

**Water Resources Commission Meeting
Salem, Oregon
December 7, 2017**

WRC Present

John Roberts
Carol Whipple
Bob Baumgartner
Meg Reeves
Bruce Corn
Eric Quaempts
Ray Williams

WRD Staff Present

Tom Byler
Renee Moulun
Cindy Smith
Racquel Rancier
Lisa Snyder
Kim Ogren
Dwight French
Alyssa Mucken
Brenda Bateman
Ivan Gall
Kris Byrd
Justin Iverson
Doug Woodcock
Salem Opeifa
Chris Kowitz
Rachel LovellFord
Steve Parrett
Lisa Jaramillo
Sarah Henderson
Lyndsey Croghan
Machelle Bamberger

Others

Kimberley Priestley
Gordon Lyford
Sara Petrocine
Peggy Lynch
Lauren Smith
April Snell
Ray Jaindl
Mike Faught
Chandra Ferrari
Lori Grant
Rick Parsons
Clair Klock
Mark Landauer
Lisa Brown
Chris Clark
Craig Deltort
Finlay Anderson
Jerry Gray
Lyle Umpleby
Ed Pugh
Chrysten Lambert
Danette Faucera

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 called the meeting to order, and asked Commissioners and the audience to introduce themselves.

A. Request for Adoption of the 2017 Integrated Water Resources Strategy

Alyssa Mucken, IWRS Coordinator, and Brenda Bateman, Technical Services Administrator, presented the 2017 Integrated Water Resources Strategy for the Commission's consideration.

Danette Faucera, Water Policy Coordinator for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), explained ODFW's participation reported that its Commission is signing a letter of support, and shared how ODFW programs are implementing actions of the Strategy.

Ray Jaindl, Director of Natural Resources and Pesticide programs at Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA), expressed the support of ODA for the Strategy, shared ODA's priorities, and provided a letter of support to the WRC.

Karen Tarnow, Senior Water Quality Policy Analyst, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), expressed the support of DEQ and the Environmental Quality Commission for the update to the Strategy, and provided a letter of support to the WRC.

Chair Roberts shared how impressed he is with the coordination between agencies, and hopes to see that continue.

Mucken gave an overview of what is in the Strategy, noted that a Forward is in development from the Governor's office, provided an updated Errata Sheet, and explained that an Executive Summary is in development.

Commissioner Corn thinks it is a herculean effort with great cooperation, and we need to keep in mind that this is an overview and the details will follow in the years to come.

Commissioner Baumgartner thanked the representative from the other agencies for the cooperation and work to make this happen.

Commissioner Williams appreciates the great work, likes the growth, and would like us to be committed to work to implement the whole plan to the extent possible.

Commissioner Reeves echoed the other Commissioners that it is a great work and a heavy lift.

Commissioner Quaempts thanked the staff and other collaborating agencies, the public, and advisory groups who gave input and recommendations in the process. This is an iterative document and it is incumbent upon us to demonstrate what we learn as we go, and how we are using it to form our policies. For the next update, he would like us to consider both natural infrastructure and built infrastructure, including flood plains and aquifers, and their potential to help us address climate issues.

Commissioner Whipple suggested Alyssa Mucken be listed as editor of the document. Mucken suggested it be extended to be co-editor with Dr. Brenda Bateman. The Commission recommended that be adopted.

Chair Roberts commended staff for their work on the Strategy, and thinks it is a great document.

Sara Petrocine, as chair of Oregon Water Utility Council (OWUC), asked for some proposed changes to pages 31 and 32 of the Strategy, to clarify some issues around the Clean Drinking Water Act. Mucken said she does not believe that the proposed changes affect the overall content of the Public Health section, but make improvements to the section.

Peggy Lynch, League of Women Voters (LOWV), thanked the staff for their work, and their inclusion of LOWV and partner agencies in the update to the Strategy. Lynch cited successes of increased funding and staffing to issues because of the first Strategy, and her hope that other agencies will use the updated Strategy as a tool for funding requests. She urged the Commission to support and adopt the update.

Commissioner Corn appreciated Lynch's comments and support, and her efforts to encourage cooperation between agencies to make dollars go further.

Commissioner Baumgartner commented that the collaborative effort and building trust will help agencies deal with issues in the future, and is looking forward to implementation as a continued effort to collaboratively solve problems. Lynch responded that nothing will happen at the Capitol without working together with a common voice.

Commissioner Reeves, being quite new to the process, was struck how the Strategy seems to be used in the manner that it was intended, as a tool to work together and make changes where necessary. Lynch agreed, and cited how agencies refer to recommended actions of the Strategy in requests to the Legislature.

Commissioner Williams asked if any of the traction gained from the IWRS has been measured environmentally or economically. Lynch would like Agency Key Performance Measures to demonstrate successes.

Mucken reported that progress reports were produced to indicate how recommended actions were being implemented. She cited legislative investments across agencies as an example, and there are other criteria that could be looked at to document and show successes over time.

Williams would like more specific examples of the social, environmental, and economic benefits as they relate to this document, in a quantifiable dollar figure as opposed to a goal met or exceeded. Chair Roberts agreed, and while not all successes are objective, a case could be made for tracking those investments.

April Snell, Oregon Water Resources Congress, echoed others thoughts on a tremendous job on the Strategy update. Snell looks forward to using the document to advocate for her constituents, and while she was comfortable with the changes in the update, she was concerned that others are not familiar with the changes since the Public Comment draft. Snell proposed delaying the adoption to allow for more time for stakeholders to review. If the Commission chooses to move forward at this time, she is willing to work with staff to communicate with the irrigated agriculture community to gain their support.

Commissioner Williams asked how much additional time she would like. Snell recommended until the next Commission meeting. Chair Roberts was concerned that the next Commission meeting would have three new commissioners without the background.

Commissioner Williams asked what subject matter certain constituents needed a fuller understanding of. Snell thought there are nuances between the concerns of Irrigation Districts and those in the direct farming community.

Commissioner Corn asked how that should be addressed. Snell suggested Alyssa and other staff be willing to go out and talk to people, and people from professional organizations would help carry the message.

Director Byler appreciates Snell's comments, but wasn't sure that a delay was necessary. The next pivot should be to the Strategic Planning process with stakeholders, which will be the opportunity to address those issues, with timelines and goals, to give clarity to stakeholders. Chair Roberts agreed that the Strategic Plan is the logical next step, which will drill down on the concepts of the Strategy.

Snell encouraged the Commissioners who will be remaining to start earlier and have more time to work through some recommendations in future updates.

Commissioner Baumgartner thanked Snell for being willing to help communicate what the Commission and the Department want to achieve, and encouraged her to provide thoughts and methods for conducting outreach.

Clair Klock, Clackamas Soil & Water Conservation District, expressed the support of the Clackamas Soil & Water Conservation District. He sees the paradigm shift from twenty years ago to four agencies

working together to create a document. The addition of Drought Resiliency is a great addition to the plan, and the value of ecosystems services.

Commissioner Williams sympathized with April Snell's concerns, but felt they needed to proceed.

Commissioner Baumgartner made the motion to adopt the 2017 Strategy as proposed in Attachment 1, with the following modifications:

- Contents of Version 2 of the Errata Sheet,
- Incorporate testimony provided by Sara Petrocine from the Oregon Water Utilities Council and the proposed changes,
- The addition of reference of Co-editors Alyssa Mucken and Dr. Brenda Bateman,
- The ability for staff to make typographical and grammatical corrections that do not make substantive changes without additional approval of the Commission.

Seconded by Commissioner Williams. Voting for the motion: Commissioners Corn, Baumgartner, Williams, Reeves, Quaempts, Whipple, and Roberts. Voting against the motion: none.

B. Request for Adoption of Rulemaking to Reclassify the Smith River Watershed - Modifying OAR Chapter 690, Division 517

Racquel Rancier, Senior Policy Coordinator, presented a request for adoption of rules related to reclassifying the Smith River Watershed in Curry County, and responded to commission comments and questions.

Commissioner Williams asked if there was anyway Oregon could make money out of this designation, since part of the water provides water for municipalities downstream in California. Rancier doesn't anticipate that happening, particularly with California's policies that limit withdrawals from the watershed.

Commissioner Quaempts asked what agencies are eligible to apply for water rights. Rancier listed State Parks and Recreation, Department of Environmental Quality, and Department of Fish and Wildlife. Quaempts asked if the Federal Forest Service could apply for a water right. Racquel said that the area is unadjudicated, so it is not determined whether there are federal reserved rights in this watershed.

Chair Roberts asked if these proposed rules were adopted, would there be a potential conflict of what California already has in place. Rancier believes these rules are consistent with what California is doing and California Department of Fish and Game submitted testimony in favor of this rulemaking.

Commissioner Reeves understands the generalized concern of using a rulemaking when a water right might suffice, but is not concerned in this case.

Commissioner Corn is concerned about unintended consequences, and wants to make sure the best decision for the whole is made.

Chair Roberts asked if a rulemaking could be made in the future to make changes if necessary. Director Byler affirmed that a rulemaking could be done, and that this establishes a strong public process.

Commissioner Williams made the motion to adopt the final proposed rules as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Whipple. Voting in favor of the motion: Commissioners Baumgartner, Williams, Reeves, Quaempts, Whipple and Roberts. Voting against the motion: Commissioner Corn.

Rancier thanked staff including, Mabelle Bamberger, Field Services, Groundwater, and others for their work on this rulemaking.

Lisa Brown, WaterWatch of Oregon, thanked the Commission for their efforts on this rulemaking. Gordon Lyford from O'Brien thanked Rancier and staff for their efforts to see this rulemaking through.

C. Request for Adoption of Attorney General's Model Rules for Rulemaking – OAR Chapter 690, Division 1

Dwight French, Water Right Services Division Administrator, and Mabelle Bamberger, Water Right Rules Coordinator, presented a request for adoption of the Attorney General's Model Rules of Rulemaking.

Commissioner Corn made the motion to adopt the final proposed rules as presented: Seconded by Commissioner Baumgartner. Voting in favor of the motion: Commissioners Corn, Baumgartner, Williams, Reeves, Quaempts, Whipple, and Roberts. Voting against the motion: none.

D. Water Project Grants and Loans – Award of Funding

Kim Ogren, Water Resource Program Development Manager, briefed the Commission on funding recommendations for the 2017 funding cycle of Water Projects Grants and Loans, and responded to Commissioner comments and questions.

Chrysten Lambert, Trout Unlimited, responded to questions on the North Fork Sprague Conservation Piping and Instream Flow Restoration project.

Lyle Umpleby, and Jerry Gray, Powder Valley Water Control District, responded to questions about the Powder Valley Connector project.

Finlay Anderson, a consultant for Deschutes Valley Water District, described the Opal Springs Fish Passage and Pool Raise project, and responded to questions.

Craig Deltort, Middlefork Irrigation District, responded to questions on the Coe Branch Pipeline and on-farm Irrigation Efficiency project.

Commissioners would like to see the use of Allocation of Conserved Water condition to future grants whenever possible. They would also like clarification on the scoring and the ability to place certain conditions.

Chair Roberts indicated \$5.1 million dollars were available, but grant requests were approximately \$6.3 million, and asked how this could be accommodated. Ogren described the analysis the Department did to determine that grants could be awarded up to \$1.3 million over available cash, since all reimbursements would not be submitted until after new funds were available in 2019.

Director Byler noted that any public funder has the potential of dollars not materializing. Grantors who are thoughtful about their programs put those caveats into any grant agreement.

Commissioner Williams asked what the Department's plan was for giving reimbursement to projects advancing faster than other projects, and what the proportional allocation would be. Byler's expectation

is to make dollars in hand available to all projects as they move forward, and he didn't think all projects will be at completion and asking for total reimbursement before additional funds are available in 2019.

Commissioner Whipple was more comfortable in funding three instead of four projects to keep closer to the funds available.

Commissioner Quaempts suggested that based on favorable conditions, the fourth project could be funded.

Byler said that every grant has boiler plate conditions that funds can only be allocated if they are available.

Commissioner Reeves asked for more information on how the Department sees the cash flow if all four are approved.

Commissioner Corn suggested allocating 75% with the remaining 25% contingent on 2019 funds.

Commissioner Quaempts thought the highest ranking project should get full funding, rather than cutting everyone to accommodate a lower ranking project.

Commissioner Williams was concerned about the lowest ranked project, which could potentially have a lot of impact for the entire valley. With so many variables that the Commission doesn't have any control over, if the applicants know the risks and liability, and accept the terms of the grant anyway; it stands to reason that more projects will get done, and peoples' lives and the environment will be improved.

Chair Roberts was concerned about credibility, that if funds run out, people may be stuck with unfinished projects.

Ogren described the process of reimbursement, and that all applicants understand that money, in the best case scenario, is several months out.

Commissioner Baumgartner asked the applicants about the Commissioners' concerns. Applicants were all eager to start their projects, have a good understanding of the uncertainty, and were willing to accept the risk.

April Snell, Oregon Water Resources Congress, expressed support for the program, noting the best case to advocate for more funding is to show a need. One way to do that is to allocate all of the funds available. She also suggested moving forward with funding of projects, even if they don't address Allocation of Conserved Water, because that can be addressed as efficiencies are gained.

Clair Klock, Klock Farm, thought that the Allocation of Conserved Water is important for the protection of the public good and is in the criteria. Also, monitoring of use of water by the entire District and individuals is important in funded projects.

Kimberley Priestley, WaterWatch of Oregon, was available to answer any questions the Commission has on WaterWatch of Oregon's comments. She noted inconsistent scoring between agencies on some projects for environmental benefits; and moving forward, that scoring issues need to be addressed.

Priestley commented on questions raised. She also commented on the Opal Springs Fish Passage and Pool Level Raise project, that the strength of the project is the fish passage as an environmental benefit.

Priestley asked the State, on issues where environmental benefits are not clearly defined, to seek expert advice on that data. She pointed out the requirement in statute that the Department require the applicant to show that the public benefit claimed will be realized in a timely manner.

Commissioner Reeves agreed with some of the points Kimberley Priestley made about making adjustments in the future, but with respect to the funding, she thinks it is a bad idea to not expend all of the dollars available.

Commissioner Quaempts agreed on the basis of the staff recommendations, and the transparency there has been with the applicants of any uncertainty of funds.

Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve the staff recommendations for funding listed in Section IV. Seconded by Commissioner Corn. Voting in favor: Commissioners Corn, Baumgartner, Williams, Reeves, Quaempts, Whipple and Roberts. Voting against: none.

E. Water Project Grants and Loans – Loan Program Discussion

Lisa Snyder, Administrative Services Division Administrator; Kim Ogren, Water Resources Development Program Manager; Salem Opeifa, Loan Specialist; and John Saris and Dennis Knight, Business Oregon, briefed the Commission on questions raised during the August Commission meeting about the implementation of the loan program.

Commission Whipple asked if the Department advertised the ability to provide loans. Ogren responded that it is difficult to advertise without committing to an interest rate, but can let people know loans are available.

Chair Roberts asked if the Commission had to grant approval for the process. Byler responded this is an opportunity for Commission input. Chair Roberts said that when the Department does its due diligence, there is a great incentive, and the program makes sense.

Commission Williams asked how a private/public partnership would work. Saris said that bond sale costs get passed directly on to the borrower, and the only gain is the interest that the public entity provides. Dennis Knight added that it is less common to have institutional investors and lenders, but not uncommon for public programs to subordinate the lien position to the primary lender. The public benefit of the program would allow for a junior position to another priority lender.

Commissioner Quaempts commented that in looking at the overall goals and needs of the Department, we should be careful to not take too many resources away from other needs; to do formal outreach to better determine the market, and to better understand how much time it is worth putting into its development. Commissioner Baumgartner said that makes sense, but in light of more grant requests coming in than available money to give out, he doesn't know how to determine how much would be available for loans.

Ogren agreed that it is important to understand the interest in loans before utilizing staff resources to develop the program, but has spoken to individuals who were very interested in a low interest-rate loan. In August, the Department suggested the Commission recommend a percentage of available funds going to grants, and a percentage going to loans. The Department heard discomfort from the Commission and stakeholders on that proposal.

Commissioner Corn asked if the Department is favorable to proposals requesting both a grant and loan for the same project. Ogren said that combining the two could get complicated, and asks the applicant to

indicate if they would like a grant or a loan. Director Byler added that since we are learning as we go, the preference would be to keep them separate.

Commissioner Williams stated that an applicant that accepts a loan shows a higher level of responsibility and commitment; if the loan is successfully paid, it enables more funding for the public benefit.

Byler reminded the Commission that with a grant there is a match obligation, and grantees normally come forward with in-kind or financial investments.

F. Appointments to the Ground Water Advisory Committee

Justin Iverson, Groundwater Manager, presented recommendations to fill three positions on the Ground Water Advisory Committee.

Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve the staff recommendations for GWAC appointments. Seconded by Commissioner Reeves. Voting in favor: Commissioners Corn, Baumgartner, Williams, Reeves, Quaempts, Whipple and Roberts. Voting against: none.

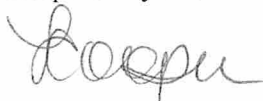
G. Request for Adoption of Well Construction Rules – OAR Chapter 690, Division 205 and 240

Kris Byrd, Well Enforcement Manager, presented a request for adoption of amendments to the Well Construction Rules to implement HB 2296 (2017 Session), and responded to Commissioner questions.

Commissioner Corn made the motion to adopt the final proposed rules in Attachment 3. Seconded by Commissioner Williams. Voting in favor: Commissioners Corn, Baumgartner, Williams, Reeves, Quaempts, Whipple and Roberts. Voting against: none.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Lorri Cooper
Executive Administrative Support to the Director's Office

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Lisa Jaramillo
Alyssa Mucken
Sarah Henderson
Harmony Burright
Sarah Manring
Travis Kelly
Justin Iverson
Jeffrey Purcell
Meredith Carine
Shavon Haynes
Ben Scandella
Aurora Bouchier
Dennis Orłowski

Others

Kimberley Priestley
Gordon Lyford
Robert Coffan
Ron Sarazin
Jeff Stone
April Snell
Laurie Nicholas
Mike Faught
Doug Riggs

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Chair Roberts called the meeting to order.

H. Updating the Department's Key Performance Measures

Racquel Rancier, Senior Policy Coordinator, provided an update on efforts underway to assess the Department's Key Performance Measures (KPMs) and the potential to modify, add or delete measures.

Commissioner Williams suggested the need to measure the Department's ability to obtain more water, whether through efficiencies, or storage projects, is something missing from the report. Rancier sees needing a KPM around grants and loans falls along the same line. It is unclear what a good metric for that area would be.

Commissioner Corn suggested the guidelines of the Deschutes Mitigation on a broader scale. Commissioner Williams suggested including the Department's ability to assist in obtaining private sector financing for infrastructure.

Commissioner Reeves said the measures should reflect agency priorities, and should follow the work being done through the Strategic Planning process.

Commissioner Quaempts stated that Key Performance Measures are important, but thinks these are too operational and ought to begin with our mission. He also noted thinking of them in the context of the Strategic Plan and the categories of environmental, social and economic.

Commissioner Williams asked if there were common KPMs across all 14 natural resources agencies. Byler answered that each agency has their own set of KPMs based on their own programs that they are responsible for.

Commissioner Baumgartner didn't think the IWRS or Place-based planning were represented by the KPMs.

Commissioner Williams was concerned that things that don't get measured, get lost, and don't get done.

Chair Roberts agrees with Commissioner Williams that the focus needs to be broad.

I. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the August 17 and 18, 2017 meeting were presented for Commission approval.

Commissioner Corn moved to approve the August 17-18, 2017 minutes as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Williams. Voting in favor of the motion: Commissioners Roberts, Baumgartner, Corn, Reeves, Whipple, Williams, and Quaempts. Voting in opposition: none. Motion passed.

J. Approval of the 2018 Meeting Schedule

A tentative schedule of meetings for 2018 was presented and unanimously approved.

Water Conditions Update (Added Topic)

Brenda Bateman, Technical Services Administrator, provided the Commission with an update on Water Conditions.

K. Commission Comments

Commissioner Corn commented that the early snow this year went into the ground, so any additional snow could provide good run-off. He discussed reservoir levels with regards to current water conditions. He spoke of 32 piping projects going on in his district and that there are a lot of conservation efforts, and modernization of facilities going on in Eastern Oregon.

Commissioner Baumgartner: Clean Water Services has spent time studying the impacts of beavers in urban environments. He talked about a collaborative effort they have been involved with to study water delivery and the impacts, and to work together to all have their needs met.

Commissioner Williams commented on the Hood River County Irrigation District and that his frustration was that the funded efficiency makes up only 5% participation. He questioned whether there should be a requirement for higher participation. Williams also thinks storage is a key component, and the limiting factor appears to be financing. He thinks Oregon needs to get creative with its private/public financing.

Commissioner Reeves expressed her gratitude for the input from staff, stakeholders, other commissioners, and the public. She appreciates the different perspectives, thoughtfulness, and the purposefulness they bring.

Commissioner Quaempts seconded Commissioner Reeves comments. He attended a portion of the AWRA Conference in Portland and commended Brenda Bateman for her role in facilitating the conference. He thought it was extremely valuable.

Commissioner Whipple reflected on the interaction of forestry and fire, management, and water resources.

Chair Roberts thanked everyone for the 9-1/2 years, and 38 meetings on the Commission. He has really appreciated working with the staff. He reflected on helping write the first position papers for the original IWRS, and the adoption of the update yesterday. He thanked all who participated in that endeavor, and the people in the audience who bring great insight. He is concerned for water project funding and hopes the Legislature understands the issue keeps getting bigger. He commented that he would like to see the Commission liaison position with Environmental Quality Commission continue and appreciated his time on the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board.

L. Director's Report

Director Byler thanked Chair Roberts, and Commissioners Williams and Whipple for their time on the Commission. He updated the Commission on Department business including the Oregon Leadership Summit, Legislative Days, budget proposals for the short session, progress on database integration, and meeting with the Washington Department of Ecology.

M. Strategic Planning

Tom Byler, Director; Kim Ogren, Water Resources Development Program Manager, Shavon Haynes, District 13 Watermaster; Sarah Manring, Payroll Specialist; and Ron Sarazin, Olympic Performance, Inc., updated the Commission on the Department's ongoing strategic planning efforts.

Commissioners asked questions of Sarazin about his qualifications, expectations, obstacles, and how he measures success.

Commissioner Baumgartner was encouraged that staff were enthusiastic and positive about the work sessions. He asked how the Department plans to work with the data collected to develop into core values. Ogren answered that the goal is to develop agency-wide and team focused goals as a starting place, although individual Divisions are considering doing a similar exercise to identify those core values unique to their Division.

Sarazin added that if core competencies and core values don't line up with the work the Department needs to accomplish, there would need to be adjustments made.

Commissioner Corn is encouraged that integrity was near or at the top of all categories.

Commissioner Williams said to be mindful of definitions in other source materials, such as the IWRS.

Commissioner Reeves thinks that the process itself is adding a lot of value; and encouraged the Department to not lose the staff in the on-going process and to ensure there is a feedback loop.

Director Byler agreed with Commissioner Reeves that the process is just as important as the outcome, and a big part of this is about team building.

Commissioner Quaempts thinks this is a good opportunity to be responsive to the Secretary of State's audit and to better understand limitations.

Commissioner Whipple commented that while we have inherent conflict, staff need to feel like they have the tools to address that conflict. Director Byler agreed that we need to be doing things to ensure our staff have the tools to deal with complicated issues.

N. Willamette Basin Review Study Update

Alyssa Mucken, IWRS Coordinator, and Laurie Nicholas, U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, updated the Commission on recent activities related to the Willamette Basin Review Study to evaluate the potential to reallocate stored water from the Willamette Valley Project reservoirs.

O. Deschutes Basin Ground Water Mitigation Program

Dwight French, Water Right Services Administrator; Lisa Jaramillo, Transfer and Conservation Section Manager; and Sarah Henderson, Transfer Specialist, provided an overview of the 2016 Annual Report and evaluation of the Deschutes Ground Water Mitigation Rules and the Deschutes Basin Mitigation Bank and Mitigation Credit Rules.

Doug Riggs, Central Oregon Cities Organization, stated that he has seen a lot of benefits from the Mitigation Program in the Middle Deschutes. While it is not a panacea and there are several issues to deal with, those in the basin are committed to addressing environmental and economic development issues.

Commissioner Baumgartner asked Riggs what he thinks the cities will need for water in the future. Riggs responded that the communities have worked hard to prepare for growth, while maintaining the natural beauty and resources of the area.

P. Rogue Basin Upland Recharge Project Update

Amy Patton, Patton Environmental; Robert Coffan, Katalyst, Inc.; and Paul DeMaggio, Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District, briefed the Commission on the project at the request of Chair Roberts, and responded to Commissioner comments and questions.

Q. Public Comment

Kimberley Priestley, WaterWatch of Oregon, thanked Chair Roberts, Commissioner Williams, and Commissioner Whipple for their work on the Commission. She thanked Chair Roberts for his thoughtful leadership.

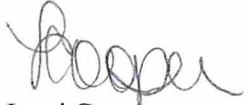
April Snell, Oregon Water Resources Congress, echoed Priestley's comments, and emphasized Chair Roberts contributions. She thanked Chair Roberts and Commissioners Williams and Whipple for their leadership and guidance. She commented that those leaving have left a wonderful foundation, but there is a lot of work ahead and it is important to remain transparent. She expects to be at the table, engaging in a constructive fashion, and have discussions that avoid litigation and to move forward with projects.

Gordon Lyford, described an article from the publication Water Deeply about measuring groundwater using satellites. He talked about another article in the Capital Press about Idaho storing groundwater for later use. Lyford thanked Chair Roberts, Commissioner Whipple and Commissioner Williams for their service.

R. Other Issues

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lorri Cooper".

Lorri Cooper
Executive Administrative Support to the Director's Office