

**WATER RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING
SALEM - VIDEOCONFERENCE
February 18, 2021**

WRC PRESENT

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

WRD STAFF PRESENT

Tom Byler
Nirvana Cook
Doug Woodcock
Lisa Snyder
Bryn Hudson
Racquel Rancier
Deirdre Dooley
Jake Johnstone
Ivan Gall
Steve Parrett
Harmony Burrigh
Ryan Carr
Justin Iverson
Lisa Jaramillo
Alyssa Mucken
Scott Prose

OTHERS PRESENT

Ken Yates
Donna Beverage
Danyel Scott
Karen Whisler
James Baker
Dana Kurtz
Holly Mondo
Alexandria Scott
Jason Keller
Brenda Smith
Herb Winters
Kimberley Priestley
Lauren Henderson
Merissa Moeller
Rep. Mark Owens
Sunny Summers
Debra Bunch
Darold Bigger
Adam Denlinger
Elisabeth Fasser

Written material submitted at this meeting is part of the official record and is on file at the Oregon Water Resources Department, 725 Summer St. NE, Salem, Oregon 97301-1271. Agendas, minutes, PowerPoint presentations, staff reports, and audio/video files are available on the Department's [website](#).

Chair Reeves called the meeting to order and explained the process and purpose of the meeting.

<https://youtu.be/Z8XLsYPNhKQ?t=7>

A. Commissioner Comments

<https://youtu.be/Z8XLsYPNhKQ?t=104>

Commissioners reported on their recent activities, shared information, and commented on a variety of water resource topics.

B. Approval of Minutes

<https://youtu.be/Z8XLsYPNhKQ?t=1014>

The minutes of the November 19, 2020 and the December 15, 2020 meetings were presented for Commission approval. Vice Chair Corn moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Quaempts. Voting in favor of the motion: Baumgartner, Quaempts, Corn, Moll, Reeves, and Kihara. Motion passed.

C. Director's Report

<https://youtu.be/Z8XLsYPNhKQ?t=1099>

Tom Byler, Director, provided an update on Department business and late-breaking issues.

D. Update on Place-Based Integrated Water Resource Planning

<https://youtu.be/Z8XLsYPNhKQ?t=4576>

Harmony Burrig and Steve Parrett, Planning Coordinators, reviewed the process for state recognition of a completed plan and discussed recent and future programmatic activities. Representative Mark Owens, House District 60; Donna Beverage, Union County Commissioner; Brenda Smith, Harney County Watershed Council; Holly Mondo, Project Manager for the Harney Basin Water Collaborative; Herb Winters, Gilliam County Soil and Water District Manager; Adam Denlinger, Seal Rock Water District Manager; and Alexandria Scott, Project Manager for the Mid-Coast Water Partners, shared their progress and perspectives on place-based water planning.

E. Results of Audit of Hemp Operations in the Southwest Region during the 2020 Irrigation Season

<https://youtu.be/Z8XLsYPNhKQ?t=9434>

Jake Johnstone, Southwest Region Manager, and Scott Prose, Assistant Watermaster, presented findings from the 2020 irrigation season audit of hemp production sites in the Southwest Region. Lauren Henderson, Assistant Director, and Sunny Summers, Cannabis Policy Coordinator and Special Projects, from the Oregon Department of Agriculture, shared their perspective on the project.

F. Budget and Legislative Update

<https://youtu.be/Z8XLsYPNhKQ?t=12093>

Racquel Rancier, Policy Manager, Bryn Hudson, Water Policy Analyst, and Lisa Snyder, Administrative Services Division Administrator, provided an overview of the Governor's Recommended Budget and an update on the 2021 Legislative Session.

G. Walla Walla Subbasin Cooperative Basin Study

<https://youtu.be/Z8XLsYPNhKQ?t=16882>

Justin Iverson, Groundwater Section Manager, and Harmony Burright, Planning Coordinator, provided an update on the development of a Plan of Study and a Public Engagement Plan for the Walla Walla Basin Groundwater Study.

H. Update on Activities in the Klamath Basin

<https://youtu.be/Z8XLsYPNhKQ?t=19631>

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

There were no requests for public comment.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Nirvana Cook

Nirvana Cook
Commission Assistant