

**Water Resources Commission
Meeting
Salem, Oregon
March 6, 2014**

WRC Present

John Roberts, Chair
Ray Williams, Vice-Chair
Bruce Corn
Carol Whipple
Bob Baumgartner
Dennis Doherty
Jeanne LeJeune

Staff Present

Phil Ward
Cindy Smith
Tom Paul
Dwight French
Tracy Louden
Renee Moulun
Doug Woodcock
Ken Stahr
Kim Jones
Keith Mills
Brenda Bateman
Alyssa Mucken
Jon Unger
Racquel Rancier

Others

Patrick Griffiths
Kimberley Priestley
Adam Sussman
Jim Myron
Lauren Smish
April Snell
Judith Callens
Gil Riddell
Peggy Lynch
Tracy Rutten
Said Amali
Brad Stevenson
Tom Wolf
Ray Jaendl

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. Staff reports and PowerPoint presentations are available on the Department's website.

Chair Roberts opened the meeting. He stated that the Commission would be going into Executive Session.

After Executive Session, Chair Roberts welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked the Commission and audience to identify themselves for the record.

Renee Moulun, Legal Counsel, gave a brief explanation of what the Commission discussed in Executive Session.

Commissioner Williams made a motion to appoint a subcommittee of three Commissioners to consider exceptions made to the Director's orders issued in contested case. He further moved that the subcommittee make recommendations to the full Commission on the final disposition of any exceptions and resolutions of the Department action underlying the contested claims. Seconded by Commissioner Corn. Voting for the motion: Commissioners Roberts, Williams, Whipple, Corn, LeJeune, Doherty, and Baumgartner. Voting against the motion, none.

Chair Roberts appointed Commissioners LeJeune, Whipple and Baumgartner to the subcommittee. The subcommittee will review the record and report back to the full Commission with a recommendation for action at its May meeting.

A. Update on Senate Bill 839 Implementation

Racquel Rancier, Senior Policy Coordinator, and Brenda Bateman, Technical Services Administrator, gave a briefing on Senate Bill 839 (2013), which authorizes the Department to provide loans and grants to water supply projects. The Legislature authorized \$10.2 million in lottery revenue bonds to be issued in the spring of 2015, which will capitalize the grant and loan fund.

As directed in the bill, the Economic Subgroup and the Science Subgroup were convened in the fall. Each group developed separate findings and recommendations and completed their reports by February 1, 2014.

The “*Economic Subgroup*” report describes the techniques for storing water, the methods used to evaluate financial feasibility, the cost and benefits of water storage projects, and the costs associated with complying with environmental requirements. The report also recommends using pre-application meetings to improve communication and coordination between the State and funding applicants.

The “*Science Subgroup*” recommended methodologies for protecting the flows needed during periods outside of the irrigation season to support the biological, ecological, and physical functions in watersheds. They found a broad consensus that the protection of a variable flow regime is critical to ecosystem function. A percent of flow approach was recommended as a methodology for determining seasonally varying flows for those water storage projects that receive funding from the Water Supply Development Account. Funding recipients could potentially store up to 15 percent of the daily flow, minus prior allocations, without extensive study or review. For publicly funded projects needing more water than the percent of flow allocation, the Science Subgroup recommended that applicants may develop an in-depth assessment, in consultation with the Water Resources Department and a technical review committee.

A larger task will review both of the subgroup reports and make recommendations regarding the seasonally varying flows methodology. The rules are expected to come to the Commission in the fall for adoption, anticipating an effective date of January 2015. The Department will continue to provide the Commission with updates on the status of implementation.

April Snell, Oregon Water Resources Congress, commented that the Congress is looking forward to the rulemaking process, and thanked the Commission for their leadership. She cautioned that the issues are complex and critical, and offered assistance in the process. She encouraged the Commission to look at the process in its entirety.

B. Water Supply and Drought Status for Oregon

Brenda Bateman, Technical Services Administrator, Ken Stahr, Hydrographics Manager, and Keith Mills, Acting State Engineer, reported on current water and drought conditions throughout the state. The Commission was also asked to consider adopting rules to grant preference of use for human consumption and stock water in Klamath County.

The Water Availability Committee, a subcommittee of the Drought Council, met February 6, 2014 to evaluate statewide conditions, and the conditions in Harney, Klamath, Lake and Malheur counties. These counties had requested a drought declaration by the Governor.

The Drought Council agreed to the Committee's recommendations that the four counties requesting a Governor's drought declaration were in severe drought. Since that meeting, Crook County has submitted a request for drought declaration.

On February 13, 2014, the Governor issued Executive Order 14-01, declaring a state of drought emergency in Harney, Klamath, Lake and Malheur Counties due to drought conditions, low snowpack, and a lack of precipitation.

Temporary rules, OAR Chapter 690, Division 22, Emergency Water Provisions in Klamath County were presented to the Commission for their approval. These rules would give preference to human consumption and livestock use in Klamath County

Commissioner LeJeune made the motion to adopt the draft temporary rules. OAR 690, Division 22, seconded by Commissioner Baumgartner. Voting for the motion: Commissioners Roberts, Williams, Whipple, Corn, LeJeune, Doherty, and Baumgartner. Voting against the motion, none.

Commissioner Williams asked about the need of other counties to adopt similar rules in the near future.

Bateman said that as the Department monitors and assesses the need, a similar motion could easily be answered with a conference call.

C. Willamette Basin Reservoir Study Update

Alyssa Mucken, IWRS Program Coordinator, provided an update regarding the Willamette Basin Reservoir Study (Study). Eric Stricklin, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, was unable to attend this briefing as planned.

Mucken provided a historical background on the Study, explaining why it was placed on hold in 2000. She provided a summary of the 2013 Draft Water Letter Report, and its relevance to the Study. She also discussed the Department's recent decision not pursue a basin study through the Bureau of Reclamation's WaterSMART Program.

The Willamette Basin Reservoir Study is important to implementing the Integrated Water Resources Strategy. The total cost of the study is estimated at \$3.0 million, and the Department

is responsible for half of the study costs which can include cash or in-kind services. The Department sought the Commission's support to continue meeting its financial obligation for the Reservoir Study.

The Director recommended the Commission support the Department's use of funds to carry out the Willamette Basin Reservoir Study.

Tracy Rutten, League of Oregon Cities, thanked the Commission, the Department, and staff for the Department's work on this study. She noted that having funds available when needed is critical.

April Snell, Oregon Water Resources Congress, expressed her organization's support for the Study, and encouraged the Commission to approve the Director's recommendation.

Commissioner LeJeune made a motion to support the Department's use of funds to carry out the Willamette Basin Reservoir Study, seconded by Commissioner Corn. Voting for the motion: Commissioners Roberts, Williams, Whipple, Corn, LeJeune, Doherty, and Baumgartner. Voting against the motion, none.

D. Creation of a Liaison with the Environmental Quality Commission (EQC)

Racquel Rancier, Senior Policy Coordinator, and Dick Pederson, Director, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, briefed the Commission on the opportunity to create a Commission liaison position with the EQC.

Director Pederson thanked the Commission for their service, and provided the Commission with information regarding the EQC's history and experience with Commission liaisons.

Commissioner Williams thanked Director Pederson and Director Ward for their efforts in working together to achieve the goals of their programs.

Commissioner Williams made a motion to establish a Water Resources Commission Liaison role with EQC, seconded by Commissioner Whipple. Voting for the motion: Commissioners Roberts, Williams, Whipple, Corn, LeJeune, Doherty, and Baumgartner. Voting against the motion, none.

Chair Roberts appointed Commissioner LeJeune as the Water Resources Commission Liaison to the EQC. Commissioner LeJeune accepted.

E. Deschutes Basin Ground Water Mitigation Program

Dwight French, Water Right Services Administrator, and Ken Stahr, Hydrographics Manager, provided the 2012 annual evaluation of the Deschutes Ground Water Mitigation Rules, OAR Chapter 690, Division 505; and the Deschutes Basin Mitigation Bank and Mitigation Credit Rules, OAR Chapter 690, Division 521 as required by OAR 690-505-0500(3) and OAR 690-

521-0600, and the second five-year evaluation of the Deschutes Ground Water Mitigation Program required under OAR Chapter 690, Division 505.

E-1. Deschutes Basin Ground Water Mitigation Program Annual Report

Under the Deschutes Ground Water Mitigation Rules, the Department is required to annually report on and evaluate the Mitigation Program, including the implementation and management of mitigation credits allocated through existing mitigation banks. The mitigation program in the Deschutes Ground Water Study Area continues to address new and changing water needs, while protecting scenic waterway flows.

The Department continues to implement the Deschutes Ground Water Mitigation Rules and Deschutes Basin Mitigation Bank and Mitigation Credit Rules. Groundwater permit applications and mitigation projects are moving through the required processes. The program is producing positive benefits as more mitigation water has been approved and protected instream than required for the 95 groundwater permits and certificates issued. Model results through 2012 suggest that instream flows have improved compared to base line conditions on an annual basis.

Seasonally, the mitigation effects on the instream requirements are negative during the non-irrigation season and positive during the irrigation season. These differences in seasonal effects are inherent in the mitigation program and will continue into the future. The relative impact to the percent of time the instream flow requirements (ISFR) are met on a monthly basis depends on how close the ISFR is to the pre-mitigation streamflow and varies by each evaluation site.

E-2. Deschutes Basin Ground Water Mitigation Program Five-Year Review

In 2002, the Commission adopted the Deschutes Ground Water Mitigation Rules and the Deschutes Basin Mitigation Bank and Mitigation Credit Rules. The rules provide for mitigation of impacts to scenic waterway flows and senior water rights, while allowing additional appropriations of ground water in the Deschutes Ground Water Study Area. By rule, the mitigation program allows only an additional 200 cubic feet per second (cfs) of new ground water use, referred to as the allocation cap.

The Commission is required to evaluate the mitigation program every five years. This second, five-year evaluation of the program evaluates the Mitigation Program from 2008 through 2012. The evaluation provided demonstrated that the program was working and that instream requirements are being met more frequently as compared to representative based-period flows.

The Division 522 administrative rules limit how the Department can add water back to the amount available under the allocation cap and reestablish mitigation credits when a permit is cancelled. Division 522 limits the reestablishment of mitigation credits to instances when the permit is cancelled under ORS 537.410, which is an infrequently used cancellation process. The rules do not include other cancellation processes, including voluntary cancellation. Once a permit is cancelled, water is no longer pumped from the well and mitigation is no longer needed. The Department should be able to add water back to the amount available under the allocation cap and allow the reassignment of mitigation credits regardless of when the permit is cancelled.

Based on the evaluation, the Commission may could lift or modify the 200 cfs cap on new ground water allocations. The Department did not believe that lifting or modifying the cap was necessary at this time. There was still water available under the cap, and, the amount available under the cap could be increased by allowing the Department to reallocate water previously allocated to a now cancelled permit, regardless of how the permit was cancelled.

Kimberley Priestley, WaterWatch of Oregon, expressed that WatchWatch is supportive of the program, but has some concerns. She discussed the impacts of the program to flows in the winter, and noted that fish need the flows in the winter for spawning habitats.

Adam Sussman, GSI Water Solutions, discussed discussed a basin study workgroup looking at implementing projects to address the water issues of the Deschutes Basin.

Patrick Griffiths, City of Bend, commended the Department, and specifically staff who process the water permits to make a permanent water supply for Bend feasible and accessible. He noted that there are not mitigation credits available at this time to expand the water supply of the City of Bend; however, the City of Bend supports the Department and its programs.

Commissioner Williams made a motion to accept the report and direct staff to initiate rulemaking on Division 522, by March 31, 2015, to clarify how the Department adds water back to the amount available under the allocation cap and reestablishes mitigation credits upon cancellation of a permit, seconded by Commissioner Corn. Voting for the motion: Commissioners Roberts, Williams, Whipple, Corn, LeJeune, Doherty, and Baumgartner. Voting against the motion, none.

F. Potential Storage Opportunities in Oregon

Jon Unger, Water Supply Coordinator, provided a report on potential storage opportunities in Oregon.

In 1992, the Water Resources Commission adopted the state's water storage policy. The Oregon Legislature codified the state's policy of water storage facilities in 1993, declaring it a high priority to develop environmentally acceptable and financially feasible multipurpose storage projects, and to enhance watershed storage capacity through natural processes using non-structural means. Oregon's 2012 Integrated Water Resources Strategy (IWRS) identifies the need to improve access to built storage (Recommended Action #10B).

To date, the Department has mapped the location of more than 1,200 potential above-ground storage sites, as well as existing sites with the potential for enlargement.

In 2008, the Water Resources Department evaluated 54 groundwater aquifers within Oregon to identify potential sites for underground storage.

Improving access to stored water will help meet future demand and provide greater security to water users in years when precipitation and annual snowpack are insufficient to meet needs. The State of Oregon can play a key role in the realization of storage opportunities by maintaining an

inventory of potential storage projects, providing technical assistance, and funding the development and construction of projects.

Kimberley Priestley, WaterWatch of Oregon, expressed her concerns regarding some of the projects.

Chair Roberts suggested that no vote be taken at this time, but that the Department continues to bring this topic back to the Commission for discussion.

G. Internal Performance Metrics

Brenda Bateman, Administrator, Technical Services Division, Doug Woodcock, Administrator, Field Services Division, Tracy Loudon, Administrator, Administrative Services Division, and Dwight French, Administrator, Water Rights Services Division, discussed the performance measures that the Department tracks and monitors internally.

Key Performance Measures are formal metrics established by the Legislature. The Department reported on its progress towards Key Performance Measures at the November 2013 Commission meeting.

In addition to the Key Performance Measures, the Department monitors and tracks a number of internal metrics to evaluate performance, identify potential opportunities for improvement, and appropriately manage workloads. Staff discussed the various metrics the Department uses.

Commissioner Williams made a motion to endorse the Department's internal performance indicators, and request that the Department provide periodic updates on these, seconded by Commissioner Doherty. Voting for the motion: Commissioners Roberts, Williams, Whipple, Corn, LeJeune, Doherty, and Baumgartner. Voting against the motion, none.

H. Process Improvement Update

Dwight French, Water Right Services Administrator, and Brenda Bateman, Technical Services Administrator, updated the Commission on the recent activities that had taken place related to process improvement.

In 2013, the Department undertook four process improvement efforts. These included: improving the production and use of the Department's weekly public notice; improving the time it takes to complete initial reviews; improvements to the Instream Leasing Program; and improving the efficiency and consistency of front counter/customer service operations.

The Department has used a variety of tools to generate efficiencies in its water right transaction programs and is committed to continued process improvement efforts.

I. Klamath Update

Tom Paul, Deputy Director, and Doug Woodcock, Field Services Administrator, provided an update on the Klamath Adjudication, settlement efforts, and an overview of regulation of surface water in the basin.

Regulation Update

Regulation in 2013 took longer than normal because of the extra time needed to meet with each water user and explain the regulation process. In the future, regulation in the Klamath Basin will be conducted as it is in many other basins in Oregon, whereby the Watermaster mails the shutoff notices and follows up with field inspections. In this manner, all affected water users will generally receive the notice at the same time.

An evaluation of the resources directed to the Klamath Basin shows that about \$200,000 was expended this first regulation season. The majority of the cost was personnel and travel expenditures to direct an additional eight Watermaster staff to the Klamath office. The cost of one Assistant Watermaster locally funded by the Klamath Power and Water Agency is included in the total cost. About 20 percent was equipment costs that included surface water measurement gear. This total does not include the assistance provided by Department staff located in Salem that did not travel to the basin, but delivered critical computer, mapping and hydrographic support to the Klamath Watermaster and staff all summer long. Further, the total does not include the costs borne by the public safety agencies, Oregon State Police, the Southern Command Center (Communications), and the Klamath County Sheriff's Office for their support of the Watermaster and staff.

Future regulation seasons in the Klamath Basin are anticipated to be less costly, though a potential expansion of regulation to include groundwater may generate a need for groundwater technical support.

Settlement Update

Since summer of 2013, irrigators in the upper basin have been meeting with the Klamath Tribes and the United States to attempt to resolve water, land and economic issues in the upper basin. In early December, the parties announced the Upper Klamath Basin Agreement in Principle.

The Upper Klamath Basin Agreement in Principle contains three main elements: a water use program, a riparian restoration and management program, and an economic development component. The Water Use Program is designed to reduce consumptive water use in key reaches of the tributaries to Upper Klamath Lake, as well as to increase the volume of water flowing into the lake – all in return for a significant reduction in the frequency and extent of water regulation. The Riparian Restoration and Management Program will focus on improving and protecting riparian conditions along key reaches of the tributaries to Upper Klamath Lake. Finally, the Economic Development component is designed to create employment opportunities for the Klamath Tribes.

Since release of the Agreement in Principle, negotiations have continued in the basin to develop a Final Agreement. Once the Final Agreement is completed, comprehensive Federal legislation will be introduced to implement the agreements.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully,

Lorri Cooper
Exec. Administrative
Support to the Director's Office

**Water Resources Commission
Meeting
Salem, Oregon
March 7, 2014**

WRC Present

John Roberts, Chair
Ray Williams, Vice-Chair
Bruce Corn
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Carol Whipple
Bob Baumgartner
Dennis Doherty

Staff Present

Phil Ward
Tom Paul
Cindy Smith
Racquel Rancier
Tracy Louden
Alyssa Mucken
Brenda Bateman
Dwight French
Doug Woodcock
Nancy Pustis

Others

Peggy Lynch
Lauren Smith
April Snell
Gil Riddell
Jeff Stone
Brent Stevenson
Ray Jaendl
Rick Kepler
Karen Tarnow
Rachel Walker
Katie Fast
Tracy Rutten
Jim Welsh

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Chair Roberts called the meeting to order. The commission introduced themselves, as did others in attendance.

J. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the November 14 and 15, 2013 meeting were offered to the Commission for consideration.

Commissioner Doherty moved to approve the November 14 and 15, 2013 minutes as submitted, seconded by Commissioner Baumgartner. Voting for the motion, Commissioners Roberts, Williams, Whipple, Corn, LeJeune, Doherty, and Baumgartner. Voting against the motion, none.

K. Commission Comments

Commissioner LeJeune reported that in the Portland Metropolitan area, there is a significant planning and pre-design process being undertaken to develop new water resources. The plan is to have additional drinking water resources in place by 2025. She also said that there may be a ballot initiative to change the Portland Water Bureau's governance structure.

Commissioner Corn talked about the drought conditions in his area. He distributed a document to the Commission that was discussed at the annual Owyhee Irrigation District meeting. Over 300 people were in attendance at the meeting. He said that reservoir storage in the Owyhee was at 18 percent of normal.

Commissioner Williams reported meeting with Director Ward and Jon Unger in Pendleton in February.

Commissioner Whipple had nothing to report.

Commissioner Baumgartner reflected on the previous day's discussion, and the sense of urgency regarding water issues.

Commissioner Doherty suggested a need for more time on the agenda for some topics. He noted that his region doesn't have the severe conditions that other regions are experiencing. He expressed his appreciation for the quality of information that he receives regarding the Commission meetings. He also commented that drought brings attention to problems and emphasizes the need to do work in advance to prepare for shortages.

Commissioner Roberts reported that he participated in the 2013 Oregon Values and Beliefs Survey. He noted that the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) is involved with revamping how the local watershed councils are financed. He will be attending a watershed council meeting later this month in Southern Oregon. He also noted that he participates on the Governor's Regional Solutions Team for southern Oregon, mostly on the WISE project. He stated that the water situation in Southern Oregon is not good, as there is no snowpack.

L. Director's Report

Director Ward reviewed the Director's Report with the Commission and responded to comments and questions.

M. Update on the 2014 Legislative Session

Racquel Rancier, Senior Policy Coordinator, provided a brief overview of the 2014 Legislative Session. She also noted that the Department has been working to develop its Legislative Concepts for the 2015 Legislative Session, which will be presented for discussion at the next Commission meeting.

Rancier engaged a panel of stakeholders to reflect on the 2013 and 2014 Legislative Sessions. The panel consisted of Katie Fast, Oregon Farm Bureau; Tracy Rutten, League of Oregon Cities; Jeff Stone, Oregon Association of Nurseries; Gil Riddell, Association of Oregon Counties; Jim Welsh, Oregon Cattlemen's Association; April Snell, Oregon Water Resources Congress; and Peggy Lynch, Oregon League of Women Voters.

N. Budget Update

Tracy Loudon, Administrative Services Division Administrator, discussed the preliminary schedule for the development of the 2015-17 Agency Request Budget.

The development of the 2015-17 budget is in the very early stages. The Department is planning to engage stakeholders in discussions of budget priorities during the months of March and April. Staff will develop an initial budget proposal to bring to the Commission at the May meeting for discussion and review. Though there will be considerable activity over the next several months to build the budget, the date for final submission of the budget request is not until August 2014.

The Department continues to manage resources in a conservative manner and move forward with implementation of new funding for the 2013-15 biennium. Additional developments regarding this biennium or plans for budget building for the next biennium will be shared at the Commission meeting. The Department will continue to keep the Commission apprised of these activities as well as engage the Commission in the development of the 2015-17 budget.

Commissioner Roberts said that it was the consensus of the Commission that the Department put in the budget what is necessary to begin long-range planning as it pertains to water storage and related issues, as well as ground water data collection.

Commissioner Doherty suggested having a budget work session at the May meeting.

There was also discussion about including Regional Solutions Team participation in the budget.

Commission members expressed interest in being a part of the process of building support in the Governor's budget for water issues.

O. Water Conservation, Reuse and Storage Grant Program-Grant Funding for 2013-15

Tracy Loudon, Administrative Services Division Administrator, and Nancy Pustis, Grant Specialist, discussed the Department's recommendations on grant funding for the Water Conservation, Reuse and Storage Grant program. The program is designed to fund the qualifying costs of planning studies that evaluate the feasibility of developing water conservation, reuse or storage projects. The Commission has awarded \$2.4 million in grant funding since 2008. Tracy presented the requests from the latest grant cycle and Department recommendations for funding.

The first 2013-15 grant solicitation was August 15 through November 1, 2013. The Department received nine applications. All applications were deemed complete. A total of \$887,357 in grant funds was requested out of a total of \$750,000 grant funding. Grant requests ranged from \$17,401 to \$250,000 and included a variety of project proposals.

The funding level recommendations totaled \$593,660 based on the applicant meeting eligible task and match funding requirements of the program. In keeping with plans for future biennia to

fund two grant cycles, staff recommended a second grant cycle be initiated in order to distribute remaining funds of \$156,340.

Solicitation for the second grant cycle will begin March 10, 2014. The application deadline will be April 11, 2014 with a 30-day public comment period on applications starting at the end of April. Because the fund source is General Fund, applicants will need to achieve project completion within a 6-month timeframe.

April Snell, Oregon Water Resources Congress, read a letter from East Valley Water District asking for continued support.

Director Ward stated that the Department is committed to making its funding recommendations based on an analysis of compliance with the statutes and administrative rule parameters.

Commissioners Williams and LeJeune indicated a conflict of interest and abstained from the vote.

Commissioner Corn made a motion to approve the staff funding recommendations, including initiating a second grant cycle, seconded by Commissioner Whipple. Voting for the motion, Commissioners Roberts, Whipple, Corn, Doherty, and Baumgartner. Voting against the motion, none. Abstaining from the motion, Commissioners LeJeune and Williams.

P. Oregon's Integrated Water Resources Strategy-Implementation Update

Alyssa Mucken, IWRS Coordinator, Karen Tarnow, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Ray Jaindl, Department of Agriculture (ODA), and Rick Kepler, Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), shared their progress on implementation of the Integrated Water Resources Strategy (IWRS), related recruitments and thoughts on agency priorities for implementation during the biennium. The 2013 Legislature provided the Department and its partner agencies a modest investment in the Strategy to carry out several recommended actions.

The Legislature approved 14 new positions to support existing Department programs and develop new initiatives to implement the IWRS. Eleven positions have been filled and recruitments are ongoing for the remaining positions. In addition to the staff resources, the Department received funding to install 13 monitoring wells to increase the Department's capacity for collecting and analyzing groundwater data, assessing options for new groundwater appropriation, and responding in a timely manner to customer requests for assistance. The Department also received additional resources to install 16 stream gages to improve the Department's capacity for surface water data collection and monitoring.

DEQ received three new Integrated Water Resources Strategy Coordinator positions to support local integrated water resources planning efforts and enable DEQ to become more involved in water resource management and supply projects. Two of the positions have been filled, and recruitment is underway for the third. DEQ also received funding for two positions to collect water quality and biological data to assess watershed health and two positions to implement a statewide groundwater monitoring program. These positions will be phased in during 2014.

Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) received a water quantity position, which has been filled. ODA also received funding and have hired three staff for monitoring the effectiveness of the state's Agricultural Water Quality Management Program.

Both ODA and DEQ received new positions to expand the Pesticide Stewardship Partnership (PSP) program. DEQ received four positions to collect and analyze water quality data as well as one half-time position to coordinate with ODA and work with pesticide users. ODA's PSP Program filled a new position to support agricultural water quality monitoring, and its Pesticides Outreach and Compliance Program hired two staff to perform pesticide outreach and compliance monitoring.

The state's inter-agency Pesticide Management Team is currently identifying new watersheds (or sub-basins) for the Pesticide Stewardship Partnership Program. The team is also scheduling pesticide collection events and identifying technical assistance needs across the state. These efforts help implement IWRS Recommended Action 12B.

ODFW received funding to hire one biologist and two part time field staff (1.67 FTE) to work on instream flow studies. Due to budget shortfalls, tasks have been reevaluated. ODFW will first address the backlog of unresolved instream water right protests before beginning new instream flow studies. ODFW then expects to conduct 5-10 instream flow studies this biennium, using existing staff resources.

The IWRS includes a recommended action to address invasive species. ODA IWRS includes a rincludes \$50,000 to assist efforts of the Oregon Invasive Species Council. As part of the Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Program that is co-managed by ODFW and the Oregon State Marine Board, funding was provided to hire additional staff to inspect watercraft for invasive species.

Other IWRS-Related Items

The Strategy was designed to include a number of recommended actions and implementation steps that can be undertaken without additional staff or resources. Updating Oregon's Water-Related Permitting Guide (Action 2.E), an inter-agency effort was completed in August 2012. The Department has also worked to expand awareness of the Allocation of Conserved Water Program (Action 10.A) and is finalizing a "mapping" project to support further integration of data collection and programs across Oregon's natural resource agencies (Action 1.C).

The State, working primarily through the four agencies involved with development of the Strategy, committed to developing a set of guidelines for place-based planning efforts. The guidelines are meant to ensure that plans are integrated, addressing instream and out-of-stream needs, including water quantity, water quality, and ecosystem needs.

To inform development of guidelines, the Department has been researching how other states approach regional or locally-led water resources planning. The Department is in the process of finalizing a discussion paper, comparing how California, Washington, and Texas approach regional planning and describing how it could inform Oregon's approach. This spring, the

Department plans to host workshops with interested stakeholders to discuss and solicit feedback on the draft guidelines. The Department would like to gather the Commission's input during the next Commission meeting in May.

The Department will continue to implement the Strategy and track progress, working closely with state and federal agency partners. Continued communication of success is an important component of implementation.

Q. Public Comment

Peggy Lynch, League of Women's Voters, discussed the infrastructure bill that passed during the 2014 Session regarding public and private partnerships. She encouraged the Commission to share information about the Department and water issues at public meetings, legislative town hall meetings, and other gatherings. She also discussed the efforts surrounding regional solutions priorities and noted the importance of the Senate Bill 839 rulemaking process.

Lynch also commented that the Invasive Species Program was supported by the League of Women's Voters. This voluntary program is funded mostly with boat and canoe licenses. This is a good topic for town hall conversations.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorri Cooper
Exec. Administrative
Support to the
Director's Office