

Oregon Water Resources Commission Work Session
December 12, 1996
Salem

Members

Nancy Leonard
Mike Jewett
John Frewing
Tyler Hansell
Ron Nelson

Staff

Martha Pagel
Geoff Huntington
Steve Sanders
Cindy Smith
Weston Becker
Charlotte Haynes
Dick Bailey
Barry Norris
Doug Parrow
Greg Nelson
Rick Cooper
Dave Jarrett

Others

Kimberley Priestley
Jim Myron
Rick Kruger
David Moon
Roger Bachman
Lorna Stickel
Jerry Schmidt
Jan Boettcher Lee

In addition to those listed above, other staff were present for particular segments of the work session. Written material submitted at this work session is part of the meeting record and on file at the Oregon Water Resources Department, 158 12th St. NE, Salem, Oregon 97310. Audiotapes of the meeting are on file at the same address.

1. Water Availability and Peak Flows

Rick Cooper, Field and Technical Services Division, and Doug Parrow, Resource Management Division, presented this report on water availability for storage to the Commission and responded to their questions and comments. Cooper provided a briefing on the current standard, the definition of water availability, other possible standards and how to evaluate them.

The water availability standards set limits on allocation for out-of-stream uses, in-stream uses, and storage to ensure the applicant will have use of water a reasonable amount of time and to limit the regulation necessary by watermasters.

Four possible storage standards discussed were: 1) limit the allocation allowed to the volume that

WRC Work Session
December 12, 1996

could be filled from the fifty percent exceedance flow as based on mean daily streamflows; 2) limit the allocation allowed to the volume that could be filled from the fifty percent exceedance flow as based on mean monthly streamflows; 3) limit the allocation allowed to the volume that could be filled from the mean monthly streamflows; and 4) no limit on volume -- reservoir must pass only the streamflow required by downstream users.

Pagel said that an interest of the Commission is how we can maximize the opportunities for storage while still maintaining the instream values and minimizing impacts on the water necessary for fish during peak flows.

Cooper said questions to consider in evaluating a storage standard might include: What assurance does the standard give the applicant that he or she will have use of the water a reasonable amount of time? How will the standard impact the work load for watermasters; how frequently will they have to regulate in favor of senior users? What are the possible impacts on senior users and instream values?

Parrow gave a presentation illustrating hypothetical applications of principles of water availability relating to reservation requests.

2. What is on the Horizon: A Look at Future Issues Facing the Commission

Martha Pagel reviewed a meeting agenda forecast with the Commissioners -- an update of this report will be offered at each meeting for Commission comments. Jewett suggested adding a progress report on the Grants Pass Irrigation District to the April agenda. Lorna Stickel, Portland Water District, suggested that a final report on the Portland Regional Water Supply Plan be given soon. Jewett suggested having more educational opportunities for the Commissioners at the work sessions. He suggested stored water and federal/state issues might be interesting. Frewing expressed interest in interstate water management. Hansell suggested a report on the progress of watershed councils.

Roger Bachman, Oregon Trout, said he hopes the need for many more stream gages is a priority item. Ron Nelson said that with the passage of Ballot Measure 47, counties will likely be cutting back their financial commitment to the Water Resources programs. The monies for the assistant water masters may be cut back. Nelson asked the Commissioners to encourage local government in their regions to continue to support the Department's programs.

There being no further discussion, the work session was adjourned and the Commission went into Executive Session to discuss current litigation and litigation likely to be filed.

Respectfully submitted,



Diane K. Addicott
Commission Assistant