of private citizens and agency staff members, and a number of state, federal and local government entities, helped the planning effort.

Three documents were developed in the planning process. These are the basin report, basin plan and basin rules. The discussion papers which identified management options and policies were the subject of a second round of town-hall meetings in June 1990. The report, based on those discussion papers, was revised to reflect comments received during the planning process. The draft report was presented to the Commission at its meetings in March and April 1991. Additional revisions will be made in the basin report before final publication.

Recommended management options and policies for all five issues were compiled in a draft basin plan. Public, work group and agency input was taken into consideration in selecting the recommended options. The plan identifies agencies and/or programs responsible for implementing the recommended management options. It also sets a course of action for coordination with local governments and representatives of municipal and industrial water users.

The basin rules will be an administrative tool. The rules, along with existing statutory and other administrative provisions, will govern future use and control of unappropriated surface and groundwater in the Willamette Basin. The rules implement those management options from the plan that are within the direct purview of the Commission.

A draft basin report, plan and rules were presented to the Commission at its work session on March 9 and April 18, 1991. On April 18, the Commission authorized staff to conduct four public hearings on the proposed rules and plan. The hearings were held in Salem, Portland, Eugene and Corvallis on May 30, June 4, 5, and 6, respectively. Most of the Commissioners attended the Salem hearing. Commissioner Roger Bachman

presided over the Portland hearing and Commissioner Jack Delay over the hearings in Eugene and Corvallis.

More than 160 people attended the hearing in Salem. The other hearings were attended lightly. Most of the comments were general in nature with some specifics. Oral and written testimony was considered in revising the draft rules and plan.

Director's Recommendation

The staff recommended that the Commission review the modifications made to the rules and plan as a result of public comment.

The Commission discussed the major issues raised at the hearings and provided direction to staff on the amended rules and plan; follow-up work and coordination with local planning entities on land use and compatibility issues; and municipal and industrial water needs and reservations.

The Commission took no formal action on this item.

There being no further business, the work session adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Shaw  
Commission Assistant

JS:dkh

1337D