

Oregon Water Resources Commission  
Work Session  
August 8, 2002  
Hatfield Marine Science Center  
Newport

WRC Members:

Dan Thorndike  
Ron Nelson  
Tyler Hansell  
Jim Nakano  
Jay Rasmussen

WRD Staff

Paul Cleary  
Cindy Smith  
Shannon O'Fallon  
Adam Sussman  
Diane Addicott  
Debbie Colbert  
Kristen Richert  
Tom Paul  
Dave Jarrett  
Barry Norris  
Al Cook  
Tracy Eichenlaub  
Dwight French  
Juno Pandian  
Dick Bailey  
Dave Williams  
Greg Beaman  
Bruce Moyer

Others

Elden Nordahl  
Kimberley Priestley  
Aubrey Russell  
Mark Snyder  
Rick Glick  
Ed Henricks  
Robert Van Creveld  
Mary Meloy  
John Stead  
Susie Navetta  
Karen Gerttula  
Alan Brown  
Charlie Uhls  
John McKeivitt  
Dale Saari  
Glen Kirkpatrick  
Dr. Gil Sylvia  
Rick Glick  
Lisa Pearson  
Onno Husing  
George Boehlert  
Carol Russell

Written material submitted at this work session is part of the official record and on file at the Oregon Water Resources Department, 158 12<sup>th</sup> Street NE, Salem, Oregon 97301-4172. Audiotapes of the work session are on file at the same address.

Commissioner Rasmussen introduced George Boehlert, Director of the Hatfield Marine Science Center. Mr. Boehlert welcomed everyone and described the various programs within the Center including the Sea Grant Program, the Visitors Center, the Coastal Oregon Marine Experiment Station, and the Cooperative Institute for Marine Resources Studies.

Chair Thorndike announced that Commissioner Nelson has been selected as the new manager of the Nevada Irrigation District in Grass Valley, California. Nelson's last meeting as a Commissioner will be September 13, 2002.

### **1. Hydroelectric Program Update**

Dick Bailey, Water Rights and Adjudications Administrator; and Kristen Richert, Hydroelectric Program Coordinator, presented this report to the Commission and responded to their questions and comments. They reviewed their written staff report and using slides explained the history and responsibilities of the hydroelectric program; gave an overview of the project authorization and reauthorization issues process and workload; and described the status of the major hydroelectric projects across the state.

### **2. 2001 Field Regulation and Enforcement Activities**

Barry Norris, Technical Services Administrator; Juno Pandian, Enforcement Manager; Tracy Eichenlaub, Well Program Specialist; and Dave Williams, District 15 Watermaster, reported to the Commission on field activities. The discussion included enforcement priorities, surface water regulation, regulation of well construction, and formal enforcement activity. The detailed well construction data and statistics contained in the staff report were summarized and displayed in a PowerPoint presentation by Eichenlaub. Williams described various water management challenges and successes in the Umpqua Basin.

### **3. Coastal Issues**

Cleary introduced this agenda item mentioning that conducting this Commission meeting at the Hatfield Marine Science Center provided an ideal opportunity to discuss some of the water-related coastal issues that are currently before the Department.

Dr. Gil Sylvia, Oregon State University Marine Resource Economist, and Director of the Coastal Oregon Marine Experiment Station (COMES), presented an overview of the findings of a September 2000 report published by COMES and Oregon Sea Grant that describes the range of water supply issues faced by coastal municipalities, and strategies for overcoming the "conservation paradox." The report includes case studies on the cities of Newport, Garibaldi,

and Port Orford.

Dwight French, Water Rights Section Manager; Rick Glick, Davis Wright Tremaine, representing the applicants; and Glen Kirkpatrick, representing Stewards of Rocky Creek, spoke on a proposed storage project on Rocky Creek. The Commissioners had toured this project site before today's work session. The cities of Newport and Lincoln City applied for permits to store 9,000 acre-feet and use up to 6 cubic feet per second from Rocky Creek, a tributary to the Pacific Ocean. French opened the discussion with a brief overview of the application process and its current status. Rick Glick spoke in support of the applications and shared information about the proposed project which would serve as a regional water supply system for the Lincoln County coastal region and provide greater flexibility in addressing water supply and environmental concerns. Glen Kirkpatrick spoke in opposition to the Rocky Creek project; he submitted written comments and shared concerns that this project, if allowed, would be harmful to restoration of salmon and steelhead runs in Rocky Creek.

Tom Paul, Field Services Administrator; Dwight French, Water Rights Section Manager; and Dave Williams, District 15 Watermaster, spoke on the Department's efforts to help address the water supply needs of Dunes City in Lane County. Dunes City does not have a municipal water supply system; residents of the city either use wells for their water needs or divert water from Woahink Lake. Many of the residents using water from the lake do not hold water rights for that use. Department staff have been meeting with representatives of Dunes City, Division of State Lands, and the Department of Fish and Wildlife to share information on the situation and discuss solutions; a public meeting will likely be scheduled in the fall.

#### Public Comment on the Coastal Issues Item

Elden Nordahl, Florence resident, spoke about his concerns regarding illegal diversions on Woahink Lake, and the need for Dunes City to develop a tax base to support a municipal water system.

Dale Saari, Central Oregon Coast Board of Realtors, talked about the residential zoning in Dunes City and its low residential growth rate. He said he appreciates that government agencies are working together to resolve the water availability issues for Dunes City residents.

Susie Navetta, Dunes City Council and Woahink Lake Association, said that several residents of Dunes City were not aware of the need for water rights. Dunes City is working to bring septic systems into compliance. Navetta expressed appreciation for WRD staff who have been meeting with their the city's local government staff to resolve issues.

Carol Russell, Oregon Cranberry Farmers Alliance, expressed appreciation for the good working relationship her organization has enjoyed with WRD and other state agencies. She talked about how WRD staff have helped resolve many long-standing issues relating to water right protests.

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Onno Husing, Executive Director of the Oregon Coastal Zone Management Association, spoke in support of the evaluation of the Rocky Creek Project and talked about the challenges of coastal communities as they seek to make water available to their residents and to support new growth.

There being no further business to discuss, the work session was adjourned. A reception followed to provide the public an opportunity to continue discussing coastal management issues with Commissioners and staff.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane K. Addicott  
Commission Assistant