



Oregon's Drought Readiness Council

December 14, 2017 Meeting Notes

10:30 Meeting by Phone



Attendees

Brenda Bateman, Oregon Water Resources Department, Drought Readiness Council (DRC) Co-Chair
Sonya Pedersen, Oregon Office of Emergency Management, Drought Readiness Council (DRC) Co-Chair
Ken Stahr, Oregon Water Resources Department, Water Supply Availability Committee (WSAC) Chair
Aaron Borisenko, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
Kathie Dello, Oregon Climate Change Institute
Rebecca Hillwig, Oregon Health Authority
Mellony Hoskinson, Oregon Water Resources Department
Smita Mehta, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
Alyssa Mucken, Oregon Water Resources Department
Kathy Naegeli, Farm Services Agency

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1. Welcome and Introductions

Brenda Bateman and Sonya Pedersen chaired the meeting, welcoming everyone. Participants introduced themselves.

2. Agenda Check

No additions proposed.

3. Approval of October Meeting Notes

Tom Elliott has asked us to fix the spelling of his name (2 T's in Elliott).

4. Water Conditions

Ken Stahr presented a summary of current water year conditions from the Water Supply Availability Committee to the Drought Readiness Council. See materials packet. Highlights and recap include:

For October through early November, temperatures were normal, with snow at high elevations.

In Mid-November, temperatures began to increase; snow melted.

Early December started out drier and warmer than normal.

Snow-water equivalent went from more than 200% of normal on Nov. 20 to 59% of normal by Dec. 8.

Question: why the decrease in streamflow?

A: lost snowpack during warm temperatures; compounded by lack of precipitation.

5. Discussion of the AgriMet Memo to Agency Directors

Need to add Heidi Moawad to TO line.

Note that Ken Stahr is the WSAC Chair.

Change the date.

Remove "draft"

Reminder: removal of federal funds from this program hinders use of Metric/ET throughout the state.

Can't ground-truth or calibrate Metric/ET data.

There are 2 AgriMet stations in the Willamette. This limits our ability to make ET-based demand estimates.

The 2017 Integrated Water Resources Strategy Chapter 2 calls this out need specifically.

Ask Directors to ask to cabinet, governor, and congressional delegation for support.

6. Discussion of the Potential HAB MOU (look at v 1.4)

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) lab in Hillsboro is working closely with Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to collect data on recreational and drinking water impacts of harmful algal blooms (HABs). Occurrences and concerns have increased in Oregon during the past 5-10 years. EPA has new satellite imagery to track HABS, which will be very helpful. In Oregon, the challenge is the cyanotoxins produced by HABs. These create risks to public health and animal health. Our ability to respond is limited (monitoring, etc.). Coordination and communication is crucial.

Version 1.4 is an inter-agency handshake to help with monitoring, testing, sign posting , etc.

Please conduct final review by Dec. 22, with comments back to Aaron. Signature will be by agency directors.

Comment: we should replicate this approach for other issues as well!

7. Roundtable

Alyssa Mucken: The state's 2017 IWRS was adopted Dec. 7. Text includes AgriMet, HABs, drought tools.

Smita Mehta: Place-based planners are struggling with arsenic in groundwater, particularly in the Harney Basin. How best to help them?

Aaron Borisenko: DEQ will conduct a groundwater study there this Fall.

Comment: we should loop in emergency managers.

Sonya Pedersen: We've sent almost 300 people and 75 engines to help with the wildfires in California.

Mellony Hoskinson: Stream Team is hosting a monitoring summit Feb 28 - Mar 1 in North Coast Basin, for select invitees. It will focus on gaps in information / how to improve. Comment: We expect about 150 folks, from a balance of sectors.

8. Next Meeting

January 18th.

Could we have a tutorial on La Niña, El Niño, ENSO neutral terminology?

By then, the NRCS snow report will have started up again for 2018.

9. Adjourned at 11:50