



Water Resources Commission Meeting Minutes

June 12 – 13, 2025

Hybrid Meeting in Pendleton, Oregon

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 Day 1 – Thursday, June 12, 2025

Attendees

<i>(V) = Virtual</i>				
Commissioners	OWRD Staff		Others	
Eric Quaempts	Mindy Lane	Ivan Gall (V)	Troy Baker	Kimberley Priestley
Julie Smitherman (V)	Cassidy Fredlund	Adair Muth (V)	Mike Britton	Curtis Enbretson
Woody Wolfe	Louisa Mariki (V)	Garrett Vian	April Snell	Brian Anderson
Kathy Kihara	Danielle Gonzalez	Annette Liebe	Ken Yates (V)	Hoss Hodges
Jan Lee (V)	Kim Fritz-Ogren	Laura Tesler	Chris Hall (V)	Steve Parrett (V)
Joe Moll (V)	Margo Mashkovskaya	Annette Liebe	Kurt Unger (V)	Shane Cossel (V)
Jan Neuman (V)	Katie Ratcliffe (V)	Amit Dass (V)	Ken Bierly (V)	Andrea Kreiner (V)
	Maggie Sommer (V)	Kelly Meinz (V)	Jacob Davis (V)	Chandra Ferrari (V)
	Bryn Hudson (V)	Luke Martin (V)	Rep Mark Owens (V)	Nicole Bettinardi (V)
	Lisa Kingsley (V)	Jordan Beamer (V)	Kate Fitzpatrick (V)	Harmony Burright (V)
	Racquel Rancier (V)	Michael Coiner (V)		
	Jake Zelenka (V)	Ben Scandella (V)		
	Junjie Chen (V)	Lisa Snyder (V)		
	Darrick Boschmann (V)	Justin Iverson (V)		

TOUR

The Oregon Water Resources Commission (OWRC) and the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission (OFWC), with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) and the US Bureau of Reclamation, hosted a tour in the Umatilla basin on the morning of June 12th, 2025.

[Chair Quaempts convened the meeting.](#)

A. [Irrigation Modernization Funding Recommendations](#)

Louisa Mariki, Grant Analyst, and Adair Muth, Grants Manager, presented the Technical Review Team's scoring results, evaluation summaries, funding recommendations, and public comments received for the first 2025 funding cycle of Irrigation Modernization Funding. The Commission was asked to make a funding award decision.

[Commissioner Wolfe made a motion to adopt alternative one, the Director's recommendation, to adopt the funding recommendations contained in Table 2 of this report, to fund four applications for a total award of \\$16,191,372.](#)

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

[Post-vote questions from Commissioner Neuman](#)

[Public Comment, April Snell](#)

B. [*Proposed Rule OAR 690-601-0600](#)

Margo Mashkovskaya, Policy Analyst, and Adair Muth, Grants Manager, presented on the proposed rule OAR 690-601-0600, titled "Public Notice", related to community engagement best practices when the department funds community engagement plans for water projects funded through Feasibility Study Grants and Water Projects Grants and Loans. The Commission was asked to consider adoption of the proposed rule.

[Commissioner Wolfe made a motion to choose alternative one, the Director's recommendation to Commission, to adopt the final proposed rules in attachment 3 of the staff report.](#) Commissioner Kihara seconded the motion. Votes in favor: Commissioners Moll, Lee, and Neuman, Vice-Chair Smitherman, Commissioners Kihara and Wolfe, and Chair Quaempts. Motion passed unanimously.

C. [Integrated Water Resources Strategy, Draft 2 Public Review and Comment](#)

Crystal Grinnell, Integrated Water Resources Strategy Specialist, presented an overview of the public comments that were received on Draft 2 of the 2025 Strategy. The Commission will be asked to provide direction for the third and final draft of the 2025 Strategy.

[Public Comment, April Snell](#)

[Public Comment, Andrea Kreiner](#)

D. [Draft Strategic Plan Discussion](#)

Laura Tesler, Policy Analyst, Margo Mashkovskaya, Policy Analyst, along with Director Ivan Gall, presented a draft 2025-2030 strategic plan for the Department.

The Commission was asked to comment and give feedback on the proposed draft.

J. [Budget & Legislative Update](#)

Bryn Hudson, Legislative Coordinator, and Lisa Snyder, Administrative Services Division Administrator, presented an update of legislative and budget activities related to the 2025 legislative session.

E. [Director's Report](#)

Ivan Gall, Director, provided an update on Department business and late-breaking issues. This is an informational report and includes informational report outs.

[The Commission gave comments, asked questions and engaged in discussion with the presenters.](#)

F. [Division 512 Rulemaking Update](#)

Jason Spriet, East Region Manager, Tim Seymour, Assistant Groundwater Section Manager, and Kelly Mainz, Water Policy Analyst, presented on how the proposed amendment to the Division 512 rules will address declining groundwater in the Harney Basin.

[The Commission gave comments, asked questions and engaged in discussion with the presenters.](#)

[Public Comment, Rep Mark Owens](#)

[Public Comment, Chris Hall](#)

[Public Comment, Jacob Davis](#)

K. [Approval of Meeting Minutes](#)

The minutes of the March 2025 meeting were presented for Commission approval.

[Commissioner Neuman moved to approve the March 2025 Commission meeting minutes](#), Commissioner Kihara seconded the motion. Votes in favor:

Commissioner Lee, Vice-Chair Smitherman, Commissioners Moll, Neuman, Kihara, and Wolfe, and Chair Quaempts. Motion passed unanimously.

[Day 1 was adjourned.](#)

Commission Meeting Day 2 – Friday, June 13, 2025

Attendees

<i>V=Virtual</i>				
Commissioners	OWRD Staff		Others	
Eric Quaempts	Ivan Gall (V)	Greg Silbernagel	Brooke Beeler	JR Cook
Julie Smitherman (V)	Garrett Vian	Cassidy Fredlund	Anton Chiono	April Snell
Kathy Kihara	Mindy Lane	Carolyn Sufit	Kimberley Priestley	Laura Gleim
Jan Lee (V)	Jason Spriet	Racquel Rancier (V)	Tom Halferty	Gibb Evans
Joe Moll (V)	Annette Liebe	Luke Martin	Regan Coordes	Troy Baker
Jan Neuman (V)	Chris Kowitz	Danielle Gonzalez	Chris Hall (V)	Jake Madison
Woody Wolfe	Laura Hartt	Kim Fritz-Ogren	Tom Halferty	Kerri Macomber
	Margo Mashkovskaya	Matt Day (V)	Curtis Engbretson	Travis Trumbull
	Maggie Sommer (V)	Jordan Beamer (V)	Brian Anderson	Craig Reeder
	Ben Scandella (V)	Jake Zelenka (V)	Courtney Crowell	Brent Stevenson (V)
	Jason Cox (V)	James Hootsmans (V)	Kevin Fenn (V)	Kurt Unger (V)
	Alyssa Mucken (V)	Darrick Boschmann (V)	Paul DeMaggio (V)	Stanley (V)
	Stephen Ahlquist (V)	Katie Ratcliffe (V)	Andrew Wentworth (V)	Shane Cossel (V)
	Lisa Snyder (V)		Jeff Svedin (V)	Hoang-Van Nguyen (V)
			Kerri Macomber (V)	

[Chair Quaempts re-convened the meeting.](#)

G. [Lower Umatilla Groundwater Management Area Update](#)

Chris Kowitz, North Central Region Manager, Laura Gleim, Lower Umatilla Basin Ground Water Management Area (LUBGWMA) Project Manager (Oregon Department of Environmental Quality [ODEQ]), Courtney Crowell, Regional Solutions Coordinator (Office of Governor Tina Kotek [GOV]), and Kevin Fenn, Water Quality and Soil & Water Conservation District Manager (Oregon Department of Agriculture [ODA]), provided an update on the State's Nitrate Reduction Plan implementation and other ongoing work in the LUBGWMA.

[The Commission gave comments, asked questions and engaged in discussion with the presenters.](#)

H. [Walla Walla Basin – Strategic Plan Implementation Update](#)

Chris Kowitz, North Central Region Manager, Brooke Beeler, Eastern Region Director (Washington State Department of Ecology), and Anton Chiono, Habitat

Conservation Project Leader (Confederation Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation), provided an update on the implementation of the Walla Walla Water 2050 Strategic Plan.

I. [Umatilla and Walla Walla Basin Water Management Update](#)

Chris Kowitz, North Central Region Manager, Greg Silbernagel, District 5 Watermaster, and Luke Martin, District 23 Watermaster, provided an update on water management in the Umatilla and Walla Walla basins.

[The Commission gave comments, asked questions and engaged in discussion with the presenters.](#)

L. [Commissioners' Comments](#)

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

[Commissioner Lee](#)

[Commissioner Neuman](#)

[Vice-Chair Smitherman](#)

[Commissioner Moll](#)

[Commissioner Kihara](#)

[Commissioner Wolfe](#)

[Chair Quaempts](#)

M. [Public Comment and Other Issues](#)

[Public Comment, Chris Hall](#)

[Public Comment, JR Cook](#)

[Public Comment, Kimberley Priestley](#)

[Comment, Ivan Gall](#)

[Meeting was adjourned.](#)

Submitted by Mindy Lane, Executive Support, Director's Office.