



MEMORANDUM

TO: Water Resources Commission

FROM: Alyssa Mucken, IWRS Coordinator 

SUBJECT: Agenda Item J, May 20, 2016
Water Resources Commission Meeting

2017 Update to Oregon's Integrated Water Resources Strategy

I. Introduction

Oregon adopted its first Integrated Water Resources Strategy (IWRS) in 2012, which created a blueprint to help Oregon understand its water resources and meet its water needs now and into the future. The State is required to update the IWRS every five years. During this agenda item, staff will update the Commission on recent activities related to the 2017 Update to Oregon's Integrated Water Resources Strategy.

II. March 30 Policy Advisory Group Meeting

As reported at the February Commission Meeting, a Policy Advisory Group (PAG) has been formed to help inform the 2017 Update. The Department held the first meeting of the PAG on March 30 in Salem. Refer to Attachment 1 for a copy of the agenda.

Commissioner Baumgartner made opening remarks at the meeting and thanked the PAG for its commitment to this effort. The PAG spent the first part of its meeting discussing and revising a set of meeting protocols. Project team staff presented a number of items to PAG members that covered the main components and structure of the 2012 IWRS, the process and steps for updating it, and shared key implementation highlights from each agency.

During the afternoon, PAG members began discussing how to build drought resiliency into the 2017 Update. Lauri Aunan, policy advisor from the Governor's Natural Resources Office, joined members for this portion of the meeting. Assistant State Climatologist, Kathie Dello, also joined us, sharing the latest drought-related research and ongoing projects within the Pacific Northwest.

There were a number of action items or requests coming out of this first PAG meeting, including:

- **Combining progress with the 2012-2017 Workplan.** The 2012-17 Workplan outlines a number of steps for agencies to implement. PAG members wanted to see an updated workplan that shows progress compared to the workplan items.
- **Continuing to update the PAG & public on progress.** Demonstrating progress is a key element of the 2017 Update. As such, the State Agency Advisory Group members will be convened to develop updates to past progress reports.
- **Create a library of resources.** Several PAG members referenced new reports or requested additional information from agencies. The Project Team will collect materials and develop a library of resources for PAG members.

The Project Team is also rescheduling upcoming PAG meetings, as many of them conflict with meetings of the Board of Agriculture. The next PAG meeting has been rescheduled to Tuesday, June 28 from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. Members also requested full-day meetings to allow for more presentations and discussions. In addition, they encouraged the Department to consider adding a fifth meeting, which would likely occur in mid-2017, to allow the PAG an early look at the 2017 IWRS.

The PAG discussed agency and partner presentations and were asked to brainstorm a list of issues to be taken up in future meetings. Members also sent subsequent emails with additional topics to consider. A list of ideas that were offered by PAG members is included in Attachment 2.

III. Next Steps

The PAG and Project Team are currently reviewing the draft meeting notes from March 30. Once those are finalized, the Department will share those with the Commission.

During its June meeting, the Policy Advisory Group will focus its work on the list of items in Attachment 2, clarifying the intent around each item, and setting priorities around further work.

Finally, the Department is in the process of scheduling six public meetings in mid-June to obtain feedback from the public. Venues have been secured in Ontario, Pendleton, Bend, Salem, Medford, and Newport. Commission members are encouraged to attend meetings in their area.

Attachment 1: Policy Advisory Group Agenda

Attachment 2: Topics Offered by IWRS PAG Members for Further Discussion

Alyssa Mucken
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Oregon
Kate Brown, Governor

Attachment 1

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**Development of the 2017 Integrated Water Resources Strategy:
Policy Advisory Group (PAG) Meeting #1**

Oregon Water Resources Department, Room 124
(North Mall Office Building)
725 Summer St., NE, Salem, OR 97304

Draft Agenda
Wednesday, March 30, 2016
10:00 am to 3:00 pm

(9:45) Danish and Coffee Available for PAG members and staff Room 124 (across from coffee cart)

I. (10:00) Welcome and Introductions Bob Baumgartner, Water Resources Commissioner
Tom Byler, Water Resources Department Director,
Alyssa Mucken, Integrated Water Resources Coordinator &
IWRS Project Team: Danette Faucera, ODFW
Margaret Matter, ODA
Karen Tarnow, ODEQ

II. (10:15) Agenda Review Brenda Bateman, Facilitator

III. (10:30) Introductions All
PAG members please say a bit about yourselves; aspirations for this process

IV. (11:00) Roles, Responsibilities, and Decision-Making
Group discussion

(11:30 Lunch available for PAG members & IWRS staff; working lunch) Room 124

**V. (12:00) Review of Oregon's 2012 Integrated Water Resources Strategy,
2012-17 Implementation Workplan, and 2017 IWRS Development** IWRS Project Team
Project team presentation and group discussion

(1:30) Break

VI. (1:45) Drought Resiliency – 2015 Impacts and Research Underway

Staff Presentation and group discussion

- Governor's 2015 Executive Order (EO 15-09)
- 2016 State of Oregon Drought Annex
- Drought Task Force Updates (HB 4113)
- Oregon Climate Change Research Institute
- Research underway to understand impacts of 2015 drought

Lauri Aunan, Office of Governor Brown
Alyssa Mucken, OWRD
Tom Byler, OWRD
Kathie Dello, OCCRI

Preliminary group discussion of drought resiliency.

VII. (2:45) Public Comment

Project Team

VIII. (3:00) Meeting Recap and Feedback

Facilitator

Next Meetings: June 8, September 14, November 30, same location

IX. Adjourn

Meeting Objectives:

- Introducing Policy Advisory Group members
- Establishing a shared understanding of the statutory background, roles and responsibilities, process, and timeline of IWRS development
- Examining progress thus far on implementation of the IWRS 2012
- Beginning discussions of drought resiliency in Oregon

Questions about travel reimbursements, parking, or food? Contact:

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Topics Offered by the IWRS Policy Advisory Group for Further Discussion

- Monitoring – we’re not done.
- Determine whether any more “available” water exists for development (e.g., winter water for storage, already-existing agricultural reservations, etc.).
- In Oregon, how can we quantify / monetize water left instream, used for agriculture, municipal, etc.
- Will instream needs change with higher temperatures? Are there any available streamflow temperature forecasts with regard to climate change?
- Measurement (i.e., how much water is instream, how much groundwater is there, how much is being used, how big are the gaps between demand and supply?).
- Anticipate and prepare for the effects of extreme events (flood, drought, fire, seismic).
- Drought and prioritization of water use.
- Drought: economic incentives toolbox, such as instream leases, irrigation fees, and mortgage subsidies.
- Oregon Resiliency Plan – tie to its recommended actions regarding water supply (conduct seismic risk assessments, encourage seismic design requirements, post-earthquake compliance, develop mitigation).
- Land-use and water intersection needs more work.
- Infrastructure, including storage.
- Public education, perception, and buy-in. Need partners for easements, storage, conservation, etc.
- Interaction with federal policies (wild and scenic rivers, Endangered Species Act, etc.). How are we doing?
- Water conservation and efficiency. Driving down demand. Consider setting numeric goals. Look at water-user policies at irrigation districts. Be mindful of the unintended consequences of water conservation. Related topics: water used for in-conduit hydro, do water users / sectors have disincentives in place, what’s “waste?”
- Why isn’t water reuse more prevalent?
- Look into other sources? (e.g., mitigation, desalination, etc.)
- Burden of proof, or the “precautionary principle,” in decision-making.
- Balance instream protections & economic development; is there systemic bias toward one or the other?
- Water right transfers and reviews, including irrigation district transfers and expansion of urban growth boundaries. How are we doing?
- Ensure adequate field staff for distribution of water, enforcement, conflict resolution, and water user education.
- Ensure adequate permitting staff for timely decision-making and response to requests.
- Instream protections, especially baseflow studies.
- Groundwater protection (quantity and quality) — drinking water source, emergency / back-up supplies, drought resource, mined versus sustainable source.
- DEQ’s toxics reduction strategy, pesticide management plans, status of pesticide use and reporting system.
- Protect vulnerable populations.
- Maintain public funding programs for core needs, not just inter-agency, integrated needs.
- Agency funding: adequate for the job? How do we measure “enough”?