



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

Water Resources Department

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WATER RESOURCES COMMISSION Virtual Meeting February 23-24, 2023 Meeting Minutes

COMMISSIONERS

Meg Reeves
Eric Quaempts
Joe Moll
Kathy Kihara
Julie Smitherman
Jan Lee
Woody Wolfe

OWRD STAFF

Alex Zenor
Adam Frederick
Alyssa Mucken
Ann Reece
Austin Patch
Brad Melendy
Bryn Hudson
Chris Kowitz
Christi Haines
Crystal Grinnell
Danielle Gonzalez
Darrick Boschmann
Doug Woodcock
Emelie McKain
Eugene Dight
Ivan Gall
Jake Johnstone
James Hootsmans
Justin Dillon
Kathy Boles
Kelly Meinz
Kerri Cope
Kim Fritz-Ogren
Kristopher Byrd
Kyle Gorman
Laura Hartt
Lili Prah
Lisa Jaramillo
Lisa Snyder
Michele Calef
Molly Schmelzle
Nirvana Cook
Racquel Rancier
Sarah Henderson
Scott Prose
Shauna Yeh

OTHERS

Adam Denlinger
Anton Chiono
Brent Stevenson
Brian Wolcott
Brook Beeler
Caylin Barter
Christopher Hall
Gordon Lyford
Ken Yates
Peggy Lynch
Robin Harkless
Robin Teater
Steve Parrett
Suk Rhee
Tom Tebb
Wendy Willis

Written material submitted at this meeting is part of the official record and is on file at the Oregon Water Resources Department, 725 Summer Street NE, Suite A, Salem, Oregon 97301-1271. Agendas, minutes, PowerPoint presentations, staff reports, and audio/video files are available on the Department's [website](#).

I. Thursday, February 23, 2023

Chair Reeves called the meeting to order, explained the process and purpose of the meeting, and asked Commissioners to introduce themselves.

<https://youtu.be/GOMrz-lhg-4>

A. Project Implementation Update

<https://youtu.be/G0Mrz-lhg-4?t=137>

Jake Johnstone, Interim Field Services Division Administrator; Brad Melendy, Information Services Manager; and Julie Wagner, Records Officer, provided an update on the 2021-2023 biennium work priorities and projects for their respective section.

B. HB 5006 State-Supported Regional Water Planning and Management Workgroup

<https://youtu.be/G0Mrz-lhg-4?t=5366>

Lili Prahl, Regional Planning Coordinator, and Robin Harkless, Associate Director, Oregon Consensus, provided an overview of the process, report, and outcomes from the State-Supported Regional Planning and Management Workgroup.

C. Deschutes Basin Assessment and Workplan

<https://youtu.be/G0Mrz-lhg-4?t=10824>

Emelie McKain, Complex Basin Coordinator, provided an update on the Deschutes Basin situation assessment and next steps.

D. Update on Cannabis Industry Enforcement

<https://youtu.be/G0Mrz-lhg-4?t=12864>

Justin Dillon, Southwest Region Manager, and Scott Prose, Team Lead Assistant Watermaster, provided an update on Senate Bill 5561 cannabis-related enforcement activities during 2022, staff updates, and future plans for cannabis enforcement in 2023.

E. Update on OAR Chapter 690 – Division 10

<https://youtu.be/G0Mrz-lhg-4?t=15398>

Kelly Mainz, Water Policy Analyst, provided an update on Division 10 rules and the process to designate critical groundwater areas, currently under review.

F. Update on Well Construction Rulemaking

<https://youtu.be/G0Mrz-lhg-4?t=17957>

Kris Byrd, Well Construction Section Manager, and Laura Hartt, Water Policy Analyst, provided an update on the well construction rulemaking in progress to implement sections of House Bill 2145 (2021), House Bill 3030 and Senate Bill 688 (2019), and House Bill 4061 (2022).

G. Update on Integrated Water Resource Planning in the Walla Walla Basin

<https://youtu.be/GOMrz-lhg-4?t=18975>

Chris Kowitz, North Central Region Manager, and the listed panel provided an update on water planning efforts currently underway in the Walla Walla Basin. Tom Tebb, Director, Office of Columbia River, Washington Department of Ecology; Brook Beeler, Director, Eastern Region, Washington Department of Ecology; and Anton Chiono, Habitat Conservation

II. Friday, February 24, 2023

Chair Reeves reconvened the meeting and explained the process and purpose of the meeting.

https://youtu.be/-CqHDP_uec?t=14

H. Approval of Minutes

https://youtu.be/-CqHDP_uec?t=49

The minutes of the November 17-18, 2022 meeting were presented for Commission approval. Commissioner Kihara moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Lee. Voting in favor of the motion: Smitherman, Moll, Kihara, Lee, Wolfe, Reeves, Quaempts. Opposed: None. Motion passed.

I. Director's Report

https://youtu.be/-CqHDP_uec?t=100

Doug Woodcock, Acting Director, provided an update on Department business and late-breaking issues.

J. Commissioner Comments

https://youtu.be/-CqHDP_uec?t=3387

Commissioners reported on their recent activities, shared information, and commented on a variety of water resource topics.

Chair Reeves followed up on yesterday's conversation on work being done in the Walla Walla Basin by asking Commissioners to review and provide feedback on an affirmative statement in support of this work. Chair Reeves asked for a motion to approve the statement which reads:

“Following the February 23, 2023 presentation by the Oregon Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and States of Washington and Oregon, the Oregon Water Resources Commission fully supports the ongoing efforts of bi-state integrated water resources management in the Walla Walla Basin.”

Commissioner Quaempts moved to approve the affirmative statement, seconded by Commissioner Smitherman. Voting in favor of the motion: Smitherman, Moll, Kihara, Lee, Wolfe, Reeves, Quaempts. Opposed: None. Motion passed.

K. IWRS Progress Report and Outreach & Engagement Planning

https://youtu.be/-CqHDP_uec?t=5930

Crystal Grinnell, IWRS Specialist, provided a summary of the findings from the 2017-2022 IWRS Progress Report and provide a status update regarding outreach and engagement planning for developing the IWRS 5-year update. Wendy Willis, Director, Oregon's Kitchen Table, provided additional details regarding the IWRS outreach and engagement process.

L. Legislative and Budget Update

https://youtu.be/-CqHDP_uec?t=9113

Bryn Hudson, Legislative Coordinator, and Danielle Gonzalez, Policy Manager, provided an overview of the Department's 2023-2025 Governor's Recommended Budget as well as ongoing efforts during the 2023 Legislative Session.

M. Public Comment and Other Issues

Christopher Hall, Water League

https://youtu.be/-CqHDP_uec?t=11306

There were no further requests for public comment.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Nirvana Cook, Commission Assistant