

Water Resources Commission
Teleconference Meeting - Salem
March 31, 2006

WRC Present

Jay Rasmussen – by phone
Gary Reed – by phone
Susie Smith – by phone
Charlie Barlow – by phone
John Jackson – by phone
Mary Meloy – in person

Staff Present

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

Others

Helen Moore
Doug Myers

Commissioner Jay Rasmussen opened the meeting.

Debbie Colbert, Senior Policy Coordinator, briefed the Commission on the proposed Legislative Concepts for the 2007 Legislative Session.

The process to develop concepts for the 2007 Legislative Session began early this winter. Starting in January, staff collected internal suggestions concerning agency issues and needs requiring legislative consideration. The Department's Agency Coordination Team (ACT) refined those ideas. Staff shared the list of ideas generated from these discussions at the Commission's March 7, 2006 work session. Department staff also met with stakeholders individually and with a group of interested stakeholders on March 23, 2006, to seek feedback on Department legislative ideas and to discuss issues that may need to be addressed in the 2007 session. Based on that feedback the Department revised its list of draft concepts. The draft Legislative Concepts are as follows:

LC 01 Fee Adjustments

Proposes to adjust certain statutorily established fees under ORS 536.050, 537.150(5), and 537.620(5).

LC 02 Exempt Uses

Modifies ORS 537.141(1)(b) to clarify that any non-emergency fire-fighting training is an exempt use of surface water provided prior approval of use is granted by the appropriate watermaster or other minimum notice requirements are met.

LC 03 Well Constructors Continuing Education

Makes permanent statutory provisions for the well constructors continuing education program and Continuing Education Committee that sunset January 2, 2008.

LC 04 Split Season Use Instream Leasing

Makes permanent statutory provisions under ORS 537.348 allowing the "split season use" instream leasing of water rights that sunset January 2, 2008.

LC 05 Pilot Project for Certain District Temporary Transfers

Continues through January 2, 2010 a pilot project for certain districts to make annual place of use changes to water rights within their district boundaries without making application for a temporary transfer.

LC 06 Irrigation Season Extensions

Modifies ORS 537.385 to clarify that the Commission may extend irrigation seasons by rule rather than by order.

LC 07 Placeholder for Office of Regulatory Streamlining WRPPIT

Placeholder for Office of Regulatory Streamlining Water-Related Permits Process Improvement Team (WRPPIT).

Preliminary legislative concepts are due to the Department of Administrative Services on April 3, 2006.

The Commission discussed creating a task force consisting of Commission members and stakeholders to develop a long-term funding strategy for core Department services.

Commissioner Rasmussen opened the meeting up for public comment. No public comment was given.

Commissioner Smith moved to approve the legislative concepts as provided in Attachments 2 through 7 of the staff report; seconded by Commissioner Jackson. Voting for the motion: Commissioners Smith, Rasmussen, Barlow, Jackson, Meloy, and Reed. Voting against the motion: None. Commissioner Thorndike was absent.

Commissioner Smith moved that the Commission direct the Director to help in establishing a task force that would include Department Stakeholders in developing a long-term funding strategy for core Department services; seconded by Commissioner Meloy. Voting for the motion: Commissioners Smith, Rasmussen, Barlow, Jackson, Meloy, and Reed. Voting against the motion: None. Commissioner Thorndike was absent.

The Commission and Director Ward agreed that they would come back to the May meeting and identify which Commissioners would be on the task force. After the May meeting, a written proposal would be developed.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Smith
Commission Assistant