



Oregon's Drought Readiness Council Nov. 14, 2018 Meeting Notes

Participants in the Room:

Brenda Bateman, Co-Chair, Oregon Drought Readiness Council & Water Resources Department
Ken Stahr, Chair, Water Supply Availability Committee & Water Resources Department
Erik Rau, Oregon Office of Emergency Management
Daniel Stoelb, Oregon Office of Emergency Management
Nick Yonker, Oregon Department of Forestry

On the Phone:

Kathie Dello, Oregon Change Climate Research Institute, Oregon State University
Kathy Brucker, USDA's Farm Services Agency
Heather Tugaw, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
Jennifer Flynt, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
Tom Elliott, Oregon Department of Energy

1. Welcome and Introductions

Brenda Bateman welcomed participants and everyone introduced themselves.

2. Agenda Check

No additions proposed.

3. Approval of October 2018 Meeting Notes

No notes available to review. Postpone until next month.

4. Water Conditions

Ken Stahr, Chair of Oregon's Water Supply Availability Committee, briefed participants on recent and current water conditions. See handouts for details. Highlights are summarized below.

- The forecast is for warmer and drier conditions than normal in the short- to mid-term. There's usually a higher confidence level in the temperature forecasts than in precipitation.
 - Additional Notes from Kathie Dello:
 - NOAA will come out with a media release this week saying that a weak "El Nino is here." Expect more drought to come with it.
 - Snowpack trends over the past 30 years show a loss in snowpack in the Pacific Northwest during Oct.-Nov.
 - The blob is back, but not as strong as 2014-2015.
- Percent of average streamflow in October:
 - Baker was at 12 percent of normal. The southwest corner of the state was at 17 percent.
 - October rain effects were fairly local. At the coast, flows jumped up to normal and then dropped sharply again.
 - We saw record low flows throughout the state.
- Regarding storage:
 - Willamette Basin — still drafting to augment baseflow functions for fish. Storage is very low.
 - Crooked River / Wickiup is in storage mode, but flows are low and managers are trying to avoid fish stranding.
- Regarding drought:
 - The Nov. 6 U.S. Drought Monitor shows a little more red in Klamath and across the border into California. California is finally showing a little D3, although the whole region should be D3. California isn't really

interested in interaction with the Drought Monitor. California inputs are coming from National Weather Service, which are looking at storage only. Fires are finally convincing them.

5. Consideration of County Requests for Drought Declarations

The Drought Readiness Council has no drought requests. All have been processed and signed by the Governor. In all there were 11 in 2018. They are available on WRD's new website. Click on these breadcrumbs: Programs, Climate, Drought, Governor's Exec Orders

6. Roundtable & Discussion:

Brenda Bateman: WRD Intern Julia Ostapiej will be unveiling her Drought Impact Story Map this week at the quarterly meeting of the Oregon Water Resources Commission.

Nick Yonker re fire: The situation is pretty static. The Klondike fire is still at 175,000 acres, with 500 firefighters on site. Containment date is forecast for the end of November. We need some rain! The arrival of a front keeps pushing out later and later.

Kathey Brucker: Federal agencies declared drought in 31 Oregon counties this year. Together with their contiguous counties, these designations cover all of Oregon. The designations open up opportunities for emergency loans and grants. Already taking advantage of emergency programs. On loan side, they'll have eight months to apply. The fasttrack numbers are worth using as metrics.

Heather Tugaw: DEQ can check on permittees who are in low flow areas and make sure they're aware of low streamflows.

Jennifer Flynt at DEQ: The agency may also need to send out air quality advisories regarding wildfires and wood stove burning. Even in the Portland area!

Katie Dello: OSU will be hosting the authors of the U.S. Drought Monitor soon, to figure out how the Drought Monitor can accurately reflect snow drought. We have low mountains, with watersheds lower than 6,000 feet here in Oregon. The National Drought Mitigation Center and Western Regional Climate Center plan to attend. Who else should we have in the room? Invite county emergency managers? County commissioners? Definitely the Drought Readiness Council members and Water Supply Availability Committee, National Weather Service, USDA-FSA, Congressional delegation and staff, state representatives and staff. The room maxes out at 75.

Could we get a professional facilitator?

Snacks, lunch.

What about the program...more a conversation than formal presentations.

"What is snow drought?"

Prepare handouts.

Call Erik and Brenda for help recruiting.

Also, OCCRI hasn't heard back from NASA on its grant proposal.

Recently co-hosted a meeting with the Washington Department of Ecology that went well.

OSU is putting in two grant proposals to NOAA. The first, looking at the ski calendar ties climate to the economic decisions of communities and resorts. The second looks at coastal water supply and drought on the coast.

Tom Elliott: Oregon Department of Energy's biennial report now available. There's some text on water and energy in the climate change section. Will send a link to the report out: [2018 Biennial Energy Report](#).

Ken Stahr: Fishing regulations on coastal streams are in place. We should ask ODFW for more background. Is it climate? Flow? Poor returns? Water Quality? Other?

Do members have ideas for other presentations to the Council? Drought storymap, DEQ's drought approach, ODF's Climate Forecast is still interested in presenting in February, what could we do to further professionalize the state's Drought Declaration Process?

7. Next Meeting Date

Thursday, Dec. 13. ODF will present "Thunderstruck."
Members would welcome skipping the January meeting!

8. Adjourned at 11:20