



# Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Water Resources Department

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## MEMORANDUM

TO: Water Resources Commission

FROM: Thomas M. Byler, Director

SUBJECT: Agenda Item D, March 15, 2018  
Water Resources Commission Meeting

### Authorization for Expending Remaining Place-Based Planning Funds

#### I. Introduction

This action item requests that the Commission approve the Department's expenditure plan for the remaining \$56,000 of place-based planning funds.

#### II. Background

In 2015, the Legislature provided the Department with \$750,000 to undertake place-based integrated water resources planning. In February 2016, the Commission approved funding for four places to pilot the Draft Place-Based Planning Guidelines. A description of place-based planning and the four planning groups is included in Attachment 1.

In its initial funding decision in 2016, the Commission awarded the total amount requested by both the Upper Grande Ronde Sub-Basin and the Lower John Day Sub-Basin planning efforts. The Commission also awarded partial funding to catalyze collaborative planning in the Mid-Coast Region and the Malheur Lake Basin. Both of these partially-funded efforts have been successful in securing private grant funding from the Oregon Community Foundation and Meyer Memorial Trust. Grant awards, outlined in Table 1, totaled \$657,000. The remaining \$93,000 was held in reserve for future consideration by the Commission in order to determine the best use of those funds to support place-based planning efforts.

**Table 1. Place-Based Planning Pilot Funding Awards**

Pilot Area	Funding Requested	Funding Authorized
Upper Grande Ronde	\$197,000	\$197,000 (Full)
Lower John Day	\$190,000	\$190,000 (Full)
Mid-Coast	\$330,300	\$135,000 (Partial)
Malheur Lake	\$205,500	\$135,000 (Partial)
Totals	\$892,500	<b>\$657,000</b>

At the August 2016 Commission meeting (Agenda Item M), the Commission authorized the Department to spend up to \$93,000 for the following purposes:

1. To provide additional support to the partially-funded places (Malheur and Mid-Coast) as needs are identified;
2. To engage statewide collaboration and conflict resolution experts and other resources to assist all four planning groups; and
3. Assist in funding a workshop in spring 2017.

Consistent with the authorization provided by the Commission, the Department entered into inter-governmental agreements with the National Policy Consensus Center (\$14,000) and the Association of Oregon Counties (\$18,000) to provide trainings and assist the planning groups, and also provided \$5,000 toward the cost of a workshop facilitated by Sustainable Northwest in May 2017. There are \$56,000 of place-based planning funds not yet obligated.

### **III. Discussion**

The Department has identified additional needs that do not fit within the preexisting authorization:

1. Planning group estimates of time, level of effort, and associated costs have exceeded original estimates. All four planning groups need additional funds to support the planning process and have requested use of reserve funds for planning tasks.
2. As a result of the success of the 2017 workshop, Sustainable Northwest has secured \$30,000 in private funding toward a 2018 workshop, and asked the Department to contribute \$5,000 to the workshop.

### **IV. Conclusion**

To support the place-based planning groups, the Department recommends the Commission authorize the Department to use the unobligated \$56,000 of place-based planning funds for contracts, grants or other agreements for the following purposes:

1. Provide additional financial assistance to all four funded planning groups as needs are identified;
2. Engage statewide collaboration and conflict resolution experts and other resources that assist all four planning groups; and
3. Assist in funding a workshop in spring 2018 for the planning groups.

**V. Alternatives**

The Commission may consider the following alternatives:

1. Authorize the Department to spend the remaining \$56,000 of place-based planning funds for the purposes identified in Section IV.
2. Modify the purposes in Section IV and approve a modified expenditure proposal.
3. Direct the Department to further consider options and return with a revised proposal.

**VI. Director's Recommendation**

The Director recommends Alternative 1, to authorize the Department to expend the unobligated \$56,000 on the purposes identified in Section IV.

Attachment 1: Place-Based Integrated Water Resources Planning

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# Place-Based Integrated Water Resources Planning



## Helping Oregon communities plan for their current and future water needs

Place-based planning is one of the recommended actions from the 2012 Integrated Water Resources Strategy (IWRs). It provides an opportunity for communities to work collaboratively, in partnership with the state, to understand their water resources challenges and needs, and identify potential solutions to meet those needs. The place-based planning [draft guidelines](#) describe the five steps and key planning principles central to any place-based planning effort.

### Planning Step 1

**Build a collaborative and inclusive process** – Conveners work with their project team to: assemble partners representing diverse interests, including state agencies; develop a communication and outreach strategy to ensure an open and inclusive process; create a governance agreement that describes how the partners will collaborate and make decisions using consensus; and develop a work plan outlining how they will execute Planning Steps 2-5.

### Planning Step 2

**Gather information to understand current water resources and identify knowledge gaps** – The planning group assesses and describes water resources in the basin, looking at water quantity, quality, and ecology. This effort includes collecting existing information, identifying any gaps in knowledge, and developing strategies to fill these gaps.

### Planning Step 3

**Examine current and future water needs for people, the economy, and the environment** – The planning group defines how much water is needed to meet current and future instream and out-of-stream water needs, considering water quantity, water quality, and ecosystem needs. Groups examine water challenges and vulnerabilities, such as how climate change, population growth, and land use may affect water resources and the ability to meet water needs.

### Planning Step 4

**Identify and prioritize strategic, integrated solutions to meet multiple water needs** – The planning group collaboratively identifies integrated actions to address the instream and out-of-stream needs identified in Step 3. Once identified, the group prioritizes actions and develop strategies to implement those actions.

### Planning Step 5

**Approve and implement a place-based integrated water resources plan** – The planning group formally reviews and approves the plan. The Water Resources Commission and other agencies will have an opportunity to review and formally accept the plan, based on whether it is consistent with the IWRs, the guidelines, and state water policy.

## Key Planning Principles

- Locally-initiated and led collaborative effort
- Voluntary, non-regulatory process
- Includes a balanced representation of water interests
- Conducted in partnership with the state
- Addresses instream and out-of-stream needs
- Looks at water quantity, quality and ecosystem needs in an integrated approach
- Creates an open and transparent process that fosters public participation
- Builds on and integrates existing studies and plans
- Does not infringe on existing water rights
- Adheres to IWRs principles and state laws

## Learn More!

Visit the web page: <http://bit.ly/owrdplanning> Email: [placebasedplanning@wrd.state.or.us](mailto:placebasedplanning@wrd.state.or.us)  
 Contact Planning Coordinators Harmony Burrignt (503-986-0913) or Steven Parrett (503-986-0914)

# Place-Based Planning Updates July – December 2017

## PROGRAMMATIC AND PLACE-BASED ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Worked with external partners to secure technical assistance for assessing climate impacts to supply and demand.
- Convened three advisory groups to provide input on guidance and tools for a Step 3 DRAFT toolbox that helps groups understand municipal/industrial, agricultural, and instream water needs.
- Conveners invited to deliver presentations on their planning efforts to the House Energy and Environment Committee.
- Convened inter-agency meetings in August and December.
- Hosted convener calls in August, October, and January.
- Held meetings and calls with statewide stakeholders.



### Malheur Lake Basin

Conveners: Harney County Court & Watershed Council

Total OWRD and Other Grant Awards (to-date): \$280,000

- Recipient of grants from the Oregon Community Foundation and the Meyer Memorial Trust that will help sustain the collaborative effort.
- Meetings of the full Collaborative held in July, October, and January.
- Multiple presentations from content experts.
- Four working groups convened to gather and analyze water data/information.
- New project manager hired and trained.
- Additional grant applications submitted.

Planning Step 2/3

**More information:** Contact Rianne BeCraft at 541-360-1695 or [rienne@hcwatershedcouncil.com](mailto:rienne@hcwatershedcouncil.com)

**WEB:** [www.hcwatershedcouncil.com/community-based-water-planning](http://www.hcwatershedcouncil.com/community-based-water-planning)

### Lower John Day Sub-Basin

Convener: Gilliam SWCD & Wheeler SWCD

Total OWRD and Other Grant Awards (to-date): \$190,000

- Full Partnership meetings held in September and November
- Executed Step 2 RFP process to solicit and award capacity funding to partners to help with information gathering and analysis.
- Extensive information compiled and formatted for Step 2 "State of Water Resources" report and consultant hired to assist with writing.
- Established data and outreach committees that are meeting monthly.

Planning Step 2/3

**More information:** Contact Christina Kirwan at 541-384-2672 x108 or [gilliamswcd@gmail.com](mailto:gilliamswcd@gmail.com)

**WEB:** Under development.

### Upper Grande Ronde Sub-Basin

Convener: Union County

Total OWRD and Other Grant Awards (to-date): \$197,000

- Step 2 summary report completed and approved by consensus of the group.
- Stakeholder meetings held in June, August, September, October, and November.
- Technical advisory group convened 7 times between June-December.
- Four working groups (agricultural, municipal, instream, and natural hazards) met multiple times to assess current and future demands.
- Shared project information and results with the community and legislature.

Planning Step 3

**More information:** Contact Scott Hartell at 541-963-1014 or [shartell@union-county.org](mailto:shartell@union-county.org)

**WEB:** <http://union-county.org/planning/place-based-integrated-water-resources-planning/>

### Mid-Coast Region

Conveners: City of Newport & OWRD

Total OWRD and Other Grant Awards (to-date): \$297,500

- Recipient of grants from the Oregon Community Foundation and the Meyer Memorial Trust that will help sustain the collaborative effort.
- Step 2 summary reports developed in cooperation with four study groups to characterize water quantity, quality, ecology, and infrastructure.
- Partnership meetings held in August and November.
- Three field tours organized by partners to look at water issues throughout the region.

Planning Step 3

**More information:** Contact Timothy Gross at 541-961-5313 or [T.Gross@NewportOregon.gov](mailto:T.Gross@NewportOregon.gov)

**WEB:** [www.midcoastwaterpartners.com](http://www.midcoastwaterpartners.com)