

Water Resources Commission
Meeting
Salem, Oregon
November 19, 2009

WRC Present

John Jackson
Mary Meloy
Ray Williams
Charlie Barlow
Jeanne LeJeune

Staff Present

Phil Ward
Tom Paul
Cindy Smith
Doug Woodcock
Dwight French
George Robison
Craig Kohanek
Alyssa Mucken
Tim Wallin
Debbie Colbert
Ruben Ochoa
Brenda Bateman
Jerry Rodgers
Barry Norris
Juno Pandian
Ken Stahr
Ryan VandenBrink

Others

Helen Moore
Peggy Lynch
Anita Winkler
Brent Searle
Ray Jaindl
Said Amali
Rick Kepler
David Pilz
Leslie Bach
Mitch Lies
Charles Roe
Bob Levy
Bruce McIntosh
Sen. Jackie Dingfelder
Rep. Bob Jenson
Kimberley Priestley
Daniel Eisenbeis
Marc San Sovcie
Christine Valentine
Rachel Walker
Niki Iverson
Allison Aldous
Neil Mullane
Christine Svetkovich
Jerry Schmidt
Frank Nicholson
Tom Fessler

Written material submitted at this meeting is part of the official record and on file at the Oregon Water Resources Department, 725 Summer St. NE, Salem, Oregon 97301-1271. Audiotapes of the meeting are on file at the same address.

Chair Jackson welcomed everyone to the meeting. The Commission introduced themselves to the audience.

A. Integrated Water Resources Strategy Update

Brenda Bateman, Senior Policy Coordinator, briefed the Commission on activities that had taken place related to the Integrated Water Resources Strategy (IWRS) since the close of the 2009 Legislative Session along with plans for next steps.

Bateman reported on the progress made in these areas:

Selecting Project Team members

The Project Team conducts the day-to-day operations of developing a strategy. This includes staffing various advisory groups, preparing outreach and project materials, and meeting with stakeholders, legislators, department officials, and their boards and commissions. The Project Team is led by Brenda Bateman, Water Resources Department, along with senior staff members from three other agencies as well: Christine Svetkovich, Department of Environmental Quality, Bruce McIntosh, Department of Fish and Wildlife, and Ray Jaindl, Department of Agriculture.

The 2009 Legislature provided funding for two full-time, limited duration staff, a policy coordinator and science coordinator. The Water Resources Department hired Alyssa Mucken as the Policy Coordinator and Ken Stahr as the Science Coordinator. Alyssa and Ken are internal hires from the Department. The team also includes a policy intern, Ryan Vanden Brink, a graduate of Lewis and Clark Law School. He is seeking potential grants to help fund future efforts.

Fleshing out in more detail a process design

The Commission's Planning Committee asked staff to build on the descriptions and timeline in the September 10, 2009 Preliminary Workplan by adding more detail and a better visual representation of the overall process to be used. Staff presented an overview that maps out the five phases of the process and lays out more clearly the roles, responsibilities, and opportunities to participate for six groups: the Public, the Policy Advisory Group, the Technical Advisory Group, the Agency Advisory Group, the Water Resources Commission, and the Project Team. At each phase of the process, each of these groups will have an opportunity to review work completed and to provide input.

Developing public outreach materials

Every few weeks, the Project Team plans to produce a one-page briefer to provide updates, announce upcoming events, and provide links to project-related information. These briefers are sent out to the project listserv and are also posted on the project website: www.wrd.state.or.us, click "Integrated Water Resources Strategy." As Advisory Groups begin to organize, meeting calendars will also appear in the briefers, keeping both members and the public apprised of scheduled events.

The briefers have already inspired community groups and associations to call, offering to host workshops or request additional information.

Meeting with stakeholders in preparation for 2010

The Commission's Planning Committee requested information about the kinds of stakeholder meetings the Project Team had held. Most have focused on providing informational updates, several have also included a workshop component, where group members conducted brainstorming exercises and provided input to the Project Team. Early workshops served to help the Project Team hone its format and questions, in preparation for public meetings planned for 2010 and 2011. The dates and venues for these Water Workshops have not yet been set.

Drafting an Ecology and Ecosystems Issue Paper

The Ecology and Ecosystems issue paper is now ready for review and comment.

The issue paper highlights the State of Oregon's ecosystems today, and notes the potential consequences of neglecting ecological considerations in water resources planning. It also notes some of the benefits that may accrue if the state carefully considers ecosystems as part of its long-term strategy.

The Project Team will accept public comment on this paper, and the others, throughout 2010. Any comments received by January 31, 2010, will go into the Commission's February meeting materials.

Receiving comments on the Preliminary Workplan and Draft Issue Papers

Several groups submitted comments related to the strategy via mail and email. Written comments received through October 31, 2009 fall into three categories: (1) response to the “preliminary survey” placed on-line for stakeholders who did not have an opportunity to meet with the Commission’s Planning Committee in January 2009; (2) review of the September 10, 2009 Preliminary Workplan; and (3) review of the September 10, 2009 Issue Papers.

Comments offered a range of perspectives, most of them positive and supportive of the overall need for an Integrated Water Resources Strategy. Many offered concerns or warnings, based on shortfalls observed in other projects of this type. Several had very specific suggestions regarding process and/or content.

Next Steps

The Integrated Water Resources Strategy is moving into Phase II. This will be when Advisory Groups begin to meet to shape their policy and technical agendas. The Project Team will begin to conduct public meetings throughout the state, and begin to collect wider input from stakeholders and interested public.

Commissioner Meloy expressed her concerns regarding outreach. She noted that communications seemed largely electronic. She asked how information gets to those that do not want it electronically.

Bateman said that they are aware of people that are not able to get information electronically. She said that some of those people are addressed through membership associations. No requests from the general public have been received regarding this. The agency would see to it that those people were notified if the need arose.

Commissioner Meloy suggested the use of public service announcements.

Director Ward suggested using press releases as a form of communicating with the public.

Commissioner LeJeune commented that she was impressed with the amount of work that staff continues to pull together.

Commissioner LeJeune suggested using an organizational chart that shows how the groups interact with each other along with a more definitive description of various roles and responsibilities. She also suggested listing the other agencies and commissions that have a key role in this process.

Chair Jackson noted that under HB 3369, it lays out the relationship that the different Commissioners are supposed to have, and noted the organizational chart in the work plan.

Representative Jenson thanked the Commission for their service to the state of Oregon. He also discussed the economic forecast that was released earlier in the day.

Senator Jackie Dingfelder spoke regarding the policy side of the upcoming Legislative session and what she foresees along with her thoughts on the IWRS. She thanked staff for their hard work during the 2009 Session.

She commended Brenda Bateman and staff for their efforts on the IWRS along with limited resources that go with it. She said that she looks forward to working with the Commission and the Department as everyone moves forward in the development of the Strategy. She feels it is very important to be inclusive with stakeholder groups, and to have a clear line of communication between the staff and commissions of the agencies involved. She also noted that the Department is doing a great job with getting information out to people and that all documents are available on the Department's website. She also said that having a plan that is adaptable is important.

A panel consisting of Bob Levy, Board of Agriculture Chair; Tom Fessler, Board of Agriculture Vice-Chair; and Ray Jandl, Department of Agriculture Administrator, discussed the importance of their role in the IWRS and their willingness to participate in the process with the Department.

Helen Moore, Executive Director for Water for Life, commented that the 1,500 members of Water for Life want to have their voice heard and they want to be involved in the process.

B. Request for Adoption of Rules Regarding Updates Concerning Dam Safety and the Implementation of Fees for Dam Safety, OAR Chapter 690, Division 20

Jerry Rodgers, Technical Services Administrator, and George Robison, Dam Safety Engineer, briefed the Commission on the request for adoption of OAR Chapter 690, Division 20 rules regarding updates concerning dam safety and the implementation of fees for the Dam Safety Program.

The 2009 Legislature passed Senate Bill 788, which contains the authority to charge an annual recurring Dam Safety fee based on a dam's "hazard rating." SB 788 was signed by the Governor on July 23, 2009. The hazard rating refers to the potential harm a dam failure can inflict to human life and property if it were to fail. The legislation authorized an annual fee of \$500 for dams with a high hazard rating, \$150 for dams with a significant hazard rating, and \$75 for dams with a low hazard rating.

In order to implement these fees, Division 20 rules needed to be updated to clarify which dams are subject to the fee. The rules had not been updated since 1994.

The proposed rules add definitions for a dam, hazard rating, large dams, and small dams. The proposed rules establish how the Department measures a dam's height and volume to determine the applicability of this statute.

The proposed rules describe how hazard rating classifications for large dams are determined and provides a process for dam owners to request a revised hazard rating. The proposed hazard rating classifications match how the Department is currently determining a dam's hazard rating.

The proposed rules establish standards regarding which dams are exempt from fees. SB 788 states that the fee is applicable to dam owners based on the dam's hazard rating. Historically, the Department has not assigned a hazard rating to dams less than ten feet in height or impounding less than 3,000,000 gallons. By statute these small dams are also exempt from plan reviews.

Small dams are proposed to be exempted from the fee in rule. Dams that are inspected regularly by federal agencies such as Army Corp of Engineers, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, or the Bureau of Reclamation are not regularly inspected by the Department. The rules would exempt dams directly controlled or regulated by an agency of the federal government from the fee, where inspection and maintenance programs meet or exceed criteria utilized by the Department.

The rules overall are designed to only include fees for dams that have their plans reviewed by Department staff and are part of the regular inspection schedule.

The fees will allow the Department to better address a backlog in inspections and public outreach and education. The total cost of the Dam Safety Program is estimated at \$450,000 per biennium. The fees are estimated to generate about \$40,000 or about 9% of the costs incurred by the program.

Niki Iverson, City of Hillsboro, expressed her support in the rules as proposed.

Commissioner Williams moved to approve the proposed rules as submitted; seconded by Commissioner Barlow. Voting for the motion: Commissioners Barlow, Jackson, Williams, Meloy, and LeJeune. Voting against the motion: None.

C. Request for Adoption of Rules Providing Guidance and Standards Necessary for Landowners to Meet the Exempt Groundwater Use Recording Requirements of Senate Bill 788, OAR Chapter 690, Division 190 and the Suspension of OAR Chapter 690, Division 180

Jerry Rodgers, Technical Services Administrator, and Juno Pandian, Enforcement Manager, briefed the Commission on the request for adoption of OAR Chapter 690, Division 190 rules providing guidance and standards necessary for landowners to meet the exempt groundwater use recording requirements of Senate Bill 788 along with the suspension of OAR Chapter 690, Division 180.

Senate Bill 788, passed in 2009 by the Oregon Legislative Assembly, directs the Commission to adopt permanent rules, to implement provisions of the bill that require owners of land on which an exempt groundwater use well is drilled to record the exempt groundwater use with the Department. This includes a map showing the exact location of the well on the tax lot and a recording fee of \$300. The map submitted by the landowner must be prepared in accordance with standards established by the Department. The bill provides that the map and \$300 recording fee must be submitted to the Department no later than 30 days after the well is completed.

On July 30, 2009, the Commission adopted temporary rules, OAR Chapter 690, Division 180, to provide standards and guidance by which affected landowners could meet the requirements of SB 788 prior to the adoption of permanent rules. The Commission amended the temporary rules on September 2, 2009. The temporary rules expire on December 27, 2009.

Commissioner Barlow moved to approve the suspension of temporary rules, OAR Chapter 690, Division 180 rules, as submitted; seconded by Commissioner Meloy. Voting for the motion: Commissioners Barlow, Jackson, Williams, Meloy, and LeJeune. Voting against the motion: None.

Commissioner Barlow moved to approve the proposed rules, OAR Chapter 690, Division 190, as submitted; seconded by Commissioner Meloy. Voting for the motion: Commissioners Barlow, Jackson, Williams, Meloy, and LeJeune. Voting against the motion: None.

D. Request for Adoption of Rules Ensuring the Consistency in Fees for Limited Licenses and Modifications to Ground Water Registrations, OAR Chapter 690, Division 340 and Division 382

Dwight French, Water Rights and Adjudication Administrator, and Debbie Colbert, Field Services Administrator, briefed the Commission on the request for adoption of OAR Chapter 690, Division 340 and Division 382 ensuring the consistency in fees for limited licenses and modifications to ground water registrations.

The 2009 Legislature approved SB 788, which increased fees for water-related transactions. The bill adopted a set of fees that raised the cost recovery level from approximately 28 percent to approximately 50 percent. Fees are set by rule for applications for limited license and for modifications to ground water registrations. The 50 percent cost recovery model, which was developed by the Department for use by the 2009 Legislature, included expected fee increases for these two application types.

Commissioner Williams moved to approve the proposed rules, OAR Chapter 690, Division 340 and Division 382, as submitted; seconded by Commissioner Barlow. Voting for the motion: Commissioners Barlow, Jackson, Williams, Meloy, and LeJeune. Voting against the motion: None.

E. Request from the City of Walla Walla to amend Application HE 523 for additional hydroelectric purposes as allowed under ORS 537.835

Dwight French, Water Rights and Adjudication Administrator, briefed the Commission on a request from the City of Walla Walla (City) to amend its application for additional hydroelectric purposes.

On April 29, 2009, the City applied to the Department for 10 cubic feet per second (cfs) from Mill Creek to be used between November 1 and April 15 for hydroelectric generation. The request was for water to augment the City's existing hydroelectric water right, HE 523, which authorizes the City to withdraw up to 28 cfs for combined municipal and hydroelectric uses. Since HE 523 limits the water that can be withdrawn to what is also needed for municipal use, the amendment would allow more hydroelectric production at times when there are high flows available in Mill Creek and the additional conditions are being met. In addition, less water would be used for both municipal and hydroelectric purposes during the low flow times of the year.

Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 537.835 is exclusive to the City, and its right to appropriate, impound, or divert certain waters from Mill Creek, which courses through both Oregon and Washington. Using ORS 537.835 and Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) 690-053, the Applicant seeks to amend its existing time-limited hydroelectric water right, HE 523, to allow augmentation of flows. "Augmentation of a hydroelectric water right" means diverting more water beyond the volume provided in the applicable hydroelectric water right over a calendar year.

The proposed project as conditioned is sufficient to meet the standards of ORS 537.835, 543A.025 and OAR 690-053.

Frank Nicholson, Utility Engineer for the City of Walla Walla and Charles Roe, Attorney for the City of Walla Walla spoke on behalf of the application. Mr. Roe also thanked the staff for the public service that they provide every day.

Commissioner Barlow moved to accept the conditions in the proposed order and proposed certificate and directed the Department to complete the processing of the application; seconded by Commissioner LeJeune. Voting for the motion: Commissioners Barlow, Jackson, Williams, Meloy, and LeJeune. Voting against the motion: None.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully,

Cindy Smith
Commission Assistant

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Meeting
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November 20, 2009**

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Staff Present

Phil Ward
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Dwight French
Debbie Colbert
Tracy Louden
Brenda Bateman
Jerry Rodgers
Barry Norris
Michele McAleer

Others

Helen Moore
Peggy Lynch
Anita Winkler
Tom Penpraze
Don Shipley
Adam Sussman
Preston VanMeter
Kimberley Priestley
Daniel Eisenbeis
Karen DuBose
Craig Reeder
Ron Stalin

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Chair Jackson welcomed everyone to the meeting.

F. Minutes

The minutes of the September 10 and 11, 2009 meetings were offered to the Commission for consideration.

Commissioner Williams moved to approve the September 10, 2009 minutes as submitted; seconded by Commissioner Barlow. Voting for the motion: Commissioners Barlow, Jackson, Williams, Meloy, and LeJeune. Voting against the motion: None.

Commissioner Williams moved to approve the September 11, 2009 minutes as submitted; seconded by Commissioner LeJeune. Voting for the motion: Commissioners Barlow, Jackson, Williams, Meloy, and LeJeune. Voting against the motion: None.

G. Approval of 2010 Commission Meeting Schedule

The 2010 meeting schedule was presented to the Commission for their approval. The proposed schedule is:

February 18 and 19	Salem
June 3 and 4	TBD
August 26 and 27	TBD
November 18 and 19	TBD

Commissioner LeJeune moved to approve the 2010 Commission meeting schedule as submitted; seconded by Commissioner Williams. Voting for the motion: Commissioners Barlow, Jackson, Williams, Meloy, and LeJeune. Voting against the motion: None.

H. Commission Comments

Commissioner LeJeune commented that most of her time had been spent working on the Commission's Planning Committee. She also noted that she attended the Oregon Water Resources Congress' Water Law Seminar in September. On the second day of the Seminar, Commissioner Meloy and Brenda Bateman gave a SWOT Analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) facing Oregon water resources. She said that it was a good thoughtful process that allowed people to think about the issues.

Commissioner Barlow commented that since the last meeting, his time had been spent on the phone discussing fee increases and the Integrated Water Resources Strategy. He said that he encourages people to insert themselves into the process.

Commissioner Meloy commented that she sat in on a rules advisory committee meeting for the Deschutes Mitigation Rules. She also said that she recently attended the Tribal Water Forum. She was honored to be there and that it was very inspiring to listen to each of the Tribes.

Commissioner Williams commented on a proposal to take water from the Columbia River and bring it into the Walla Walla Subbasin so all the water in the Walla Walla Mainstem can be available for fish and flow to the Columbia. It would be a bucket for bucket exchange. It is a long and expensive project, approaching \$300 million. The Tribes are the main sponsor and are working with the local irrigation districts in Oregon and Washington. Rich George, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, has said a plan is needed from both Oregon and Washington that would determine how to protect the water for fish once the project is completed. The Tribes have said that the Department has been a visionary, creative and delivered an exceptional work product. Williams wanted to pass on the highly complimentary statement by the Tribes on the work done by the Department.

Commissioner Jackson commented that he also attended the Tribal Water Forum. He was very impressed and walked away with a renewed spirit. He also commented that he currently represents the Commission on the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) and is looking into the amount of time that he spends on OWEB and will determine if he has the time to continue. The next OWEB meeting will be held in Coos Bay on January 20 and 21, 2010. He thanked Bill Fujii from the Department for his help before each OWEB meeting in helping him prepare for the upcoming meeting.

I. Director's Report

Director Ward reviewed his written report with the Commission and responded to their comments and questions.

Tom Paul, Deputy Director, gave a brief update on pending legal actions.

Tracy Loudon, Administrative Services Administrator, gave a brief update on the Revenue Forecast that was released the day before.

Director Ward briefed the Commission on the Department's budget reduction list that was required by the Legislative Fiscal Office.

J. Commission Approval of Appointments to the Ground Water Advisory Committee

Jerry Rodgers, Technical Services Administrator, briefed the Commission on the approval of appointments to the Ground Water Advisory Committee.

The nine-member Ground Water Advisory Committee (GWAC) had three members with terms expiring on November 30, 2009. OAR Chapter 690, Division 235 rules describe a process for soliciting candidates. Staff used this process to generate a list of candidates for the three open positions.

The Department recommended the appointment of Bill Blair to replace John Stadel in the Monitoring/Water Well Category and the reappointments of Lynne Paretchan and Bob Jones. Terms for these three members would begin on December 1, 2009 and continue through November 30, 2012.

Commissioner Barlow moved approval of the appointment of Bill Blair and the reappointments of Lynne Paretchan and Bob Jones to the Ground Water Advisory Committee; seconded by Commissioner Williams. Voting for the motion: Commissioners Barlow, Jackson, Williams, Meloy, and LeJeune. Voting against the motion: None.

K. Request for an Exception to the Willamette Basin Program by the City of Harrisburg under ORS 536.295

Dwight French, Water Rights and Adjudication Administrator, briefed the Commission on a request for an exception to the Willamette Basin Program by the City of Harrisburg.

Under ORS 536.295 the Water Resources Commission may, under certain circumstances, allow the Department to consider an application to appropriate water for a use not classified as an allowable use by the applicable basin program. The City of Harrisburg (Applicant) has requested an exception to the Willamette Basin Program for its Application S-87395 indicating that use of water is necessary to avoid extreme hardship as provided in ORS 536.295(1)(e).

Application S-87395 proposes to use 2.61 cubic foot per second (cfs) (1,171 gallons per minute) for municipal use from a new diversion point to be constructed on the Willamette River. In the Department's initial review of the application dated May 12, 2009, the Department determined that water is available for new uses but that municipal use is not a classified use from the Main Stem Willamette River Subbasin in the Willamette Basin Program, from July 1 through August 31.

To approve a basin program exception request under ORS 536.295, the Commission must find that the request meets one or more statutory criteria and the proposed use is consistent with the general policies of the applicable basin program. Staff believe that the basin program exception submitted by the Applicant meets the extreme hardship criteria under ORS 536.295 and that the proposed use is consistent with the general policies of the Willamette Basin Program.

Don Shipley, City of Harrisburg City Council, thanked the Commission for their consideration on the exception request.

Commissioner Meloy moved to approve the request by the City of Harrisburg for a basin program exception to avoid extreme hardship, recognizing that a permit, if issued, may be conditioned to protect

the public health, safety and welfare; seconded by Commissioner LeJeune. Voting for the motion: Commissioners Barlow, Jackson, Williams, Meloy, and LeJeune. Voting against the motion: None.

L. Climate Change Update

Barry Norris, State Engineer, gave an update on climate change research activities related to the Pacific Northwest.

In 2007, the Department joined other partners in funding a research project to study the impacts of climate change on the Columbia River Basin. The study is being completed by the Climate Impacts Group (CIG) at the University of Washington. The study is in the final stages of completion and will provide considerable information about what researchers believe are the trends for evolutionary change over this century.

Information from the CIG indicates that during the next century temperatures in the northwest may increase 6 degrees Fahrenheit. Precipitation is expected to increase overall, between 1 to 2 percent, with a decrease during the summer. Snowpack is expected to decrease approximately 60 percent. The largest impact on snowpack will be seen at lower to mid-range elevations. In some locations, flood risks are likely to increase due to a warming trend and an increase in extreme storm events. In other locations there will be a reduction in spring flood risk due to a loss in spring snowpack accumulation.

In many locations, especially where water availability has depended on melting snowpack, water users will be forced to adjust for earlier water availability and a sharp reduction in late summer/fall streamflow.

M. Key Performance Measures Report

Brenda Bateman, Senior Policy Coordinator, gave a report on the Department's 2008-09 Key Performance Measures.

Each year, the Department submits a report that tracks their performance in 14 key areas and is an essential part of the Department's budget presentation to the Governor's Office and Legislature. The Department submitted its most recent report on September 18, 2009.

The Department's performance measures cover agency programs related to streamflow restoration, protection and gaging; ground water monitoring; and regulatory, administrative, and outreach activities. The Department has had all of its measures in place since 2005 or earlier and is building a solid data set that helps track how the Department is doing, along with areas for improvement.

For the 2010–11 report, the Oregon Legislature has asked the Department to report on two new measures, for existing programs (water use measurement and reporting). These are programs in which significant resources have been lost — including 100 percent of the reporting staff. As a result, it is likely that no progress will be reported in these program areas.

Achieving the Department's performance targets is a challenge, given state budget limitations that affect the recruitment of technical staff. All of these challenges will influence the ability to meet performance targets in the future. To meet these challenges, the Department continues to streamline processes, develop technological solutions, and strengthen partnerships with water

users and other stakeholders. The Department will also continue to request the budget resources necessary to provide timely and accurate service to its customers.

Peggy Lynch, League of Women Voters, spoke regarding the importance of the Key Performance Measures.

N. Corvallis Water Reuse Citizen Survey

Tracy Loudon, Administrative Services Administrator, briefed the Commission on Corvallis' Water Reuse Citizen Survey.

Tom Penpraze, City of Corvallis; Karen DuBose, recent Oregon State University graduate; and Preston VanMeter, Kennedy Jenks, gave a presentation on the results of a Water Reuse Citizen Survey that they conducted that assesses public knowledge, level of concern, and opinions about water reuse. The City of Corvallis was able to conduct this survey through a grant that was awarded from the Department's Water Reuse, Conservation and Storage Grant Program (SB 1069).

The grant awarded to the City of Corvallis was in the amount of \$25,000. This survey was of its citizens to gauge public acceptance of water reuse. The overall purpose of the research was to help Corvallis city managers evaluate options for treating wastewater to comply with Willamette River water quality standards and to meet the City's water supply needs. The study explores questions related to public opinions about water reuse and broader approaches to public involvement in Corvallis.

O. Umatilla Critical Area Recharge Project Results

Barry Norris, State Engineer, and Fred Ziari, IRZ Consulting, briefed the Commission on the results of the Umatilla Basin Aquifer Recharge Project feasibility study.

The February 2008 Legislative Assembly approved Senate Bill 1069. The Governor signed the bill, which provided \$750,000 to the Department for conducting a study to determine the feasibility of storing surface water below ground in the Umatilla Basin Critical Ground Water Areas. Storing water below ground is commonly referred to as Aquifer Storage and Recovery or Artificial Recharge. The Department contracted with a team of consultants led by IRZ Consulting LLC (IRZ) of Hermiston, Oregon to complete the work. The feasibility study was completed in June 2009.

A considerable amount of information resulted from the study, including water quality information, information about basin hydrology, geology, and information about the economic benefits of completing the project. The project involves diverting surface water during the winter to two locations: Echo Meadows alluvial aquifer and County Line alluvial aquifer. Artificial Recharge will be used to charge these alluvial aquifers. Some of the recharged surface water will be stored for summer time use, some will be used for environmental benefits including return flow to the Umatilla River, and some of it will be removed and injected into basalt aquifers for storage and subsequent use. The cost for a system that will provide 100,000 acre-feet of water for ground water storage is estimated to be \$100,000,000.

P. Public Comment

Craig Reeder, Butter Creek Irrigation District, spoke favorably regarding the Umatilla Basin Aquifer Recharge Project feasibility study.

L. Other Issues

The Commission had a discussion regarding who would hold the vice-chair position on the Commission.

Commissioner Williams moved to appoint Commissioner Charles Barlow as Vice-Chair of the Water Resources Commission; seconded by Commissioner LeJeune. Voting for the motion: Commissioners Barlow, Jackson, Williams, Meloy, and LeJeune. Voting against the motion: None.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cindy Smith
Commission Assistant