



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Water Resources Department

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Water Resources Commission

FROM: Kim Ogren, Water Resources Development Program Manager *KO*
Steven Parrett, Planning Coordinator *SP*
Harmony Burrig, Planning Coordinator *HB*

SUBJECT: Agenda Item E, June 14, 2019
Water Resources Commission Meeting

Allocation of Place-Based Integrated Water Resource Planning Funding

I. Introduction

This informational report provides an overview of how the Department intends to allocate any additional funds it may receive this biennium to support Place-Based Integrated Water Resources Planning (Place-Based Water Planning).

II. Background

Place-Based Water 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. The planning process results in the development of an integrated water resources plan.

In 2015, consistent with Recommended Action 9.A of the Statewide 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 Water Planning. The Legislature allocated \$750,000 for communities to begin to pilot the approach.

The Commission approved grant funding totaling \$657,000 to four Place-Based Water Planning groups (see the February 2016, Agenda Item E staff report), leaving \$93,000 in reserve. The Commission later 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.

As shown in Attachment 1, each of the planning groups is working through the five planning steps outlined in the 2015 Draft Place-Based Water Planning Guidelines.

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. In 2019, the Department proposed House Bill 2084, extending the sunset on Place-Based Water Planning, and requested

funding in the Governor's Recommended Budget (Policy Option Package 101) to support the groups as they complete their plans and transition to plan implementation.

III. Intention for Allocation of Funds

The planning groups have indicated a need to be able to quickly access any grant funds authorized by the Legislature after the close of session. Commission action is not required to distribute the funds. For transparency purposes on how the planning funds are expected to be allocated, the Department would like to share with the Commission its intent for allocating funding among the groups.

The Department requested \$750,000 in the Governor's Recommended Budget. If the Legislature acts to appropriate this amount, the Department intends to allocate that funding as follows:

- Harney/Malheur Lake – \$200,000 (plan development – Steps 2-5)
- Mid-Coast – \$200,000 (plan development – Steps 3-5)
- Lower John Day – \$100,000 (implementation coordination – Step 5)
- Upper Grande Ronde – \$100,000 (implementation coordination – Step 5)
- Program Evaluation and Other Support – \$150,000 (convener gatherings, training, etc.)

This intent has been shared with the planning groups. If, at the end of the legislative session the funding allocated for place-based water planning is less than \$750,000, the Department will consult with the planning groups to determine the appropriate funding amounts to be distributed to the four entities. The Department will keep the Commission apprised if any such changes are made.

IV. Summary

During the pilot phase of Place-Based Water Planning, the Department has learned that the planning process requires more time and funding than initially estimated by the four planning groups. As such, the Department sought additional funding and an extension of the sunset of the authorizing legislation. The Department intends to allocate any funding as identified in this report.

Attachments:

1. Place-Based Planning Updates Handout (June-December 2018)

Kim Ogren
503-986-0873

Harmony Burrigh
503-986-0913

Steven Parrett
503-986-0914

Place-Based Planning Updates July – December 2018

Program and Place-Based Updates

- Learning Partnership gatherings, generously supported by the Ford Family Foundation, held in July and November to support peer-to-peer learning between the different places.
- Planning Step 4 Guidance developed and delivered.
- Inter-agency meeting in October to begin Step 5 Guidance which includes inter-agency review process and criteria.
- Update to the Water Resources Commission in November.
- Technical assistance delivered by OWRD includes: water rights analyses, municipal water use/demand, report reviews, guidance on groundwater information available.
- OCCRI climate change reports developed for Eastern Oregon.



Harney - Malheur Lake Basin

Conveners: Harney County Court & Watershed Council
 OWRD Grant: \$150,000 Other Grants (to-date): \$133,625

Planning
Step 2/3

- Meetings of the full Collaborative held in July, October, and November.
- Hosted a Learning Partnership meeting.
- Four working groups gathering and discussing water data/information – 14 meetings in total.
- Multiple presentations from content experts.
- Developing summaries of working group deliberations and findings for Steps 2/3.
- Recipient of a grant from DEQ to help summarize water quality information.

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

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

Upper Grande Ronde Sub-Basin

Convenor: Union County
 OWRD Grant: \$207,000 Other Grants (to-date): \$10,000

Planning
Step 3/4

- [Step 3 Integrated Water Resources Needs and Vulnerabilities Report](#) completed.
- Stakeholder meetings held in August, September, and November.
- Field Trip to explore potential Step 4 solutions by visiting existing projects that were implemented to address water quality and quantity concerns for municipal, ecological, and agricultural users.
- Hosted a Learning Partnership meeting.

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/>

Lower John Day Sub-Basin

Conveners: Gilliam SWCD & Wheeler SWCD
 OWRD Grant: \$200,000 Other Grants (to-date): \$10,000

Planning
Step 2/3

- Partnership meetings held in July, August, September, October, and November with field tours in July and October of current and potential restoration sites.
- Step 2 State of Water Resources Report finalized in December.
- Public comment and review of Step 2 report invited from November to December. Considerable public outreach to encourage review and input.
- Step 3 subcommittees formed and meetings held in November and December.

More information: Contact Herb Winters at 541-384-2672 x110 or gilliamswcd@gmail.com

WEB: See the group [GoogleDrive Folder](#)

Mid-Coast Region

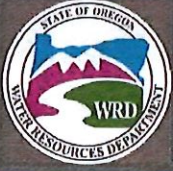
Conveners: City of Newport, OWRD, Seal Rock Water District, Gibson Farms
 OWRD Grant: \$160,000 Other Grants (to-date): \$235,000

Planning
Step 3

- Partnership meeting, hosted by the City of Yachats, held in October.
- 680 people participated in a survey by Oregon's Kitchen Table to share knowledge, values, and priorities about water.
- Regular meetings of three working groups (instream/ecological, self-supplied and municipal/water district supplied) to assess instream and out-of-stream water needs.
- Hiring a local planning coordinator was identified as a high need for the Partnership.

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)