

WATER RESOURCES COMMISSION

WORK SESSION
LA GRANDE, OREGON
JULY 21, 1994

MINUTES

MEMBERS

Cliff Bentz
John Frewing
Anita Johnson
Mike Jewett

STAFF

Martha Pagel
Melinda Bruce
Diane Reynolds
Cindy Smith
Rick Bastasch
Kent Searles
Barry Norris
Reed Marbut
Steve Brown
Steve Applegate
Mike Ladd
Tom Kline
Becky Kreag

OTHERS

Dick Tipton
Roger Bachman
Bud Jones
Bob Hall
Justin Burns
Kimberly Priestly
Melinda Powell
Karen Russell
Todd Heidgerken
Dennis Myhrum
Kim Landis
Amie Loop
Robert Horton
Bob Hoeffel

In addition to the individuals listed above, report authors and other staff were present for particular agenda items.

The 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, 158 12th Street NE, Salem, Oregon 97310. 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.

1. UPDATE ON WATERSHED HEALTH PROGRAM

Mary Lou Soscia, Watershed Health Program Manager, gave an update on the program.

As of June 14, \$1.8 million in projects have been funded. Work is being done through the watershed councils in the Grande Ronde, South Coast, and Rogue Basins. Staff are also working with the Grande Ronde Model Watershed to develop a long-term strategy for protecting and managing watersheds.

Within the South Coast and Rogue Basins, primary work is being done through the Coos, Coquille, Bear, Applegate, and Illinois systems. Most of the resources of the Watershed Health Program are being directed to those areas.

Approximately \$600,000 has been established for secondary basins in the South Coast. The money is being used for watershed restoration enhancement projects and to provide support to the watershed councils.

The Strategic Water Management Group has recognized 11 separate watershed councils in the South Coast/Rogue area. Public workshops to get feedback on the Watershed Health Program are to be held in the basins starting the end of July 1994.

DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION

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

Pat Wortman, Wallowa County Commissioner, commented. Mark 255, Tape 2.

Bud Jones, farmer, commented. Mark 388, Tape 2.

2. REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF THE STREAM RESTORATION ACTION PROGRAM FOR THE UPPER SOUTH FORK OF THE JOHN DAY

Mike McCord, Stream Coordinator for the Water Resources Department, outlined the existing problems, goals and measures to be implemented and identified funding potential for restoration activities on the South Fork John Day River drainage. The Upper South Fork Coordinated Resource Management Planning (CRMP) Group requested that the Commission approve the Upper South Fork stream restoration program as it did for the Middle Fork program.

DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION

The Director and staff recommended that the Commission approve the Stream Restoration Program for the Upper South Fork of the John Day River.

Karen Russell, WaterWatch, commented. Mark 256, Tape 1.

Roger Bachman, Oregon Trout, commented. Mark 429, Tape 1.

Commissioner Jewett expressed concerns about the meaning of the endorsement, noting the plan did not set priorities and did not fully address potential irrigation efficiency.

In response to public comments and discussion by the Commission, staff modified the recommendation as follows:

The Commission endorses the report of the Stream Restoration Program for the Upper South Fork John Day River and commends the local effort to begin improving the watershed. The Commission recognizes that the Coordinated Resource Management Plan (CRMP) does not set specific priorities and that any actions or projects receiving public funds will be subject to additional review under standards set by each agency. The Commission hopes that such efforts can be expanded in the future along the lines of the process outlined in HB 2215 (1993 Legislative Session).

A motion was made by Commissioner Jewett and seconded by Commissioner Johnson to adopt the staff recommendation. All approved.

This item was brought back to the Commission's attention during the Public Comment period of the July 22, 1994, Commission meeting.

At that time, Roger Bachman, Oregon Trout, expressed concern over the staff recommendation.

A motion was made by Commissioner Frewing and seconded by Commissioner Johnson to amend the previous motion to read as follows:

The Commission accepts the report of the Stream Restoration Program for the Upper South Fork John Day River and commends the local effort to begin improving the watershed. The Commission recognizes that the Coordinated Resource Management Plan (CRMP) does not set specific priorities and that any actions or projects receiving public funds will be subject to additional review under standards set by each agency. The Commission hopes that such efforts of the CRMP group can be expanded in the future using the process outlined in HB 2215 (1993 Legislative Session).

The motion passed unanimously.

3. OTHER WATERSHED RESTORATION TOPICS

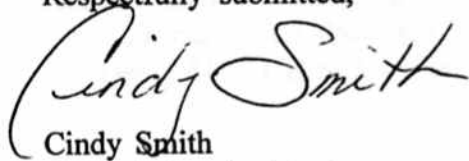
Dick Tipton, Soil Conservation Service (SCS) for Malheur County, showed a video on water conservation efforts currently in use in the county.

To date, the SCS has spent \$12,000 to distribute the videotape. It will also be distributed through the school districts in the near future.

Mike Farrell, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, addressed the Commission on watershed-related concerns of the Tribes.

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

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cindy Smith". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Cindy Smith
Commission Assistant