

Water Resources Commission
Meeting
Baker City, Oregon
August 8, 2013

WRC Present

John Jackson, Chair
Charlie Barlow, V. Chair
John Roberts
Jeanne LeJeune
Carol Whipple
Dennis Doherty

Staff Present

Phil Ward
Brenda Bateman
Doug Woodcock
Dwight French
Tracy Louden
Cindy Smith
Jason Spriet
Rick Lusk
Ron Jacobs

Others

Commissioner Fred Warner
Curtis Martin
Brent Kerns
Peggy Browne
Wes Morgan
Jerry Franke
Tom Mac Kerns

Written material submitted at this meeting is part of the official record and on file at the Oregon Water Resources Department, 725 Summer St. NE, Salem, Oregon 97301-1271. Audiotapes of the meeting are on file at the same address.

Chair Jackson welcomed everyone to the meeting. Commissioners and staff introduced themselves to the audience.

A. Commission Dialogue with Local Representatives

Commission Chair Jackson invited Jason Spriet, Eastern Region Manager, to introduce the local panel invited to discuss water resource issues with the Commission. Panelists included Commissioner Fred Warner of Baker County, Brent Kerns representing K Diamond Ranch, Peggy Browne of Browne Consulting, and Curtis Martin representing the Cattlemen's Association.

Peggy Browne spoke to the Commission about the basin and issues managing the water. She talked about water storage as a viable solution for the basin to manage the water. She talked about the need for a roadmap to develop water storage options for the basin.

Brent Kerns spoke about the staff and resources that are available from the Department and how helpful and knowledgeable staff members are. He spoke about the backlog of permits at the state level, and his idea of being rewarded for becoming more efficient with water. He talked about finding ways at the state level to reduce the amount of time it takes to get permits issued. To double agriculture production by 2050, he discussed the need to find solutions to get more water now.

Curtis Martin spoke about the importance of implementating the IWRS and doing it correctly. He asked for leadership from the Commission while that is taking place and the importance of understanding the needs of the specific areas while implementation is taking place. He also stated the need to look at science and data and not make decisions that are politically based.

Commissioner Fred Warner of Baker County spoke about the need to explore new ways to improve the timelines when water right applications are processed.

Water Resources Commissioner, Jeanne LeJeune asked the panelists to identify obstacles to place based planning.

Curtis Martin said he believed the hurdles were regulatory in nature.

Commissioner Fred Warner spoke about the need to identify what is being planned for.

B. Informational Report on 2012 Field Regulation and Enforcement Activities

Doug Woodcock, Field Services Administrator, updated the Commission on 2012 field regulation and enforcement activities. Rick Lusk, District 8 Watermaster, provided a brief presentation on field activities in his district.

C. Update on the Willamette Reallocation Efforts – FY13 and Beyond

Brenda Bateman, Senior Policy Coordinator, updated the Commission on the reallocation efforts on the Willamette with the US Army Corps of Engineers. She discussed the Willamette Project, a series of 13 flood-control dams and reservoirs that provides important benefits for the Willamette Valley. She discussed the re-launching of the Willamette Basin Reservoir Study which was put on hold in 2000, to evaluate whether changes in the operation, storage, and allocation of water in the storage reservoirs would better serve a full range of current and anticipated water resources needs. Finally, she talked about funding included in the President's FY13 Budget to complete a Small-Scale Reallocation Study for 499 acre-feet of water in the Coast Fork Willamette River sub-basin. This Study will help inform the process for the larger-scale Willamette Basin Reservoir Study, planned to begin in 2014.

D. Follow up to an Exception to the Willamette Basin Program by Gary Yeakle

Dwight French, Water Rights Administrator, provided an update to the previous basin exception request.

Respectfully,

Brandi Elmer
Executive Support

Editor's Note: The Powerpoint Presentations are now available online at:
http://apps.wrd.state.or.us/apps/misc/wrd_notice_view/Default.aspx?notice_id=23

Water Resources Commission
Meeting
Baker City, Oregon
August 9, 2012

WRC Present

John Jackson, Chair
Charlie Barlow, V. Chair
Carol Whipple
Jeanne LeJeune
John Roberts
Dennis Doherty
Ray Williams

Staff Present

Phil Ward
Brenda Bateman
Dwight French
Doug Woodcock
Tracy Louden
Cindy Smith
Jason Spriet

Others

Jerry Franke
Bruce Corn
Lynn Shumway
Wes Morgan

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Chair Jackson welcomed everyone to the meeting.

E. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the February 7 and 8, May 9, and July 1, 2013 meetings were offered to the Commission for consideration.

Commissioner Williams moved to approve the February 7 and 8, May 9, and July 1, 2013 minutes as submitted; seconded by Commissioner Barlow. Voting for the motion: Commissioners Roberts, LeJeune, Whipple, Jackson, Doherty, Williams and Barlow. Voting against the motion, none.

F. Commission Comments

Commissioner Roberts reported that he is working on a Regional Solutions Team, set up by the Governor, in the Southwest Oregon area. He spoke about his involvement in the Bear Creek Watershed Council and the Bonneville Environmental Foundation.

Commissioner Jackson commented on his involvement in Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board and the need for watershed councils to work together. As this was his final WRC meeting, he stressed the importance of continuing to have a Water Resources Commissioner sit on OWEB's Board.

Commissioner Whipple talked about serious fire issues and increasing water challenges in her area

Commissioner LeJeune spoke about Lauren Dennis, a young woman who sat on a panel in front of the Commission approximately a year ago. She spoke about her working towards her Master's degree in water resources Policy and her thesis on regionalization involving small water suppliers. She met with her a month ago and has a link to her thesis. She spoke about the smaller water suppliers' willingness to work together but the unwillingness to give up any control by local boards and districts.

Commissioner Williams reported on the water conditions in his area. He spoke about the need for storage of winter water.

Commissioner Barlow commented that he appreciates the staff and commissioners and all their hard work.

Commissioner Doherty introduced himself and his wife Anne. He discussed his involvement in Umatilla Basin Water Commission and the Aquifer Restoration work that has been done; the Umatilla Basin Water Commission is scheduled to dissolve over the next six months. He talked about another group forming called the NE Oregon Water Association that includes members with a broader base than were involved in the Umatilla Basin Water Commission. He discussed the Columbia River Treaty and the interest in that in the basin. He spoke about the advantage of the Columbia River - Umatilla Solutions Task Force (CRUST) process brought about by the Governor. He talked about the tribes are working towards a settlement of the treaty in the basin that could take a long time to resolve. He spoke about the reasons he wanted to serve on the Water Resources Commission, including the need to work together on hard issues.

G. Director's Report

Director Ward reviewed his written report with the Commission and responded to comments and questions. Director Ward introduced Bruce Corn, who is up for possible appointment to replace Charlie Barlow, representing the Eastern Region on the Commission. He also mentioned that there were several candidates for the Northwest Regional position and that the Governor's Office is still considering names for both positions. There are plans to submit final names to the State Senate in September during Legislative Days.

He also updated the Commissioners regarding staffing changes: Brenda Bateman is now Acting Technical Services Administrator subject to a full recruitment in the near future. He also said that the Department is currently recruiting for Brenda's position as Senior Policy Coordinator.

Commissioner LeJeune made a motion thanking Department staff and retirees: On behalf of all Oregonians the Commission thanks all of the Department's staff for their on-going, dedicated work to improving our water resources. We welcome the new staff who will be joining the Department. In particular we honor those retiring in 2013 and wish them much happiness in their new endeavors.

Commissioner Roberts seconded the motion, voting for the motion: Commissioners Roberts, LeJeune, Whipple, Jackson, Doherty, Williams and Barlow. Voting against the motion, none.

H. Legislative Update

Brenda Bateman, briefed the Commission on the 2013 Legislative Session.

Successful water-related bills that originated with the Department included:

- Senate Bill 199 (Continue the Department's Split Season Leasing Program);
- Senate Bill 200 (Split a Permit into Multiple Ownerships); and
- House Bill 2259 (Extend the Sunset and Increase the Department's Transaction Fees).

Successful water-related bills that originated outside the Department included:

- Senate Bill 837 (In-Conduit Hydro);
- Senate Bill 839 (Water Supply Development);
- House Joint Memorial 7 (Encouraging Federal Investment in Water Infrastructure); and

- House Bill 2620 (Regional Planning)

Bills containing the Department’s budget details included:

- Senate Bill 5547 (The Department’s Primary Budget)
- Senate Bills 5506 and 5533 (Lottery Bonds Authorization); and
- House Bill 5008 (End of Session Adjustments)

For several of these budget and policy bills, the Department has provided testimony on-line. Go to: http://www.oregon.gov/owrd/pages/law/legislative_updates.aspx.

Bills in their final, enrolled, form reside on the Oregon Legislature website. Go to: http://www.leg.state.or.us/bills_laws/.

Commissioner Ray Williams thanked Brenda Bateman and all the staff for their hard work during this legislative session.

I. Budget Update

Tracy Louden, Administrative Services Administrator, Brenda Bateman, Acting Technical Services Administrator, Dwight French, Water Rights Administrator, and Doug Woodcock, Field Services Administrator, provided updates on the Department’s 2013-15 Legislatively approved budget.

The significant changes that the Legislature approved in the Department’s budget are as follows (found in SB 5547, SB 5506, SB 5533 and HB 5008):

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Funding</u>
Pkg #101 – Reinstate Water-Use Reporting Program	\$174,363	GF
Pkg #102 – Secure Instream Protections	366,856	GF
Pkg #103 – Re-Capitalize the Measurement Cost Share Fund	100,000	GF
Pkg #105 – Groundwater Data Collection	780,000	GF
Pkg #106 – Surface Water Data Collection	730,000	GF
Pkg #201 – Implement Oregon’s Integrated Water Resources Strategy	209,004	GF
Pkg #202 – Conduct Basin Groundwater Investigations	250,000	GF
Pkg #203 – Build Field Services Capacity	342,333	GF
Pkg #204 – Water Supply Development Program	10,415,531	GF/OF
Pkg #205 – Water Development Loan Fund – Umatilla Project	11,061,191	OF
Pkg #206 – Feasibility Study Grants	890,976	GF
Pkg #208 – Extend Water Transaction Fee Schedule	996,211	OF
Pkg #209 – Make Asst. Watermaster Permanent	167,080	OF
	\$16,483,545	

A final “Omnibus Adjustment” that involved across-the-board actions reduced the General Fund budget of the Department by \$734,821. The management team has begun taking cost cutting measures such as delayed recruitments and deferral of non-critical purchases while waiting for further instructions from the Department of Administrative Services on these reductions. An additional \$30,000 in General Fund was added to pay for costs associated with two task forces established in SB 839.

The Department is pleased to see the continued investment by the Legislature in key components of Oregon's Integrated Water Resources Strategy. Implementation of these investments will be a high priority for staff; an update on progress will be provided at subsequent commission meetings.

J. Klamath Update

Doug Woodcock, Field Services Administrator, and Dwight French, Water Rights Administrator provided an update of the current situation in the Klamath Basin.

As described in the May 2013 Commission meeting, the Findings of Fact and Order of Determination (FFOD) had been filed with the Klamath County Circuit Court on March 7, 2013.

The delivery of the FFOD to the Klamath County Circuit Court, combined with the extremely low water conditions this summer posed significant challenges in the field with careful staff coordination and guidance from the Department of Justice. The Department is making progress in its first season of regulation in the Klamath Basin.

K. Public Comment

Mac Kerns, Baker Valley Farmer, spoke regarding the need for more project funding.

L. Other Business

There were no other issues to discuss.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brandi Elmer
Executive Support