



# Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

## Water Resources Department

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### Water Resources Commission Minutes

Thursday, June 13, 2024

### Hybrid meeting in Bend, Oregon

(V) = Virtual

#### Attendees

Commissioners	OWRD Staff	Other Attendees	
Eric Quaempts	Doug Woodcock	Jacob Kimiecik (V)	Roy Beyer (V)
Julie Smitherman	Racquel Rancier	Janna Stevens (V)	Ronald Cochran
Kathy Kihara	Annette Liebe	Megan Saunders (V)	Becky Powell
Jan Lee	Kim Fritz-Ogren (V)	Tyler Nielsen (V)	Bret Heuslet
Joe Moll	Lisa Snyder (V)	Heidi Hartman, (V)	Gene Souza (V)
Meg Reeves	Alyssa Mucken (V)	Clancy Flynn (V)	John Short
Woody Wolfe	Jake Zelenka (V)	Chris Gannon (V)	Mike Britton
	Cameron Greenwood (V)	Caylin Barter (V)	Jeff Shaw
	Mindy Lane	Chris Hall (V)	Phil Chang
	Grant Nasset	Keith Witcosky (V)	Mary Powell
	Adair Muth (V)	Mateusz Perkowski (V)	Jeremy Austin
	Laura Hartt (V)	Ginnee McKee (V)	Lisa Seales
	Caroyln Sufit	John McKeen (V)	April Snell
	Jeremy Giffin	Marilyn Koenitzer	Steve Johnson
	Joe Kemper	Julie Cartwright	Sarah Kelly
	Emelie McKain	Tom Halferty	Lori Faha
	Dwight French	Anne (screen name) (V)	Tod Heisk
		Kimberley Priestley	Bobby Brunoe
		Natasha Bellis	Alison Toviola
		Glenn Barrett	Josh Newton
		Midge (screen name) (V)	Brenda Smith
		Smithma (screen name) (V)	Mark Owens

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](#).

#### [Commission Meeting](#)

Chair Quaempts convened the meeting.

**A. Irrigation Modernization Funding**

Adair Muth, Grant Coordinator, and Kim Fritz-Ogren, Planning, Collaboration, and Investments Section Manager, presented the Technical Review Team’s scoring results, evaluation summaries and funding recommendations, public comments received, and the funding recommendations.

[Public Comment, April Snell](#)

[Public Comment, Gene Souza](#)

[Public Comment, Natasha Bellis](#)

[Public Comment, Kate Fitzpatrick](#)

[Public Comment, Bruce Scanlon](#)

[Public Comment, Roy Beyer](#)

[Public Comment, Bruce Scanlon](#)

[Public Comment, Steve Forester](#)

[Public Comment, Chris Gannon](#)

[Public Comment, Bruce Scanlon](#)

[Public Comment, Kate Fitzpatrick](#)

[Public Comment, Steve Forester](#)

[Public comment, Bruce Scanlon](#)

Julie Smitherman moved to fund projects 1-9, with project 10 as provisional\*; and to fund \$4 million for the McKay Project out of WPGL with \$3.5 million to be provisional on the Irrigation Modernization funds next year. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Wolfe. Votes in favor: Commissioners Wolfe and Kihara, Vice-Chair Smitherman, Commissioners Reeves, Lee & Moll, and Chair Quaempts. Motion passed unanimously.

\*Note: As discussed during the Commission agenda item, a provisional award is an award that is contingent on the sale of Lottery Revenue Bonds, which provide the dollars for the grants. In this case, the legislatively authorized Lottery Revenue Bonds are scheduled to be sold and made available in spring 2025. Provisionally awarded grants receive a grant award letter after the Commission meeting but do not receive a grant agreement to sign until after the bond sale.

<https://youtu.be/-H6ONYnwB8k?si=5iexnaqyAmmOTdFE&t=9692>

**C. Deschutes Basin Workplan Update**

This item was removed from the agenda to get back on schedule.

**E. Deschutes Basin Water Collaborative: Comprehensive Water Plan Development**

Deschutes Basin Water Collaborative representatives discussed the ongoing efforts to develop a comprehensive water management plan for the Deschutes Basin utilizing the Place-Based Planning Guidelines.

**F. Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Presentation**

Bobby Brunoe, CEO/Treasurer, and potentially other representatives, presented on issues of interest to the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs.

**D. Director's Report**

Doug Woodcock, Acting Director, announced that Ivan Gall has been appointed as the new director as of July 1.

**B. Budget & Legislative Update**

Racquel Rancier, Deputy Director, provided a brief update on the 2025-2027 budget and legislative development process.

The meeting was adjourned for the day and the Commission went on the scheduled tour.

**Water Resources Commission Minutes**

**Friday, June 14, 2024**

**Hybrid & Bend, Oregon**

**(V) = Virtual**

<b>Attendees</b>			
<b>Commissioners</b>	<b>OWRD Staff</b>	<b>Others</b>	
Eric Quaempts	Doug Woodcock	Tom Halferty	Karen Lewotsky (V)
Julie Smitherman	Racquel Rancier	Mike Buettner	Mary (Becky) Powell
Kathy Kihara	Annette Liebe	Jim Powell	Glenn Barrett
Jan Lee	Tim Seymour (V)	Gen Hubert (V)	Chris Hall (V)
Joe Moll	Carolyn Sufit (V)	Kate Fitzpatrick	Ed Fitch
Meg Reeves	Jason Spriet (V)	Melanie Kebler	Yancy Lind (V)
Woody Wolfe	Kim Fritz-Ogren (V)	Ronald Cochran	Phil Chang (V)
	Mindy Lane	Kimberley Priestley	Lisa Brown (V)
	Grant Nasset	Mike Britton	Tyler Nielsen (V)
	Adair Muth (V)	Jeff Shaw	Fiona Noonan (V)
	Kelly Mainz (V)	Zach Freed	Hayley Siltanen (V)
	Laura Hartt (V)	Natie Whitesel	Trevor Grandy (V)
	Justin Iverson (V)	Marilyn Koenitzer	Keith Witcosky (V)
	Emelie McKain	Heidi Hartman (V)	Kyle Smith (V)
		Cat Zwicker (V)	Chandra Ferrari
		April Snell (V)	Mark Owens
		Geoff Huntington	Brenda Smith
		Greg (screen name) (V)	

Chair Quaempts convened the meeting.

**H. Governor’s Office Natural Resource Policy Advisor Presentation**

Geoff Huntington, Senior Natural Resources Policy Advisor, and Chandra Ferrari, Natural Resources Policy Advisor, presented to the Commission.

Public Comment, Marilyn Koenitzer

Public Comment, Kimberley Priestley

Public Comment, Chris Hall

**I. Harney Basin Update**

Jason Spriet, East Region Manager, Tim Seymour, Assistant Groundwater Section Manager, Alexandria Scott, Eastern Region Engagement Coordinator, and Kelly Mainz, Water Policy Analyst, provided an update on Department activities occurring in the Harney Basin.

Public Comment, Lisa Brown

Public Comment, Brenda Smith

[Public Comment, Mark Owens](#)

[Public Comment, Zach Freed](#)

**J. [Critical Groundwater Area 3-Year Review](#)**

Justin Iverson, Groundwater Section Manager, reviewed conditions in the state’s seven existing Critical Groundwater Areas as per the review requirements of ORS 537.780(3).

**K. [Groundwater Allocation Rulemaking Update](#)**

Annette Liebe, Technical Services Division Administrator, Justin Iverson, Groundwater Section Manager, and Laura Hartt, Water Policy Analyst, presented an update on the Groundwater Allocation Rulemaking.

[Public Comment, Melanie Kebler](#)

[Public Comment, Ed Fitch](#)

[Public Comment, Zach Freed](#)

[Public Comment, Lisa Brown](#)

[Public Comment, Kyle Smith](#)

[Public Comment, Malia Kupillas](#)

[Public Comment, Greg Kupillas](#)

[Public Comment, Becky Powell](#)

[Public Comment, Glenn Barrett](#)

[Public Comment, Karen Lewotsky](#)

**L. [Approval of Meeting Minutes](#)**

The minutes of the March 2024 meeting were presented for Commission approval.

Commissioner Moll moved, seconded by Commissioner Kihara, to adopt the March 2024, Commission meeting minutes. Votes in favor: Commissioners Wolfe, Kihara, Vice-Chair Smitherman, Commissioners Reeves, Moll and Lee, and Chair Quaempts. Motion passed unanimously.

<https://www.youtube.com/live/3sbgip5492i?si=7ckkuebemj0pjaaa&t=12933>

**M. [Commissioner Comments](#)**

Commissioners reported on their recent activities, shared information, and commented on a variety of water resource topics. Commissioners also discussed meeting structure, length and frequency.

N. **Public Comment and Other Issues**

There were no additional public comments or other issues.

Meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by Mindy Lane, Executive Support, Director's Office.