#### **Groundwater Management Related Processes in the Harney Basin Groundwater Study Reports** Groundwater Study/ Final Best available science to inform all Science Groundwater groundwater management actions. Study Reports (OAR 690-512-0020) **Basin Program Rules** Water Resources Revised Basin Groundwater ? How can we make Authorizes regulatory actions taken by Rulemaking OWRD Commission sure that all the Program Study Team the Oregon Water Resources (OAR 690-512, ORS 183) Recommendation || groundwater-related Rules Decision Department to enforce water law in efforts understand order to achieve reasonably stable and use best Rulemaking Groundwater groundwater levels along with or in 11 available science? Advisory Study Advisory place of voluntary joint action with Committee Committee groundwater users. ? How can the Integrated Water Resources Plan ollaborative planning efforts inform the Identifies collaborative actions/ rulemaking process? Integrated State projects that can be promoted and Collaborative Water Water Inter-Agency Recognition from undertaken to help meet the water **Planning** Recommendation Resources Water Resources needs of various groundwater users/ (ORS 536.220) ? What is the Commission Plan interests in the basin (cities, rural ? What is the relationship residents, farmers, ranchers, Community-Based dlationship between between Basin ecosystems, rivers, etc.) -Water Ithe Collaborative Program Rules and and Voluntary groundwater and surface water. ? What expectations Collaborative Voluntary / Agreements? Agreements? does OWRD and the **Voluntary Groundwater Agreement** Water Resources Voluntary GW Outlines actions that can be taken Commission have for Agreements Voluntary Agreements? voluntarily by groundwater users to (ORS 537.745) achieve reasonably stable groundwater levels consistent with a Water Resources Group of Voluntary **OWRD** Voluntary Agreement approved by the Groundwater Groundwater Commission Recommendation Water Resources Commission. Agreement Decision Users **Voluntary Groundwater Management** Individual Groundwater ? What is the Other actions taken voluntarily Management Decisions relationship between achieve reasonably stable Voluntary Agreements groundwater levels. and the potential for a Groundwater District? **Groundwater District** \_∢? **KEY** Formation Blue = OWRD Led with **Key Takeaway:** In order to plan effectively, develop Input/ Community/Public Input Group of Output successful voluntary agreements, and encourage Process Group Brown = Community Led Groundwater proactive steps to improve groundwater with OWRD Support Users management, the community and groundwater Green = User Led with users need a better understanding of the science as **OWRD Support** Recommendation well as potential regulatory actions that may result Documentation from rulemaking.

#### 2020 2021 2022 2023 Pre-2020 Groundwater Study/ Science Final Ongoing data collection → Groundwater Groundwater Study Reports Study Advisory Committee Revised Basin Rulemaking Program Additional rulemaking (as Rules needed and as resources are Rulemaking available)→ Advisory Committee Collaborative Water Integrated Planning Water Community-Based Resources Water Plan Collaborative Voluntary Groundwater Agreements Voluntary Groundwater →? Group of Agreement Groundwater Users

### **Potential Timeline of Processes + Documentation**

### Key takeaways regarding timing:

- The Groundwater Study Advisory Committee is no longer meeting. Advisory Committee
  members will be working to incorporate the science into the Collaborative and other basin
  processes.
- There will be a lot happening in 2020 and 2021 and we need to figure out how to stay coordinated as we integrate the science into other basin processes and prepare for future rulemaking.
- Going forward, the Collaborative will continue to be a "hub" for information dissemination and discussion about water issues in the basin, which will include science and policy.
- The Final Groundwater Study Reports will be the best available science used as the basis for rulemaking in 2021. Data collection will continue beyond the groundwater study and will be used to improve our understanding of the groundwater system and track progress in stabilizing groundwater levels.
- OWRD is working to outline a roadmap and timeline for future rulemaking and regulatory actions. OWRD expects to have an initial proposal in spring 2020 for discussion with the community and groundwater users.
- OWRD encourages the development of voluntary groundwater agreements. OWRD is not leading the effort to develop voluntary groundwater agreements, but can provide assistance.
- The timeline for developing and approving voluntary groundwater agreements has not been outlined but an initial roadmap and timeline will be provided by the Department this spring.

# **GW Study Advisory Committee – Groundwater Processes\_2019DEC12-13MtgSummary**

# **Annotations to Process Flow Diagram (Living)**

Figure	Discussion		
Groundwater Study Advisory Committee	The Groundwater Study Advisory Committee had its final meeting on December 12-13, 2019 and is no longer being formally convened by the Oregon Water Resources Department.		
? How can we make sure that all the groundwater-related efforts understand and use best available science?	The Advisory Committee discussed the need to share the findings from the groundwater study with the broader community while the reports are undergoing peer review so that the different groundwater related efforts are using the best available information. The Advisory Committee members will play an important role in this, but the process by which this happens still needs to be discussed and clarified.		
Groundwater Study/ Science  Collaborative Water Planning	The Groundwater Study and Collaborative had been parallel processes. There is an interest in having the Collaborative be the hub for information going forward, which includes information about the science and the path forward for rulemaking/regulation. OWRD will use the Collaborative as a forum to share information about Departmental activities, both current and planned, as it relates to science and policy.		
Groundwater Study/ Science	The Advisory Committee discussed the need and desire to continue collecting data to further improve our understanding of the groundwater system and monitor the effectiveness of groundwater actions. OWRD indicated that the majority of data collection going forward will be to monitor the effectiveness of groundwater actions. While our understanding of the basin will continue to incrementally improve, we likely won't make big advances in our understanding of the hydrogeology of the basin as a whole.		
? How can the Collaborative planning efforts inform the rulemaking process?	The Collaborative would like to provide inputs to the rulemaking process.  Members of the Collaborative are seeking clarity about what conversations the Collaborative can be having in 2020 to inform rulemaking in 2021.		
Revised Basin Program Rules  Voluntary Groundwater Agreement	OWRD discussed that rulemaking/regulation and development of voluntary groundwater agreements could be parallel processes that have the potential to inform each other.		
? What is the relationship between Basin Program Rules and Voluntary Agreements?	The relationship between the Basin Program Rules and the Voluntary Groundwater Agreements needs to be explored and clarified.		
Water Resources Commission Decision	The Water Resources Commission is the decision-maker for updated Basin Program Rules, granting state recognition to the Integrated Water Resources Plan, and approving any Voluntary Groundwater Agreement(s).		
Recommendation	OWRD will develop recommendations for the Water Resources Commission to consider. These recommendations will take into account different information depending on the process.		
? What expectations does OWRD and the Water Resources Commission have for Voluntary Agreements?	Groundwater Users are seeking additional information from OWRD regarding what a Voluntary Groundwater Agreement should contain. There are no current examples of Voluntary Groundwater Agreements in the state. At present, the only guidance available is what is in statute.		
? What is the relationship between Voluntary Agreements and the potential for a Groundwater District?	The potential relationship between a Groundwater District and Voluntary groundwater agreements is not well understood. The process for forming a groundwater district is not led by OWRD.		
Brown = Community Led with OWRD Support  Green = User Led with OWRD Support  White = Independent	All of the processes in brown, green or white are not led by OWRD though OWRD will generally play a role at some point in the process and may be able to provide limited assistance.		