

WATER RESOURCES COMMISSION
JANUARY 6, 1994
WORK SESSION
SALEM, OREGON

MEMBERS

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

STAFF ATTENDING ENTIRE WORK SESSION

Martha Pagel
Steve Sanders
Diane Reynolds
Cindy Smith
Rick Cooper
Mike Ladd
Mike McCord
Rick Bastasch
Bev Hayes
Barry Norris
Beth Patrino
Steve Applegate
Tom Paul
Becky Kreag
Reed Marbut
Vivienne Torgeson
Bob Rice

OTHERS

Ves Garner
Julie Keil
Scott Ashcom
Jim Myron
Jerry Schmidt
Jan Boettcher
Karen Russell
George Taylor
Todd Heidgerken
Joni Low
Larry Trosi
Stephanie Burchfield
Al Mirati

In addition, staff report authors and other staff were present for particular agenda items.

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.

Chair Stickel called the meeting to order.

**ITEM 1 PEER REVIEW OF A METHODOLOGY FOR ESTIMATING WATER
AVAILABILITY BASED ON MEAN DAILY FLOW**

Barry Norris and Rick Cooper, Water Resources Department, along with George Taylor, State Climatologist, described the results of a recent peer review of a methodology for estimating water availability based on mean daily streamflows. This report also discussed staff plans for future review of this methodology and others that may be developed in support of the Water Availability Program.

In March and April 1993, staff presented reports to the Commission that described a methodology for estimating water availability based on mean daily flows. During public comment on the methodology, Gail Achterman, attorney representing the firm of Stoel, Rives, Boley, Jones and Grey, suggested that the methodology be the subject of a technical peer review. Staff and the Commission concurred with this and agreed to subject this and other methodologies developed in support of the Water Availability Program to peer review.

Since April 1993, staff have been working to determine water availability for streams west of the Cascades. As of the end of October, water availability had been determined for 1,200 watersheds in the North Coast, Mid Coast, South Coast, Willamette, Sandy, Umpqua and Rogue basins. This information was urgently needed by staff of the Water Rights and Adjudications Division in their efforts to reduce the backlog of water right applications.

DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION

This was an informational report only. No Commission action was required.

Karen Russell, WaterWatch, commented. Mark 604, Tape 1.

Jim Myron, Oregon Trout, commented. Mark 58, Tape 2.

**ITEM 2 INFORMATION REPORT ON DEVELOPMENT OF AGENCY PLAN
AND RULEMAKING SCHEDULE**

Rick Bastasch, Water Resources Department, reported on Phase I of the Department's Short-Term Action Plan. The Action Plan is intended to guide the Department's major activities during the remainder of the 1993-95 Biennium.

Beth Patrino, Water Resources Department, reviewed the Department's rulemaking schedule. Following each legislative session, the Department sets out a rulemaking schedule for Commission comment and approval. This report outlines the agency's rulemaking schedule in chronological order for the remainder of the biennium. It also identifies lead staff and the scope of public involvement.

DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION

The Director and staff invited the Commission to comment on the schedule and identify which activities are of interest to Commissioners and/or warrant formation of a Commission subcommittee. No Commission action was required.

Roger Bachman stated his interest regarding the Parrett Mountain issues.

Lorna Stickel stated her interest regarding the Columbia Basin issues.

Jim Howland stated his interest regarding the Other Holes issues.

ITEM 3 UPDATE ON STREAM RESTORATION FUNDING

Mike McCord, Water Resources Department, gave an update on stream restoration funding and showed a videotape on beaver management in the John Day area.

In 1991, the Oregon Legislature provided \$80,000 for stream restoration and enhancement projects in the John Day Basin. The majority of funding was earmarked for projects that built approximately 14 miles of riparian fencing along the Middle Fork, North Fork and Mainstem John Day River. Approximately 1/4 mile of riparian fence was also constructed along Cottonwood Creek near Monument. Accomplishing these projects took cooperation from private landowners and additional funding and technical assistance from a variety of local, state and federal groups. Most of the projects are complete or near completion. The success of the projects will be monitored by the local soil and water conservation districts.

The remainder of the funding was used to construct sumps adjacent to the mainstem John Day River near Kimberly, to install a telemetry device in the Ritter gaging station on the Middle Fork John Day River, to assist a landowner to re-establish Warrens Creek near Mt. Vernon to its historic channel, and to support the US Department of Agriculture's beaver management program based in John Day.

DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION

This was an informational report only. No Commission action was required.

ITEM 4 INFORMATION REPORT ON THE DEPARTMENT'S INVOLVEMENT
IN ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Vivienne Torgeson, Water Resources Department, described her work with the Western Regional Environmental Education Council (WREEC). WREEC is comprised of Natural Resource and Education Department members from the 13 western states. Its programs include Project Learning Tree and Project WILD, which are interdisciplinary, supplementary education programs for grades K-12. WREEC's new education initiative is Project WET (Water Education for Teachers). Torgeson will serve a 2-year term on the National Project WET Advisory Council.

Other WREEC Activities in which the Department has a role include development of a publication entitled, "Involving Your Students in Environmental Action Projects: A Teacher's Guide," and a new module of Project WILD called "WILD About Elk," which is the first in a new series on specific wildlife species.

Torgeson also described the structure and timeframe for production of GWEB's upland watershed curriculum. It will be a companion to the existing Stream Scene curriculum for grades 6-12 and will be ready for distribution in the 1995-96 school year.

The Department also participates in development of the Water Education Calendar which is published for grade school use by the International Office for Water Education. In addition, the Water Resources Department has two educational displays that are used at a variety of conferences, fairs and other meetings.

DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION

This was an informational report only. No Commission action was required.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Cindy Smith
Commission Assistant