

Oregon Water Resources Commission Meeting
March 12, 2004
Bend

WRC Members

Jim Nakano
Susie Smith
Tyler Hansell
Jay Rasmussen

WRD Staff

Paul Cleary
Phil Ward
Debbie Colbert
Cindy Smith
Juno Pandian
Diane Addicott
Shannon O'Fallon
Kyle Gorman
Tom Paul
Dwight French
Jerry Rodgers
Jeremy Giffin

Others (cont'd)

Patrick Griffiths
Steve Johnson
Patricia Gainsforth
Ryan Houston
Steve Marx
Bruce Aylward

Others

John Herlocker
Roger Bachman
Kimberley Priestley
Jan Lee
Rick Kepler
Mickey Killingsworth
Mary Meloy
Peter Hanson
Bill Strait
Brad Harper
Ryan Houston
Joanne Richter
David Stewart-Smith
David Newton
Susan Hammond
Dwight Hammond
Ron Yockim
Steve Grasty
Brad Harper
Roger Prowell
Tammy Sailors

Vice-Chair Nakano opened the meeting and expressed appreciation to Roger Prowell and Patrick Griffiths, City of Bend, for their help in arranging for the meeting room and helping with the Thursday morning tour. He also thanked David Newton and Associates and the law firm of Bryant, Lovelien, and Jarvis for hosting the Thursday evening reception.

E. Commission Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the January 15, 2004, meeting were offered to the Commission for their consideration. Hansell moved to approve the minutes as presented; seconded by Smith. All voted approval.

F. Commission Comments

Hansell thanked the City of Bend and local irrigation districts for the interesting tour of area water-related projects. He said he really appreciates the opportunities to meet as a Commission in communities throughout Oregon. Hansell said he attended the January 2004 Oregon Water Coalition meeting and had the privilege of introducing the guest speaker Paul Cleary. He also thanked Department staff for attending and providing valuable ground water information at the March meeting of the Umatilla County Critical Ground Water Task Force.

Rasmussen said he was the hearing officer at a February 23, 2004, public meeting in Salem to accept testimony on administrative rules that would modify the Willamette Basin Plan. He will also be assisting with plans for the July 2004 Western States Water Council meeting in Newport.

Nakano said the Bureau of Reclamation has asked water users to install measuring devices in the North Fork of the Malheur River due to the Bull Trout listing. The Malheur Watershed Council hosted a meeting with ranchers, the Bureau, and WRD to discuss the issues and necessary action. One rancher below the reservoir is planning to install a headgate and measuring device this year. Bids are out on plans prepared by the Bureau and hopefully work will be accomplished this summer. Fish screen installation is being discussed with irrigators on diversions above Beulah Reservoir. A grant has been approved for the piping of some of the Vale Oregon Irrigation District laterals which will increase efficiency and conservation.

G. Director's Report

Cleary reviewed his written report to the Commission which summarizes on-going staff work in several different areas. Last week he attended a meeting in Pendleton to discuss Phase III of the Umatilla Project with representatives of local irrigation districts, the Umatilla Tribes, and the Bureau of Reclamation. March 16 he will be meeting in Seattle with representatives from Washington, Idaho, and Montana to discuss the Washington Columbia River Basin Initiative.

H. Legislative and Budget Update

Phil Ward, Deputy Director, briefed the Commission on the budget and reviewed the written report on legislative concept development. He said that during the last Legislative Session approximately \$2 million of the Department's budget was moved out of the General Fund into Other Funds. Being under-budgeted, the Department has cut back spending in all areas possible and left positions vacant for a time as a cost-saving measure. The more recent positive revenue forecast is good news and hopefully will prevent the need for another across-the-board disappropriation.

Public Comment on Item H

Roger Bachman encouraged the Commission and Department to consider adding a legislative concept for a water use fee pilot project in the Deschutes Basin. Mr. Bachman submitted a paper covering his remarks.

Kimberley Priestley, WaterWatch of Oregon, asked the Commission and Department to include a legislative concept regarding exempt wells. She said she will be attending the stakeholder meeting offered by the Department for input on proposed legislative concepts for the 2005 Session.

I. Request for Adoption of Rule to Establish Special Area Well Construction Standards

Juno Pandian, Enforcement Section Manager; and David Stewart-Smith, Oregon Office of Energy (OOE), presented this request to the Commissioners and responded to their questions and comments. The Oregon Office of Energy asked the Department to initiate administrative rulemaking due to contamination identified as a result of uranium ore processing from 1958 to 1974 at a site north of the town of Lakeview in Lake County. The proposed rules for well construction standards would help ensure the safe development of the aquifer and avoid potential human consumption of the contaminated ground water.

Nakano moved to adopt the proposed rules as presented; seconded by Rasmussen. All voted approval.

J. Deschutes Basin Flow Restoration and Water Management Panel Discussions

Kyle Gorman, South Central Region Manager, introduced panel members and facilitated the discussion of water management and conservation issues, and streamflow restoration efforts in

the Deschutes Basin. The first panel included Patrick Griffiths, City of Bend Water Program Specialist; Mary Meloy, City of Redmond Public Works Director; Steve Johnson, Central Oregon Irrigation District Manager; and Jan Lee, Swalley Irrigation District Manager. The second panel included Patricia Gainsforth, Chair of the Deschutes Coordinating Group; Ryan Houston, Executive Director of the Upper Deschutes Watershed Council; Steve Marx, Deschutes Basin District Biologist for Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife; and Bruce Aylward, Interim Executive Director for the Deschutes Resources Conservancy.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully



Diane K. Addicott
Commission Assistant