



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

Water Resources Department

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Oregon Water Resources Commission

Meeting Minutes

December 12 - 13, 2024

Department of State Lands, 775 Summer St NE # 100, Salem, OR 97301
and virtual via Zoom

Attendees				
Commissioners	OWRD Staff		Other Attendees	
Eric Quaempts	Ivan Gall	Laura Tesler	April Snell	Rhett Nelsen (V)
Julie Smitherman	Annette Liebe	Kim Fritz-Ogren	Kimberley Priestley	Lunda Nelsen (V)
Kathy Kihara	Racquel Rancier	Kathy Boles (V)	Jessica Humphreys (V)	Renee Coxen (V)
Jan Lee	Doug Woodcock	Justin Dillon (V)	Shane Cossel (V)	Joelle Alley (V)
Joe Moll	Danielle Gonzalez	Linda Ray (V)	Arlyse DeLoyola (V)	John Bellville (V)
Jan Neuman	Dwight French	Greg Wacker (V)	Argelia Ramirez (V)	Nathan Cutler (V)
Woody Wolfe	Cassidy Fredlund	Tom Skiles (V)	Julie Cymore (V)	Gene Souza (V)
	Mindy Lane	Matt Day (V)	Patrick Rectenwald (V)	Ken Yates (V)
	Joel Williams	Justin Dillon (V)	Brian Wolcott (V)	Dawn Taffler (V)
	Crystal Grinnell	Kelly Burgess (V)	Klamath Irrigation District (V)	Chris Hall (V)
			Anton Chiono (V)	Stan Dean (V)
			Stephanie Tidwell (V)	

Written material submitted at this meeting is part of the official record and is on file at the Oregon Water Resources Department, 725 Summer Street NE, Suite A, Salem, Oregon 97301-1271.

Agendas, minutes, PowerPoint presentations, staff reports, and audio/video files are available on the Department's [website](#).

Commission Meeting

[Chair Quaempts convened the meeting.](#)

A. Water Project Grants and Loans and Irrigation Modernization Funding Recommendations

Adair Muth, Grants Manager, and Kim Fritz-Ogren, Planning, Collaboration, and Investments Section Manager, presented the Technical Review Team's scoring results, evaluation summaries, funding recommendations, and public comments received for the second 2024 funding cycle of Water Project Grants and Loans and Irrigation Modernization Funding.

[Commission Discussion with Jessica Humphreys](#)

[Commission Discussion with John Bellville](#)

[Public Comment, Jessica Humphreys](#)

[Public Comment, John Bellville](#)

[Public Comment, April Snell](#)

[Public Comment, Rhett Nelson](#)

Commissioner Lee moved to adopt alternative 1, the funding recommendations contained in the tables and immediately fund the applications in the amount of \$1.924 million provisionally and fund the other three applications from the existing funds which includes the \$907,000 for the Irrigation Modernization Fund. Vice Chair Smitherman seconded the motion. Votes in favor: Commissioners Moll, Wolfe, Lee, Neuman, Kihara, Vice Chair Smitherman, and Chair Quaempts. Motion passed unanimously.

<https://www.youtube.com/live/VMcYOEREBF0?si=EPcm8ffrCc7Xokfa&t=6497>

B. [Water Supply Development Account Grant Increase Delegation of Authority](#)

Adair Muth, Grants Manager, and Kim Fritz-Ogren, Planning, Collaboration, and Investments Section Manager, presented a proposal for the Commission to grant the Director the authority to increase grant budgets for previously awarded projects in the Water Supply Development Account.

Commissioner Moll moved to authorize the Director or their designee to increase water grant budgets for projects previously awarded funds by the Commission from the Water Supply Development Account of up to 10% of the initial grant award but not to exceed \$250,000, noting Chair Quaempts' recommendation of regular reporting to the Commission. Chair Quaempts had asked that staff report on increases in the Director's report, in the following quarter after an increase is approved. It was further amended to note that this would be a one-time opportunity to request an increase.

Commissioner Kihara seconded the motion. Votes in favor: Commissioners Moll, Wolfe, Lee, Neuman, Kihara, Vice Chair Smitherman, and Chair Quaempts. Motion passed unanimously.

<https://www.youtube.com/live/VMcYOEREBF0?si=C8Lm14oFZo2eha68&t=9934>

C. [Integrated Water Resources Strategy – Update & Workshop](#)

Crystal Grinnell, Integrated Water Resources Strategy Specialist, provided an update on the IWRS engagement with the Governor's Natural Resource Office and six agency directors, a November public meeting, and summarized proposed changes for the 2024 IWRS Draft 2 Framework and narrative, prior to release for public comment in January.

[Commission Discussion with Director Gall](#)

[Public Comment, Christopher Hall](#)

[Public Comment, Anton Chiono](#)

[Public Comment, Stephanie Tidwell](#)

[Public Comment, Kimberley Priestley](#)

[Public Comment, April Snell](#)

[Public Comment, Stan Dean](#)

Meeting was adjourned.

Water Resources Commission Minutes

Friday, December 13, 2024

Hybrid & Salem, Oregon

(V) = Virtual

Attendees			
Commissioners	OWRD Staff		Others
Eric Quaempts	Ivan Gall	Jason Spriet	Rep Mark Owens
Julie Smitherman	Doug Woodcock	Tim Seymour	Kimberley Priestley
Kathy Kihara	Racquel Rancier	Justin Iverson	April Snell
Jan Lee	Cassidy Fredlund	Kim Fritz-Ogren	Chris Hall (V)
Joe Moll	Mindy Lane	Dwight French	Patrick Rectenwald (V)
Jan Neuman	Annette Liebe	Ben Scandella (V)	Stan Dean (V)
Woody Wolfe	Lisa Snyder	Katie Cole (V)	Ken Yates (V)
	Danielle Gonzalez	Greg Wacker (V)	
	Jake Zelenka (V)	Matthew Day (V)	
	Kelly Burgess (V)	Christi Haines (V)	

[Chair Quaempts convened the meeting.](#)

D. [Harney Basin Groundwater Update](#)

Jason Spriet, East Region Manager, Tim Seymour, Assistant Groundwater Section Manager; Kelly Mainz, Water Policy Analyst, provided an update on the results of the management scenarios model runs and discussed the timeline around stabilizing groundwater levels.

[Public Comment, Christopher Hall](#)

[Public Comment, Rep. Mark Owens](#)

E. [Budget and Legislative Update](#)

Racquel Rancier, Deputy Director of Strategy and Administration, Bryn Hudson, Legislative Coordinator, and Lisa Snyder, Administrative Services Division Administrator, provided an update on preparation for the 2025 Legislative Session and the 2025-27 Governor’s Recommended Budget.

[Commission discussion with Rep Mark Owens](#)

[Public Comment, April Snell](#)

[Public Comment, Kimberley Priestley](#)

F. [Director’s Report](#)

Ivan Gall, Director, provided an update on Department business and late-breaking issues. Director Gall also discussed future Commission meetings and structure.

[Commission discussion with Dwight French](#)

G. Commission Appointments to the Groundwater Advisory Committee

Justin Iverson, Groundwater Section Manager, presented recommendations for appointments to the Groundwater Advisory Committee.

Commissioner Kihara moved to adopt alternative 1, to appoint Robyn Cook, Dave Noble, Steven Patten and Eric Schneider to the Groundwater Advisory Committee; terms beginning December 13, 2024, through November 30, 2027. Vice Chair Smitherman seconded the motion. Votes in favor: Commissioners Moll, Wolfe, Lee, Neuman, Kihara, Vice Chair Smitherman, and Chair Quaempts. Motion passed unanimously.

<https://www.youtube.com/live/OCxhF41TXGM?si=Og7lgJVt9VMwZuTA&t=14053>

H. Approval of Meeting minutes

The minutes of the September 2024 meeting were presented for Commission approval.

Vice Chair Smitherman made a motion to approve the September 2024 meeting minutes. Commissioner Kihara seconded the motion. Votes in favor: Commissioners Moll, Wolfe, Lee, Kihara, Vice Chair Smitherman, and Chair Quaempts. Abstained: Commissioner Neuman. Motion passed.

https://www.youtube.com/live/OCxhF41TXGM?si=hlJFpWwLOPu_yfUj&t=14234

I. Commissioner Comments

Commissioners reported on their recent activities, shared information, and commented on a variety of water resource topics.

J. Public Comment and Other Issues

[Public Comment, Christopher Hall](#)

[Commission discussion with Ivan Gall](#)

[Meeting was adjourned.](#)

Submitted by Cassidy Fredlund, Executive Support, Director's Office.