



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Water Resources Department

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Water Resources Commission

FROM: Steven Parrett, Planning Coordinator
SWP
Harmony Burrignt, Planning Coordinator

SUBJECT: Agenda Item C, November 15, 2018
Water Resources Commission Meeting

Update on Place-Based Integrated Water Resource Planning

I. Introduction

This informational report provides an update on place-based integrated water resources planning, including key lessons from the pilot phase to date. Conveners from the planning groups will provide insights on their experience and updates on their planning efforts during this agenda item.

II. Background

Place-based integrated water resources planning is a voluntary, locally initiated and led effort in which a balanced representation of water interests within a basin or watershed, work in partnership with the state to understand their instream and out-of-stream water needs, and identify solutions to meet those needs.

In 2015, consistent with Recommended Action 9.A of the Integrated Water Resources Strategy, the Legislature passed SB 266, authorizing the Department to make grants and provide technical assistance to communities interested in undertaking place-based planning. The Legislature allocated \$750,000 to be distributed to communities testing the 2015 Draft Place-Based Planning Guidelines (Guidelines).

As shown in Table 1, the Commission approved grant funding totaling \$657,000 to four place-based planning groups (see the February 2016, Agenda Item E staff report), leaving \$93,000 of the \$750,000 in reserve. In early 2018, the Commission awarded an additional total of \$50,000 to the four planning groups (see the March 2018, Agenda Item D staff report). The remainder has been and continues to be used to provide support to the planning groups.

Each of the planning groups is working through the five planning steps outlined in the Guidelines. See Attachment 1 for an overview of the planning steps and the status of each planning group.

Table 1. Place-Based Planning Group Funding Awards

Planning Area	Funding Initially Requested	Funding Awarded	Additional Dept. Funds	Total Dept. Funding Awarded
Upper Grande Ronde	\$197,000	\$197,000 (Full Fund)	\$10,000	\$207,000
Lower John Day	\$190,000	\$190,000 (Full Fund)	\$10,000	\$200,000
Mid-Coast	\$330,300	\$135,000 (Partial Fund)	\$15,000	\$150,000
Malheur Lake	\$205,500	\$135,000 (Partial Fund)	\$15,000	\$150,000
Totals	\$892,500	\$657,000	\$50,000	\$707,000

III. Key Lessons from Pilot Phase to Date

As covered in previous staff reports, numerous lessons have been learned by the Department, planning groups, and agency partners. As the June 30, 2019, sunset date for place-based planning grants approaches, four key lessons have been identified. These lessons correspond with the gaps and needs identified by the planning groups (see Attachment 2) as well as discussion between the planning groups at the second annual Collaborative Water Gathering event in Bend (see Attachment 3).

- 1. The planning process is already providing significant benefits to the participants, including agencies.*

Planning group participants have expressed that this process has allowed them to get to know new people that share an interest in water, work through differences, and identify opportunities to work together. This program has also allowed agencies to provide planning, financial, and technical assistance, and become helpful partners in proactively understanding and addressing complex water problems.

- 2. Building trust and creating a shared understanding necessary to collaboratively develop a place-based plan takes more time and funding than originally estimated.*

The planning process is time-intensive and requires investments in facilitation, process coordination, and technical analysis. Despite significant in-kind contributions and private funding, the planning groups need additional financial assistance. The Department has proposed extending the sunset on Senate Bill 266 and requested funding in its Agency Request Budget (Policy Option Package 101) to support the groups as they complete their plans and transition to implementation.

- 3. Information sharing between agencies and communities is vitally important to planning and there is opportunity for improvement.*

These planning efforts have led to increased access to agency technical information and helps communities better understand existing data gaps and agency limitations. While

the planning groups value the technical contributions that agencies have contributed so far, it has become clear that there are significant data gaps around groundwater, instream/ecological water needs, and climate change that need to be addressed. The Department has included POPs 107 and 109 in its Agency Request Budget to help strengthen the Department's technical resources, information and data for planning groups, counties, and others.

4. *The planning process and resulting plans will help inform future strategic investments by communities, the State, and others to help meet current and long-term water needs.*

The intensive and collaborative work of developing a place-based water plan is creating a deeper level of understanding and ownership locally that would not be achieved if similar plans were developed by agencies alone. The Department anticipates that the plans will contain recommended actions that are widely supported and competitive for the Department's Feasibility Study Grants and Water Project Grants and Loans programs, as well as other funding opportunities.

IV. Summary

Since the Commission authorized grants to the four planning groups in February of 2016, the planning groups have been forming community partnerships and working together to plan a better water future. The Department is invested in making this program succeed and is working with the planning groups to communicate their successes and needs, extend the sunset date, and obtain the resources needed to help these partnerships successfully develop place-based integrated water resources plans.

Two planning groups (Upper Grande Ronde and Lower John Day) are likely to request that the Commission accept their place-based plans in late-2019 and transition to plan implementation. The other two planning groups expect to have plans ready in 2020 or 2021. Staff are working with agency partners to scope out the interagency review process referenced in the Guidelines, as well as the Commission acceptance process.

Attachments:

1. Place-Based Planning Updates Handout (January-June 2018)
2. Place-Based Planning Gaps and Needs Handout
3. Executive Summary from 2018 Collaborative Water Planning Gathering in Bend

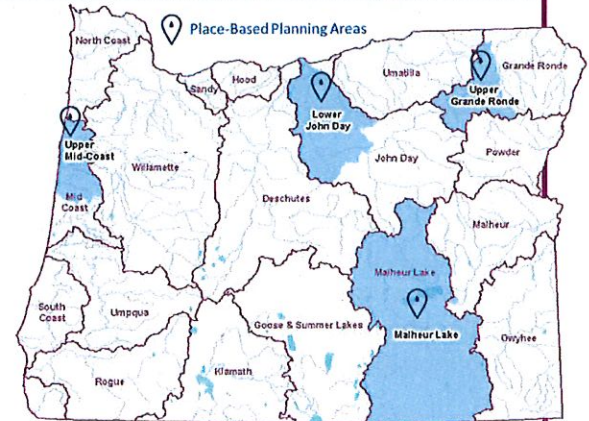
Harmony Burreight
503-986-0913

Steven Parrett
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Place-Based Planning Updates January – June 2018

Program and Place-Based Updates

- Initiated a partnership with the Climate Impacts Research Consortium (CIRC) to assist places with assessing climate impacts to supply and demand and developing adaptation strategies.
- Initiated a learning partnership with the Ford Family Foundation to support ongoing community building and peer-to-peer learning between places.
- Second annual Collaborative Water Gathering organized by Sustainable Northwest brought places together to share lessons learned and best practices in May.
- Inter-agency meetings in February, March, April, and May.
- Convener coordination calls in January and April.



Harney - Malheur Lake Basin

Conveners: Harney County Court & Watershed Council
OWRD Grant: \$150,000 Other Grants (to-date): \$163,000

- Meetings of the full Collaborative held January and April.
- Four working groups (domestic/municipal, ecological, vegetation management, agricultural [groundwater]) convened to gather and analyze water data/information – 17 meetings in total.
- Multiple presentations from content experts.
- Developing summaries of working group deliberations and findings for Steps 2/3.
- Recipient of grants from private foundations.

Planning
Step 2/3

More information: Contact Rianne BeCraft at 541-360-1695 or rienne@hcwatershedcouncil.com

WEB: www.hcwatershedcouncil.com/community-based-water-planning

Lower John Day Sub-Basin

Convener: Gilliam SWCD & Wheeler SWCD
OWRD Grant: \$200,000

- Partnership meetings held in January, February, March, April, May, and June.
- Finishing up and reviewing Step 2 State of Water Resources Report – a draft will be sent out for public review this summer.
- Continue work to assemble Step 3 information.
- Significant partner contributions to Step 2 and Step 3 through a partner RFP.
- Successful public outreach event held in April with 50+ attendees.

Planning
Step 2/3

More information: Contact Christina Kirwan at 541-384-2672 x108 or gilliamswcd@gmail.com

WEB: Under development – see the group [DropBox](#)

Upper Grande Ronde Sub-Basin

Convener: Union County
OWRD Grant: \$207,000

- [Step 2 State of Water Resources Report](#) completed and approved by consensus.
- Stakeholder meetings held in January, February, March, April, and May.
- Four working groups (agricultural, municipal, instream, and natural hazards) met multiple times to assess current and future demands.
- Information exchange convened with other places to examine methods to estimate agricultural water use.
- Step 3 report anticipated Summer 2018.

Planning
Step 3

More information: Contact Scott Hartell at 541-963-1014 or shartell@union-county.org

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

Mid-Coast Region

Conveners: City of Newport, OWRD, Seal Rock Water District, Gibson Farms
OWRD Grant: \$150,000 Other Grants (to-date): \$205,000

- [Step 2 Water Resources Report](#) completed.
- Technical assistance secured from the Army Corps of Engineers.
- Three working groups convened (instream/ecological, self-supplied and municipal/water district supplied) to assess instream and out-of-stream water needs.
- Partnership meetings held in January and May.
- Public event held in June with 30+ attendees.
- Two additional local conveners approved by consensus of the Partnership.

Planning
Step 3

More information: Contact Timothy Gross at 541-961-5313 or T.Gross@NewportOregon.gov

WEB: www.midcoastwaterpartners.com



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 assemble partners representing a balance of interests, including state agencies and work with partners to: create a governance agreement that describes how the partners will collaborate and make decisions using consensus; develop a communication and outreach strategy to ensure an open and inclusive process; 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 and synthesizing existing information, identifying any gaps in knowledge, and developing strategies to fill these gaps.

Planning Step 3

Examine current and future water needs/demands for people, the economy, and the environment – The group identifies and prioritizes current and future instream and out-of-stream water needs/demands using an integrated approach. Groups also examine water challenges and vulnerabilities, such as how climate change 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 group collaboratively identifies a long-term strategy and near-term recommended actions to address the instream and out-of-stream issues and needs identified in Steps 2-3. Consensus-based strategies and actions are captured in a plan.

Planning Step 5

Approve and implement a place-based integrated water resources plan – The group approves the plan and develops more detailed plans to implement actions. The Water Resources Commission and other agencies will have an opportunity to 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!

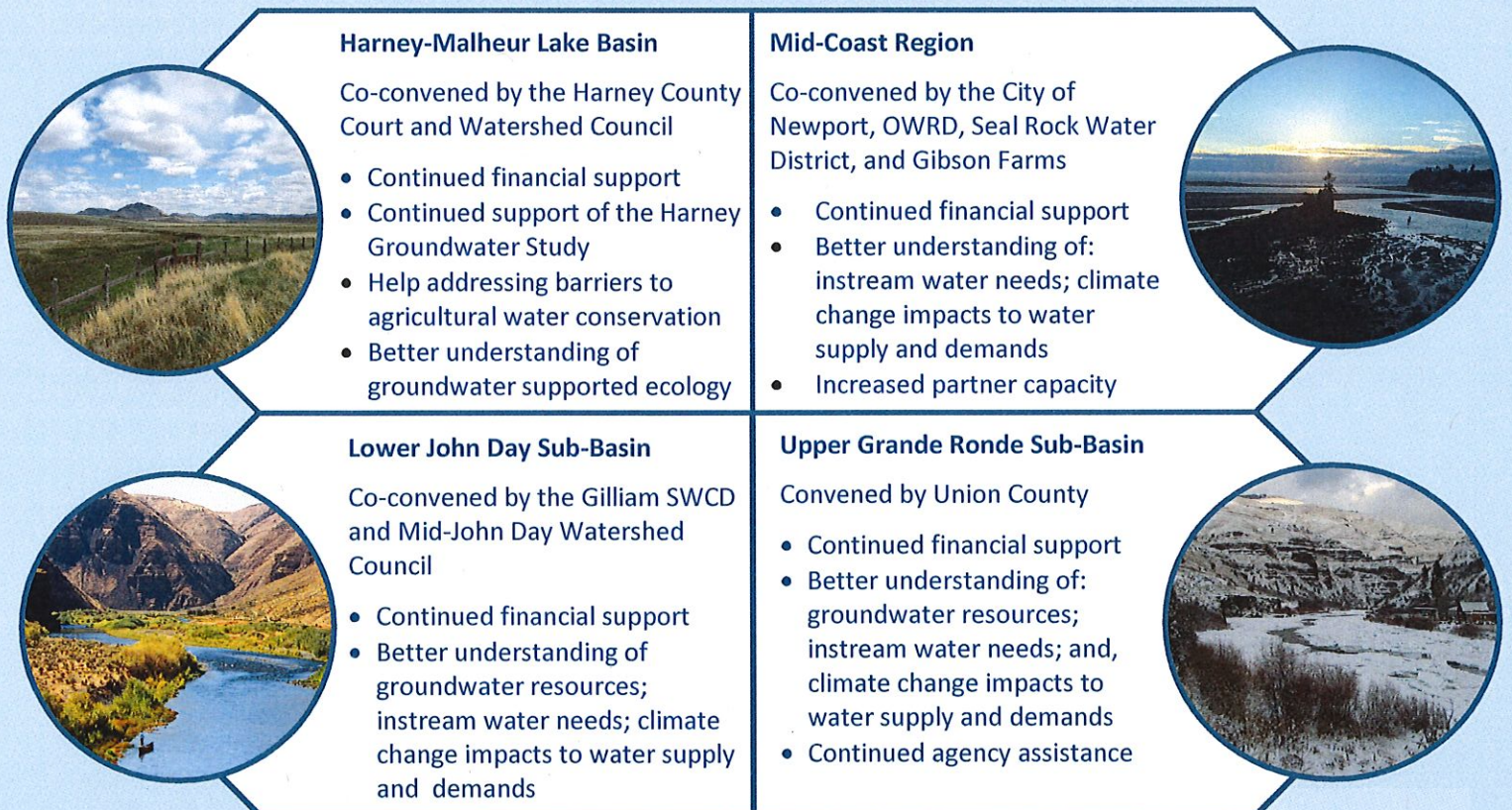
Visit the web page: <http://bit.ly/owrdplanning> Email: placebasedplanning@wrd.state.or.us
Contact Planning Coordinators Harmony Burright (503-986-0913) or Steven Parrett (503-986-0914)

Place-Based Integrated Water Resources Planning

Cooperative, community-based solutions to meet water needs for people, the environment, and the economy

We all face different water challenges but recognize that **water is a shared responsibility and we can accomplish more when we work together**. Local leaders are convening diverse water partners in four places across Oregon to better understand our instream and out-of-stream water needs and develop integrated solutions to meet those needs. We are undertaking complex, multi-year collaborative planning efforts that will facilitate implementation of local solutions and help the state make progress on multiple recommended actions in the Integrated Water Resources Strategy. Over the first two years of planning, we have increased public access to and use of technical information from agency partners, built trust and relationships between different water interests, and leveraged investments from private funders and planning partners. We have identified some critical gaps and needs that, if addressed, will help us succeed and lead the way for other places to plan for their water future using collaborative, integrated approaches.

What places need to succeed...



How can the State support these efforts?

- ✓ Continued financial assistance to pay for local coordination, facilitation, and technical expertise to sustain the process
- ✓ Investments to better understand groundwater resources, water supply under changing climate conditions, and instream/ecological water needs (e.g., water for fish and recreation)
- ✓ Increased agency capacity to provide assistance

Call local conveners to learn more about our vision, our work, and what we need to succeed:

Timothy Gross | Mid-Coast Region | 541-961-5313
 Mark Owens | Malheur Lake Basin | 541-589-2379
 Donna Beverage | Upper Grande Ronde Sub-Basin | 541-963-1001 x383
 Christina Kirwan | Lower John Day Sub-Basin | 541-384-2672 x 108





Our Water Future 2018

Water Resources Place Based Planning Annual Partner Gathering

May 9-10, 2018

Executive Summary Facilitator's Report to OWRD

The second annual gathering of the four planning projects, recipients of OWRD's first grants for integrated water resources place based planning, was held in Bend on May 9&10. The purpose was to gather planning group participants, funders and state agency staff involved in place-based water resources planning to network, learn, and prepare for taking next steps in the collaborative water planning process. To that end, a rich exchange was had. The full summary report can be found attached to this Executive Summary.

Highlights of the learning along with facilitator observations are captured in high level below:

- Generally, "success" needs to be defined in partnership with one another -- some themes about the true value of the plan which were offered at the event were trust and relationship building to bridge and keep communities 'whole' and avoid crisis; creating an alternative to litigation or other costly regulatory approaches to addressing water resource issues (thereby reducing the need for more divisive approaches that end with winners and losers); leveraging this effort into future funding opportunities for longer term planning and implementation; and creating a more informed and engaged public on water resource issues and strategies.
- The appetite for collaboration across planning groups has grown as demonstrated by the list of ideas for collaborative leveraging identified throughout the day.
 - Observation: Harness this energy to help planning groups leverage their collective goals to attain additional resource support for their efforts. This can be done initially through gatherings between the four planning groups, or the Learning Partnership that is being initiated with support from Ford Family Foundation.
- The planning groups continue to be anxious about funding and other resource supports, all recognizing that the need is greater than what is currently available for technical assistance, coordination, facilitation, and other capacities required to sustain momentum and cohesiveness.
 - Observation: The natural resource agencies, through coordinated leadership and support, can help these planning groups by offering collective resources to assure adequate technical assistance is available to the planning groups, and potentially additional funding opportunities. Technical assistance engagement on the projects will also serve to build trust and good working relationships between agency staff and other members of the communities.
- The groups would like clarity from OWRD about expectations they have for the plan: a list of prioritized projects? Integrated adaptive management plan? Some variation or mix? How can PBP groups be confident that OWRD will approve or endorse these plans? OWRD continues to refine their guidance to help the planning groups be successful, and the planning groups continue to seek assurances.



- Observation: OWRD should work with the co-conveners of each of the planning efforts to clarify the expectations for the Plan. The time is ripe as this will inform how groups should approach Steps 4 and 5 to ensure success on the ground, in communities, and with approval from the State water resources agency.