

Water Resources Commission
Work Session - Salem
March 7, 2006

WRC Present

Dan Thorndike, Chair
Jay Rasmussen
Susie Smith
Charlie Barlow
John Jackson
Mary Meloy
Gary Reed

Staff Present

Phil Ward
Tom Paul
Debbie Colbert
Cindy Smith
Kim Grigsby
Dwight French
Mike Auman
Barry Norris
Dave Jarrett

Others

Anita Winkler
Rachel Walker
Steve Brown
Kimberley Priestley
David Reidman

Chair Thorndike opened with a welcome and asked that everyone introduce themselves.

Thorndike commented that he felt this Commission was a very engaged group. He feels that it is important to use the energy, knowledge, and contacts that everyone brings forward and have a common understanding of where the Commission is going and where they can go. He said that it is important to build the partnership with the Department and stakeholders.

Commissioner Rasmussen lead the Commission and Director in a team exercise to allow the group to better know one another and their backgrounds.

Mission and Guiding Principles

Director Ward facilitated the group in revisiting the Department's mission and guiding principles. The Commission was asked to discuss what they thought were the strengths and weaknesses of the mission and guiding principles.

The Commission discussed the "Big Picture" for the agency and the future vision of the agency.

Nuts and Bolts

Mike Auman, Administrator, Administrative Services Division, discussed the Department's budget development process. Debbie Colbert, Senior Policy Coordinator, discussed the draft 2007 – 2009 legislative concepts development.

The Commission and staff discussed tools that the agency has to help get their job done.

Tools identified included:

- Regulatory
 - Rules, etc.
- Carrot (dollars)
 - Feasibility Study (dollars)
 - Measuring & Reporting
 - Informational Development & Delivery
- Local Resources
 - People Power
 - Funding & Staff
- Other Natural Resource Agencies
 - Leverage & Access
 - Collaboration & Coordination
 - Funding
- Bully Pulpit
 - Department and Commission
- New Fee Options
 - What are other states doing?
 - What is the service provided?
- Tap into the Governor's Agenda
- Federal Grant dollars
 - Local Expertise
- Stakeholders

The Commission also discussed format for future meetings. Feedback included:

Work Session often too long with:

- Too many panelists
- Need more time to work
- Move decisions to next day
- Time for long term agenda work
- Use Director's Report to "circle back"

The Commission had a working lunch with Mike Carrier, the Governor's Natural Resources Policy Director, as the guest speaker.

Carrier thanked the Commission for their service to the State. He said the best thing for a Director and a Commission to do is to pull all the pieces together that you are hearing from stakeholders, staff, and each other and articulate it in a way that has meaning to the public and translates into real priorities for the agency.

Carrier discussed the Governor's three major priorities - children's health, education and energy. Carrier also discussed the Governor's environmental principles and priorities – Oregon's forests, rivers, endangered species, territorial sea, global warming, land conservation and development, and investing in the environment.

The Big Picture

The Commission and staff discussed key issues facing the Department in the years ahead. Issues included:

- 1) Stewardship and Supply / Consumptive and Instream
- 2) Resources (Dollars)
- 3) Regionalization
 - Consolidation of suppliers
- 4) Recognition of value of water
 - Increasing profile
- 5) Dispute Management
 - Land Use
- 6) Carrying Capacity
- 7) Storage
- 8) Technology
 - Taking Advantage
- 9) Reuse
- 10) Quality/Quantity/Flow
- 11) Climate Change
- 12) Succession Planning
- 13) Economics of New Water
- 14) Water Marketing
- 15) Changing Demands of Agriculture
 - Nursery
 - Conservation
- 16) Conserved Water Program
- 17) Mitigation
- 18) Political Water Conflict

The Commission prioritized the above issues into four broad categories. Each issue was sorted into the categories as follows:

Supply & Conservation

1, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 15, 16, 17

Resources

2, 8, 12, 13, 14

Conflict

5

Leadership

3, 4, 18

Creating the Path

Debbie Colbert briefed the Commission on the Department's 2007 – 2009 Preliminary Legislative Concepts.

Mike Auman briefed the Commission on the Department's 2007 – 2009 Proposed Policy Option Packages.

Circling Back

Director Ward revisited the days' discussion and direction-setting.

Kim Grigsby, Water Policy Analyst, was given the task of memorializing the "Big Picture" as it is was discussed by the Commission with regards to a supply and conservation strategy.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Smith
Commission Assistant