

State Recognition

PBP Step 5 Guidance Section on State Review, Adoption, and Commission Recognition (attached)

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- State Agency Review of Final Draft Plan (p.7-10)
- Adoption of Final Plan by Planning Group (p. 10)
- Commission Recognition of Final Plan (p.10-11)

Resolution of the Oregon Water Resources Commission Recognizing a Place-Based Integrated Water Resources Plan

- Resolution for Mid-Coast Water Planning Partnership Attached

participants may need time to review the Draft Plan several times through or have other people within their organizations review the Draft Plan. Some audiences will benefit from a presentation of the Draft Plan including time for discussion and/or review of the entire Draft Plan. Allow adequate time for review, but also have clear deadlines so the group can meet its agreed-upon deadlines. Once the feedback is returned, the planning group can decide what changes are needed to address any concerns and improve the Draft Plan to gain broad support.

It is recommended that the group do a self-assessment using the criteria in Appendix B in the final stages of plan development. The group can use the self-assessment to determine if any modifications are needed before the Final Draft Plan is submitted for the state agency review.

Once the planning participants have reached consensus on the Final Draft Plan as defined by the governance agreement, a broader community outreach effort should be undertaken to inform the public at large, obtain their feedback, and gain their support. This should not be the first time the broader community hears about the planning effort. The group may consider doing a public review process concurrently with the state agency review.

State Agency Review of Final Draft Plan

The 2015 Draft Guidelines state that the Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) will conduct a state agency review of each Plan during the final stages of Plan development with the state IWRS Project Team Agencies: Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) and Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). The state agency review team will include a combination of policy staff, who are generally based in agency headquarters, and regional field staff who may be more familiar with the planning group submitting the Final Draft Plan.

The primary purpose of the state agency review is to make a recommendation to the Commission as to whether a Plan was developed in a manner consistent with the 2015 Draft Guidelines and statewide IWRS principles and should be recognized by the Commission.

State Agency Review Participants

Different agencies will bring different areas of expertise to the review. Table 1 highlights the expertise and focus of the IWRS Project Team Agencies. In some cases, it may be helpful to consult other agencies with other areas of expertise. Table 2 provides a list of other potential reviewers that OWRD may consult or invite to participate in the review process as needed. If a planning group wants OWRD to invite any particular agency beyond the IWRS Project Team, then they should let their designated Planning Coordinator know so he/she can reach out to the other state agency and invite them to participate.

Table 1. IWRS partner agencies that will participate in the state agency review

Agency	Area of Water Expertise and Review Focus
Oregon Water Resources Department	Water quantity/supply, water availability, water rights, water use
Oregon Department of Environmental Quality	Water quality
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife	Ecology, instream water use and demands, water quality
Oregon Department of Agriculture	Agricultural water use and demands

Table 2. Additional reviewers that may be consulted in the state agency review

Agency	Area of Expertise and Review Focus
Oregon Health Authority	Public health and public water supply systems
Oregon Climate Change Research Institute	Climate change, vulnerabilities
Regional Solutions	Regional priorities, economic development
Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board	Watershed restoration
Oregon Department of Energy	Water and energy nexus
Department of Land Conservation and Development	Land use planning
Department of State Lands	Wetlands
Oregon State Marine Board	Boater recreation
Infrastructure Finance Authority	Infrastructure funding

State Agency Review Steps and Timeline

OWRD will coordinate the state agency review process which may require approximately 90 days from submission of a Final Draft Plan to OWRD to the results being communicated and discussed with the Convener(s) as shown in Table 3 below. OWRD will keep the conveners apprised of progress during the review process. If the planning group incorporates changes based on results of the state agency review, it may take OWRD another 30 days to review and verify the changes in consultation with the reviewers. The exact timeline of the state agency review will depend on staff workload and capacity at the time of the request, and the length of the Plan.

If desired, the planning group may want to deliver a presentation to the interagency review team about their planning process and plan. A presentation to the agencies should be considered and in the group's review process and schedule and should be communicated to agencies as early as possible. Requesting a presentation may increase the length of time required for the review, with an in-person meeting in the basin requiring more time to schedule than a conference call/webinar. State agencies will do their best to participate in such a presentation, but may not be able to attend depending on timing and resource availability.

Table 3. State Agency Review Steps and Timeline

State Agency Review Steps	Estimated Timeline
Final Draft Plan submitted to OWRD Planning Coordinator*	Day 1
State agencies complete their review using guidance criteria	Day 60
State agency review team meeting to discuss and develop recommendation	Day 70
Consolidated comments sent to Convener(s)	Day 80
Review team follow-up call or meeting with Convener(s)	Day 90
Opportunity for planning group to revise Final Draft Plan (if needed)	TBD

*Provide advanced notice if possible to assist in scheduling.

State Agency Review Criteria

The criteria developed to assist the state agency review team are included in Appendix B. The state agency review team will review the Plan using the criteria to answer questions divided into three major categories: plan development, plan content, and plan implementation. The questions and criteria were developed primarily to assess whether the Plan includes the required Plan contents and demonstrates it was developed in a manner consistent with the 2015 Draft Guidelines and statewide IWRS principles. These criteria will also help the reviewers check if the Final Draft Plan includes the information needed to have the value described above.

Although there are aspects of the state agency review that require an assessment of the technical work quality, the state agency review will not include a comprehensive review of all technical work performed during the planning process. Planning groups are responsible for assuring the quality and accuracy of technical work conducted during each planning step.

Outcomes of the State Agency Review Process

OWRD will manage the state agency review process and communicate the review results in writing to the convener(s) describing what, if any, changes or improvements the planning group must make to their Final Draft Plan before the state agency team can provide an affirmative recommendation to the Commission. OWRD will be judicious in requesting changes and will only request changes that are essential to ensuring the Final Plan is consistent with the 2015 Draft Guidelines and IWRS Principles. Consolidated review team feedback will be provided in two categories: 1) required changes needed for an affirmative review team recommendation to the Commission, and 2) suggested changes that may help improve the Plan.

The state agency review can add value to the Plan, especially if any actions will necessitate working with state agencies during implementation. State agency reviewers will be reviewing the Plan consistent with the criteria in Appendix B, but will also be looking for opportunities to

strengthen the Plan by proactively identifying potential barriers and challenges and ways they may be able to support implementation.

Agencies may provide other comments for consideration of the planning group as they finalize the Plan and transition to implementation. Agencies may consider writing a letter of support for the Plan, which could form part of the package of information presented to the Commission. Each agency is welcome to determine the intent and content of their support letter. Content can range from general support for the Plan to identification of specific support that the agency may be able to offer. Agencies may consider highlighting any funding or other opportunities they offer that possibly could support Plan implementation.

State agency review and Commission recognition does not:

- Legally bind the State to perform any activity;
- Obligate the State to provide financial assistance for any activity;
- Obligate the State to rely on or utilize any analysis performed in the planning process;
- Indicate all the Plan contents are technically accurate as technical accuracy is the responsibility of the planning groups; and
- Indicate that a proposed action has been approved or is being directly promoted by OWRD or other agencies.

Adoption of Final Plan by Planning Group

The planning group should formally adopt its Final Plan after the state agency review is complete, and the planning group has made any revisions required or recommended by the state agencies. The group should follow the decision-making process outlined in their governance agreement to formally adopt the Final Plan. Following adoption of the Final Plan, the Convener can make arrangements with the OWRD Planning Coordinator to present the Final Plan to the Commission for state-recognition at a regularly-scheduled Commission meeting.

Commission Recognition of Final Plan

This section describes the process of seeking state recognition and the role of the Commission in recognizing the Final Plan. It is not required that a Plan be recognized by the Commission and each planning group can decide whether it desires such state recognition. Commission meetings are held four times a year and it generally takes two months advanced notice to be placed on the agenda.

Steps for Commission Recognition

If a planning group would like the Commission to formally recognize the Final Plan, the process will follow these steps:

1. State agency review results in a recommendation that the Final Draft Plan be recognized;
2. Planning Group adopts a Final Plan;
3. Convener(s) work with Planning Coordinators to request time on a regular Commission agenda;
4. Public notification of the Final Plan on the Commission agenda;
5. Posting of Final Plan, staff report and PowerPoint on OWRD's website;
6. Convener(s) present Final Plan to the Commission;
7. Public comments to the Commission at the meeting; and
8. Commission discussion, motion and decision.

Factors in Commission Recognition

The Commission will make a decision after considering the following factors:

- The Convener(s) presentation of the Final Plan;
- The state agency review team recommendation;
- The Commissioners' review of the Final Plan;
- Letters of support from partners, state agencies and others¹; and
- Public comments received prior to or during the Commission meeting.

State-recognized Plans will be memorialized by the Commission in a formal resolution signed by the Commissioners. The resolution will recognize that the Plan was developed following the 2015 Draft Guidelines and statewide IWRS principles and will recognize the value of the Plan and its implementation in helping to meet Oregon's instream and out-of-stream water needs.

Plan Updates and Subsequent State Recognition

It is up to the planning group to decide if, when, and/or how frequently it would like to revisit and/or revise their Plan. This could include a specific process or criteria for determining when the plan needs to be revised or updated. The planning groups may choose to periodically update the Commission on progress and accomplishments, needs, and Plan revisions as they implement their Plans. The planning group may consider seeking state recognition again when the Plan is substantially changed.

¹ Letters of support are great ways for planning partners and other to express support for a plan to the Commission. However, they are not required to receive state recognition.



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Water Resources Department

North Mall Office Building

725 Summer St NE, Suite A

Salem, OR 97301

Phone (503) 986-0900

Fax (503) 986-0904

www.Oregon.gov/OWRD

Resolution of the Oregon Water Resources Commission Recognizing a Place-Based Integrated Water Resources Plan

Whereas the Oregon Water Resources Commission adopted Oregon's first Integrated Water Resources Strategy (IWRS) in 2012, and an updated version in 2017, carrying out its vision of bringing various water sectors and interests together to work toward the common purpose of maintaining healthy water resources to meet the needs of Oregonians and the environment for generations to come;

Whereas, an important recommended action of the IWRS was to create and test a framework for developing place-based integrated water resources plans, which resulted in development and publication of a draft set of Planning Guidelines in 2015;

Whereas, the Legislature in 2015 invested in the pilot phase of place-based water planning and granted authority through Senate Bill 266, which resulted in financial and technical support for four communities to begin planning in accordance with the Guidelines;

Whereas, the **Mid-Coast Water Planning Partnership**, in partnership with the state and in consultation with the Oregon Water Resources Department, worked diligently to develop a Place-Based Integrated Water Resources Plan (Plan);

Whereas, the Commission recognizes the immense value and expresses gratitude for all those who contributed to the Plan;

Whereas, the Plan was developed in collaboration with a balanced representation of diverse water interests, representing both instream and out-of-stream values;

Whereas, the actions in the Plan are consistent with existing state laws concerning the water resources of this state and state water resources policy;

Whereas, the Plan contains the vision of the Partnership, improves our understanding of water conditions and needs, both instream and out-of-stream, identifies critical water issues to be addressed, and recommends sound strategies for addressing the issues, implementation of the Plan will have significant value to the Partnership, the broader local community, and the people of Oregon;

Whereas, the Plan will facilitate implementation of local solutions that will balance instream and out-of-stream water needs now and in the future;

Whereas, the **Mid-Coast Water Planning Partnership** has been and remains committed to utilizing an open and transparent process that fosters public participation;

Whereas, the Plan has been locally adopted by the Partnership and the state's inter-agency Plan Review Team has determined that the plan follows the Guidelines and is consistent with principles of the IWRS;

Whereas, information contained in the Plan will inform future updates to the IWRS;

Whereas, implementation of the Plan will help meet the state's instream and out-of-stream water needs and support Oregon's economy, its renowned wildlife and nature, bountiful agricultural products, and healthy and livable communities as described in the IWRS; Now, therefore,

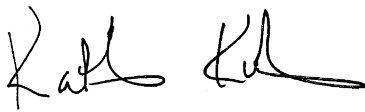
Be It Resolved, we the undersigned members of the Oregon Water Resources Commission do hereby recognize the importance of the Partnership's Plan on this 16th Day of June, 2022.



Meg Reeves, Chair
Westside at Large



Eric Quaempts, Vice Chair
North Central Region



Kathy Kihara
East Side at Large



Joe Moll
West Central Region



Julie Smitherman
Southwest Region



Jan Lee
Northwest Region



Woody Wolfe
Eastern Region