

Oregon Water Resources Commission Meeting
December 19, 1997
Salem

Members

Nancy Leonard
Jim Nakano
Ron Nelson
Dan Thorndike

Staff

Geoff Huntington
Tom Byler
Diane Addicott
Dick Bailey
Barry Norris
Charlotte Haynes
Patrick Lee
Dave Jarrett

Others

Todd Heidgerken
Andrew Purkey
Marc Liverman
Reed Benson
Kimberley Priestley
Steve Applegate
Doug Myers
Pete Test
Roger Bachman
Gail Achterman
Jan Lee

Written material submitted at this meeting is part of the official record and on file at the Oregon Water Resources Department, 158 12th Street NE, Salem, Oregon 97310. Audiotapes of the meeting are on file at the same address.

Geoff Huntington explained that the broad objective of the meeting was to develop a focus for an in-depth discussion of stream enhancement issues at the Commission's January 22, 1998, work session. The January meeting will provide the basis for the Commission to make decisions on whether to pursue specific policy directions on any of the issues.

Huntington asked those present what issues they would like to have considered as potential topics for the January meeting. Roger Bachman, representing Oregon Trout, listed: split season leases, increasing efficiency of water uses, nonstructural storage, increased measurement and flow data, and the cancellation of the original certificate in the allocation of conserved water. Todd Heidgerken, representing Water for Life, listed: voluntary rotation agreements, conserved water, nonstructural storage, tax credits and litigation. Jan Lee, representing Oregon Water Resources Congress, listed: storage/conserved water, Water Development Loan Fund, increased flexibility, and split season leases. Andrew Purkey, representing Oregon Water Trust, listed: split season leases, measurement, automatic reversion, and private ownership. Reed Benson,

representing WaterWatch, listed: efficiency, measurement and flow data, funding options, and basin planning. Pete Test, representing Oregon Farm Bureau, listed: split season leases, protection of junior users in leasing, conserved water, and nonstructural storage. Marc Liverman, National Marine Fisheries Service, listed: interstate shepherding, conserved water, voluntary rotation, and efficiency measures. Steve Applegate suggested the conserved water program as a priority.

Dan Thorndike suggested that the Commission might consider issues that can be discussed in a reasonable length of time; listen to comments on the impacts of a particular issue; and consider just what action the Commission might be able to take.

Nancy Leonard agreed with Thorndike's comments—the Commission needs to decide how much time to spend on particular issues, and whether to take on the more difficult long-term discussions, or the short-term ones.

Ron Nelson would like the Commission to tackle some difficult issues, and with the help of interested people, find a resolution. He would like to see the Department and Commission as pro-active assuming leadership roles in the debate over management of water resources. Basin planning or split season leasing/voluntary rotation would be good discussion topics for the January 22nd discussion.

Jim Nakano would like to see the issues of nonstructural storage and the protection of junior users in leasing discussed.

In John Frewing's absence, Huntington shared his comment that he would like to have more discussions on split season leasing.

Marc Liverman suggested a meeting with staff from the Oregon Department of Agriculture regarding Oregon Plan measures and SB 1010 plans.

Charlotte Haynes spoke briefly on the conserved water program and the certificate issue. An administrative rule change may not be necessary. The Commissioners will be briefed on this soon.

After much discussion, the following list of issues for the Commission to consider at upcoming meetings was developed: split season leases/split duty/rotations; conserved water; nonstructural storage/education partnerships; basin plans; measurement/reporting (Serious Water Management Problem Areas); efficiency; mitigation banking; and an introduction to SB 1010/303(d).

The Commissioners suggested that staff plan for a presentation on the split season leases and SB 1010/303(d) at the January meeting; and perhaps a report on nonstructural storage if time allows.

Huntington said a discussion on global warming with George Taylor and Jane Lubchenco is being planned for the March Commission meeting. A presentation on Serious Water Management Problem Areas in March may also be on the agenda.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Diane K. Addicott".

Diane K. Addicott
Commission Assistant