Water Resources Commission Meeting August 22, 2014

Developing Guidelines & Tools for Place-Based IWRS Update on Workshop Results & Public Comment



Brenda Bateman Technical Services Division Administrator Oregon Water Resources Department

Outline











- Overview of workshops
- Public comments received
- Common themes
- Next Steps

Workshop Hosts: Summer & Spring 2014











- Association of Oregon Counties' Water Policy Committee
- Deschutes Water Alliance & Deschutes Basin Study Workgroup
- IWRS Agency Advisory Group
- IWRS Federal Liaison Advisory Group
- League of Oregon Cities' Water Policy Committee
- Northeast Oregon Water Association
- Oregon Association of Nurseries
- Oregon Cattleman's Association
- Oregon Environmental Council
- Oregon State University Water Summit
- Oregon Water Resources Dept. Field Services
- Oregon Water Resources Dept. Technical Services
- Oregon Water Resources Dept. Water Rights Services
- Oregon Water Resources Commission
- Oregon Water Utilities Council
- Regional Water Providers Consortium Technical Committee
- Rogue Valley Council of Governments
- Tualatin River Basin Watershed Council
- Yamhill County Water Task Force

Main Questions Posed During Workshops









2) What should the guidelines specify for stakeholder and public involvement?



3) What is the role of state agencies in a place-based planning process?



4) What type of technical or financial resources would be needed?

"What We Heard Document" (Attachment 1)

- Combines workshops, public comment, other agency input
- Anonymous
- Some comments are contradictory

Public Comment (Attachment 2)

- Comment period ran through June 30
- 7 individuals & 12 entities; comments reproduced in total
- Generally supportive, some cautionary

Common Themes:

- Geographic Boundaries
 - Use existing, where possible
 - If groups to allowed to select scale, require formal approval
 - Ensure full coverage statewide
- Governance, Stakeholder, and Public Involvement
 - Inclusive; Balance of interests
 - Utilize local organizations (e.g., watershed councils)

Common Themes (cont.):

- Voluntary vs. Mandatory
 - This is a voluntary effort at local level
 - Will not jeopardize existing water rights
 - Sorely needed forum or mechanism for resolving water resources issues
- Changing Existing Basin Programs
 - Shouldn't focus on changing or updating
 - The Plan cannot change existing rules or state authorities, but <u>can</u> make recommendations

Common Themes (cont.):

- Role of State Agencies
 - State agencies should participate
 - Some suggested providing technical assistance only
 - Some suggested the state should play a strong leadership role
- Funding
 - Encourage self-funding mechanism; cost-share
 - Utilize a step-wise funding approach
 - Allow small projects to be bundled for funding

Closing: Next Steps







Vet and review with Agency Advisory Group and Federal Liaison Group

Vet and review with IWRS Project Team

Currently revising the Guidelines



Present revised guidelines to Commission this Fall

With funding, pilot guidelines and process beginning in 2015. Take additional input from stakeholders and the public.