

**Water Resources Commission Meeting**  
**Redmond, Oregon**  
**June 14, 2018**

WRC Present

Meg Reeves  
Joe Moll  
Bob Baumgartner  
Bruce Corn  
Eric Quaempts  
Kathy Kihara

WRD Staff Present

Tom Byler  
Racquel Rancier  
Cindy Smith  
Lisa Snyder  
Doug Woodcock  
Ivan Gall  
Kyle Gorman  
Dwight French  
Justin Iverson  
Aurora Bouchier  
Jeremy Giffin  
Brenda Bateman  
Bill Nashem

Others

Kimberley Priestley  
Lori Grant  
Lauren Smith  
Patrick Griffiths  
Matt Stayner  
Bruce Topham  
Brandon Topham  
Erika Norris  
Randall Kizer  
Jerome Rosa  
Rianne BeCraft  
Mark Owens  
Brenda Smith  
Angie Ketcher  
Bill Duerden  
Dennis Linthicum  
Doug Riggs  
George Endicott  
Casey Roats  
Dennis Scott  
Joan Sees  
Rory Isbell

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

**Welcome from the Mayors of the Cities of Redmond, Bend and La Pine**

Mayor George Endicott, City of Redmond; Mayor Casey Roats, City of Bend; Mayor Dennis Scott, City of La Pine; and Doug Riggs, Lobbyist/Advocate for Central Oregon Cities Organization; welcomed the Commission and gave a brief overview of the critical issues facing the cities.

**A. Report on 2017 Field Regulation and Enforcement Activities and Update from Watermaster District 11**

Jeremy Giffin, District 11 Watermaster, provided an overview of his district, and responded to Commissioners comments and questions.

Ivan Gall, Field Services Administrator, reported on 2017 field regulation and enforcement activities.

Commissioner Moll asked what the expectations are for growth in the next twenty years, and what needs to be done to be prepared. Gall gave examples areas in the state where there is no allowance for more groundwater development; and examples of difficulty finding water for even exempt uses in certain areas. He explained how watermasters work with the county planning departments to account for development needs in challenging areas. Gall also explained the land-use process for permitted wells or new surface water uses, to ensure that any water rights issued are compatible with the land use associated with it.

Director Byler reported that the entities in the Deschutes Basin have shown the ability to collaborate and look to future needs.

Commissioner Quaempts asked about the future of unused and abandoned diversions. Gall responded that some are permanent, and others are on federal land. The Department works with those entities to help get them cancelled.

## **B. Klamath Basin Update**

Ivan Gall, Field Services Administrator, provided an update on water issues in the Klamath Basin.

Commissioner Corn asked if the Temporary Rules passed in April were working as intended, and if the needs were being met. Gall responded with how communities were dealing with the issues, and citizens unhappy with some of the curtailment activities. He explained how the Department is trying to work with users to develop back-up systems in place for future needs.

Director Byler said the Department will be coming back to the Commission in the fall to address the needs that were expressed to extend the exemption.

During public comment on this item, the following persons expressed their concerns on water management issues in the Klamath Basin:

Erika Norris, Sprague River Valley  
Bruce Topham, Sprague River Valley  
Brandon Topham, Sprague River Valley  
Senator Dennis Linthicum, District 28  
Randall Kizer, Fort Klamath

## **C. Legislative and Budget Update**

Racquel Rancier, Senior Policy Coordinator, and Lisa Snyder, Administrative Services Division Administrator provided an overview of the Department's efforts in preparing for the 2019 Legislative Session, and responded to Commission comments and questions.

Commissioner Moll encouraged the opportunity for the Department to have a stronger priority on water distribution, where in-stream water needs could be discussed and presented more progressively.

Rancier asked for Commissioner input on prioritization. Commissioner Baumgartner indicated he would place field work at a higher priority. Chair Reeves would keep groundwater studies at the top of every list, and water use measurement and reporting, also near the top.

Commissioner Moll is concerned that having legal expenses at the top of the list indicates that the legal route is the way to solve problems. If it were moved lower on the list, it may change the perception of its importance.

Commissioner Corn commented in light of the Public Comment and presentation heard earlier, that putting Place-Based Planning in front with groundwater management may alleviate some of the problems in the future, by being proactive in creating buy-in from the community.

#### **D. Review of Final Certificate for Permit 51439 and T-6621E – Umatilla River Exchange**

Dwight French, Water Right Services Administrator, Mike Ladd, North Central Region Manager, briefed the Commission on the claim of beneficial use and public comments received on the Umatilla River Exchange, and the review of the Final Certificate for Permit 51439 and T-6621E.

Commissioner Corn commented that this has been a long process, but has had a lot of benefits.

Commissioner Quaempts thinks that it is clear that the permit has been put to beneficial use. The irrigation districts have enjoyed very reliable water supplies; there has been a fishery restored to the basin that both tribal and non-tribal publics enjoy and use on a nearly annual basis. Many people have benefitted from the exchange and Quaempts doesn't think it is a question of beneficial use.

Commissioner Kihara made the motion to determine that proof to the satisfaction of the Commission has occurred and authorize the Water Resources Director to issue the water right certificate. Seconded by Commissioner Quaempts. Voting in favor: Commissioners Kihara, Quaempts, Baumgartner, Corn, Moll, and Reeves. Voting against: none.

#### **E. Harney Basin Groundwater Study and Planning Update**

Justin Iverson, Groundwater Manager; Angie Ketcher, Harney County Watershed Council; Mark Owens, Harney County Commissioner; Brenda Smith, Co-convener, Harney Watershed Council; provided an update on water-related efforts in the Harney Basin, and responded to Commissioner comments and questions.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorri Cooper  
Executive Administrative Support to the Director's Office

**Water Resources Commission Meeting**  
**Redmond, Oregon**  
**June 15, 2018**

WRC Present

Meg Reeves  
Bob Baumgartner  
Joe Moll  
Bruce Corn  
Eric Quaempts  
Kathy Kihara

WRD Staff Present

Tom Byler  
Cindy Smith  
Dwight French  
Ivan Gall  
Kim Ogren  
Justin Iverson  
Racquel Rancier  
Kyle Gorman  
Lisa Snyder  
Doug Woodcock  
Brenda Bateman  
Mike Ladd (phone)  
Ken Stahr

Others

Lauren Smith  
Randall Kizer  
Martin Nicholson  
Lori Grant  
Dennis Linthicum  
Alex Phillips

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Chair Reeves called the meeting to order, and asked the Commissioners and everyone present introduce themselves.

**F. Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the December 7 and 8, 2017 were presented for Commission approval. Commissioner Corn moved to approve the December 7 and 8, 2017 minutes as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Quaempts. Voting in favor of the motion: Commissioners Baumgartner, Reeves, Quaempts, and Corn. Voting in opposition: none. Abstaining: Kihara and Moll (not on Commission at the time of the meeting). Motion passed.

The minutes of the March 15 and 16, 2018 meeting were presented for Commission approval. Commissioner Baumgartner moved to approve the March 15 and 16, 2018 minutes as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Kihara. Voting in favor of the motion: Commissioners, Baumgartner, Reeves, Quaempts, Corn, Kihara and Moll. Voting in opposition: none. Motion passed.

The minutes of the May 15 and 16, 2018 were presented for Commission approval. Commissioner Kihara moved to approve the May 15 and 16, 2018 as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Baumgartner. Voting in favor of the motion: Commissioners, Baumgartner, Reeves, Quaempts, Corn, Kihara and Moll. Voting in opposition: none. Motion passed.

**G. Commission Comments**

Commissioner Corn shared a handout showing reservoir storage in his area, and that his county has sufficient water because of the storage. He also shared a handout of stream flows, showing the curve dropping below normal, and that next year could be tight, and get worse if drought conditions continue. He shared that the Owyhee Watershed Council and the Owyhee Irrigation District holds a field day for 4<sup>th</sup> graders in the Treasure Valley, giving an educational experience for students to learn about boating and

water safety, tour the dam, and learn how aquifers work. He encouraged others to create educational opportunities in their own areas.

Commissioner Quaempts commented on the special meeting in Maupin on Strategic Planning, and that staff did a great job identifying core values and integrity, and building trust with stakeholders. He thought the general priority areas were well identified and reflective of the issues in the State.

Commissioner Moll commented on the pace of change, and the importance of anticipating and getting out ahead of problems. Investments will need to be deliberate to be ahead of the curve with future water needs. He thanked the staff for their technical expertise and dedication in the face of severe problems.

Commissioner Kihara commented on staff doing excellent work, and giving thoughtful answers. The strategic plan is wonderful, and she is very excited about the employee initiatives piece.

Commissioner Baumgartner commented about the conversations of the previous day, when people from Klamath Basin and Malheur Basin talked about their situations, how important the water issues are, how personal these issues are, and how they have significant human impact.

Chair Reeves emphasized Commissioner Corn's comments on the importance of education about water resources. The tour on Thursday was fantastic, and Reeves hopes to have more opportunities for those types of tours.

## **H. Director's Report**

Director Byler briefed the Commission on late breaking items. He mentioned that the Department has been meeting with the Washington Department of Ecology regarding the potential coordination around water management issues in the Walla Walla Basin.

Byler attended a meeting in Stayton with Congressman Kurt Schrader related to the Willamette River and Detroit Dam and the fish passage project the Corp is proposing, along with the concerns of the affected communities.

Director Byler mentioned the Water Efficiency and Conservation State Score Card, where Oregon scored very well.

## **I. Strategic Planning**

Tom Byler, Director, and Kim Ogren, Water Resources Development Program Manager, updated the Commission on the Department's ongoing strategic planning efforts.

Commissioner Quaempts commented that the employee initiatives are not the goal, but a means to the goal, and suggested that the goal would be to enable improved service.

Chair Reeves observed how important it is to talk about what the strategic plan means for the day to day work of the Department, and that it could really affect how the day to day work is done.

Commissioner Corn asked if there would be incentives or recognition of individuals to encourage others of the value of ideas. Director Byler replied that he wants to look for opportunities to do just that. The Department is currently holding all-staff meetings more frequently, and sending out a monthly newsletter to staff.

Commissioner Baumgartner thinks the Department has done a good job building a solid structure, as there continues to be substantive work to be done to lead the actions.

Commissioner Quaempts asked if this is a plan with tasks and schedules, or if it is a list of priorities. He would like to see an end point that indicates if the goals were met.

Chair Reeves agrees with Quaempts that what fits under the main categories could be very different, but they are what will define what the Department will do. She originally saw employee initiatives as a means to an end, but is coming to the view that it makes more sense in this stage of the development to highlight the high functioning workforce needed to do the work.

Commissioner Moll recognizes that many of the priorities identified are not parallel. The things that the Department deals with on an annual basis are things that are fertile ground for strategic planning. He thinks the overarching need of preparing for future water needs is the priority. The outward facing need of the strategic plan should be the priorities of the future. Understanding each other and each other's situation will help in making progress on the priorities.

Commissioner Moll asked if the document would be prepared more for the external audience, or for internal use. Director Byler responded that the strategic plan would be a very public document, whereas the work plan would be the implementation of the strategic plan.

Commissioner Moll feels strongly that the outward facing document should make the public feel like the Department is listening and understands the needs.

#### **J. Scenic Waterway Briefing**

Ken Stahr, Surface Water Section Manager, and Alex Phillips, Bikeways and Waterways Coordinator for Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, provided an update on efforts underway and next steps regarding scenic waterway designations, and responded to Commission comments and questions.

#### **K. Public Comment**

Randall Kizer, Fort Klamath and Martin Nicholson, Fort Klamath, shared their experience and perspectives on water management issues in the Klamath Basin.

Senator Dennis Linthicum, District 28, shared a map showing the rivers under regulation. He is concerned about the science being used, and where it comes from. He asked the Commission to review the numbers that the Adjudication is based on, that don't make sense from a historical perspective.

#### **L. Other Issues**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorri Cooper  
Executive Administrative Support to the Director's Office