

WATER RESOURCES COMMISSION

WORK SESSION

SALEM

APRIL 23, 1992

MINUTES

Commission members present:

Lorna Stickel
Cliff Bentz
Hadley Akins
Jim Howland
Mike Jewett .
Roger Bachman
Anita Johnson

Others:

Jerry George
Mike Walker
Tom O'Connor
Dan Scottie
Marjo Nelson
Dan Bradley
Doug Myers
David A. Darst
Kip Lombard
Jeff McIlvenna
Jack Hammond
Dirk Borges
Roger Hamilton
David Moon
Audrey Simmons
Jerry Schmidt
Jan Boettcher
Susan Schneider
Jeanne McKeever

Water Resources staff:

Bill Young
Jan Shaw
Doug Parrow
Becky Kreag
Steve Applegate
Steve Sanders
Martha Pagel
Jack Donahue
Fred Lissner
Tom Kline
Bev Hayes
Randy Selig

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

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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. MUNICIPAL APPLICATION AND CONSERVATION PLANNING REQUIREMENTS.

During the last two years, the Commission had several discussions on permit and planning requirements for municipal water suppliers. The conservation policy adopted in December 1990 includes development of standards for preparation of municipal water management plans. The draft rules to guide preparation of the plans require municipal water suppliers to address water conservation, curtailment and long-range supply issues in the plans.

Concurrent with the decision to require water suppliers to prepare water management plans, the Department, at the direction of the Commission, began including conditions in all new permits for municipal supply which require the supplier to prepare conservation and long-range supply plans. Initially, the condition required completion of the plans within one year of issuance of the permit. After additional discussions with the Commission, the Department modified the conditions to require completion of the plans within one year of adoption of standards for municipal water management planning. Based on the current schedule for rulemaking, the Commission plans to consider adoption in October 1992.

Recent applications for additional municipal water supplies have raised a number of questions about what information to require from applicants. Given the statutory opportunities for municipal suppliers to "bank" water rights, the Department is evaluating methods for ensuring that new municipal permits are needed and are consistent with expected new demands and that water would be available to provide for the use when the permit is developed.

Director's Recommendation:

This was a status report only and no Commission action was requested. However, the Commission was asked to provide guidance to the staff and the subcommittee as work continued

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on preparation of draft rules. In addition, the Commission was asked for guidance on information to be required on applications for new municipal water rights or in additional analyses of lower Willamette River water availability.

Jeanne McKeever, Portland Water Bureau, reported that she and the members of the Municipal Subcommittee of the Conservation Advisory Committee had been working on a series of questions:

1. Should small water systems fall under the purview of these rules?
2. How can systems afford to have water management plans prepared, particularly when they are trying to meet new federal water quality standards and the cost will be high?
3. Are the planning requirements duplicative?
4. Should the conservation requirements be based on the needs of the basin?

McKeever said that the subcommittee was committed to a set of rules which would achieve real water conservation which would protect the environment and provide for future generations.

The Commission entertained considerable discussion on issues and concurred with the general direction of the draft rules.

2. PROGRESS REPORT ON PREPARATION OF AGRICULTURAL WATER MANAGEMENT PLANNING REQUIREMENTS.

The Agriculture Subcommittee of the Conservation Advisory Committee has met five times since October of last year. In addition, to the committee members and agency advisors, four irrigation district managers volunteered to help the subcommittee draft rules. The Department intends to work with these districts to encourage early submittal of plans, thereby testing the planning process. The plans prepared by these districts also will provide useful examples for other districts.

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The subcommittee reviewed and discussed previous drafts of the rules. The draft included in the staff report to the Commission incorporates the previous subcommittee discussions. While the full Conservation Advisory Committee did discuss the rules at the March 27 committee meeting, the subcommittee has not reviewed the current draft. The subcommittee will meet again on April 29 to discuss the draft rules.

The Conservation Advisory Committee has suggested that the Department provide opportunities for early public review and comment on the draft rules. The Department is evaluating methods for providing several public forums in late May or early June to address the rules. After incorporating input from the public sessions, staff will work with the subcommittee and committee to complete work on draft rules to be recommended for hearings. Commissioner Akins was delegated authorization to hold hearings on the rules. Adoption of the rules is tentatively scheduled for the October 1992 Commission meeting.

Director's Recommendation:

This was a status report only, and no Commission action was required. However, the Commission was asked for guidance to the Department staff and the subcommittee as work continued on preparation of draft rules.

Jeff McIlvenna, Reedsport Director of Public Works, expressed concerns about the mandatory conservation practices being required in the proposed rules.

The Commission took no formal action on this item.

3. 1993-95 BUDGET DEVELOPMENT.

The budget development process for the 1993-95 biennium is different from previous years because of the fiscal impact of Ballot Measure 5 on the state's General Fund. New budgets must show improving efficiency by restructuring programs to deliver services better and by setting clear priorities.

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Director's Recommendation:

The budget schedule does not allow much time to meet with the Commission before the July 1 audits, which might prevent any further changes. The Department proposed to hold at least one public hearing soon to gather comments on the development of the agency-requested budget and to schedule a work session for the June 4 Commission meeting. The staff asked the Commission members what their level of involvement should be during the development of the 1993-95 budget.

The Commission appointed a subcommittee of Commissioners Cliff Bentz, Roger Bachman and Jim Howland to work with the Department and directed the Department to hold a meeting for interest group representatives to review the budget proposals and provide feedback.

There being no further business, the work session was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Jan Shaw
Commission Assistant