

**WATER RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING
SALEM - VIDEOCONFERENCE
June 3, 2021**

WRC PRESENT

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

WRD STAFF PRESENT

Tom Byler
Nirvana Cook
Kim Fritz-Ogren
Lisa Snyder
Bryn Hudson
Racquel Rancier
Deirdre Dooley
Becky Williams
Ivan Gall
Steve Parrett
Harmony Burrigh
Ben Scandella
Justin Iverson
Breeze Potter
Jake Johnstone
Ryan Andrews
Doug Woodcock
Dwight French
Mary Grainey
Sarah Henderson

OTHERS PRESENT

Thomas Bishop
April Snell
Martin Doyle
John Audley
Ken Yates
Shilah Olson
Kimberley Priestley
Malia Kupillas
Abbie Forrest
Kate Fitzpatrick
Mary Anne Cooper
Holly Mondo
Karen Moon

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/0UfZ1Ew_Dbc?t=9

A. Commissioner Comments

https://youtu.be/0UfZ1Ew_Dbc?t=100

Chair Reeves introduced and welcomed Commissioner Smitherman. Commissioners reported on their recent activities, shared information, and commented on a variety of water resource topics, including current drought conditions.

B. Approval of Minutes

https://youtu.be/0UfZ1Ew_Dbc?t=1734

The minutes of the February 18, 2021 meeting were presented for Commission approval. Commissioner Kihara moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Quaempts. Voting in favor of the motion: Baumgartner, Quaempts, Corn, Moll, Reeves, and Kihara. Abstaining: Smitherman (not on the Water Resources Commission at the time of the meeting). Motion passed.

C. Director's Report

https://youtu.be/0UfZ1Ew_Dbc?t=1806

Tom Byler, Director, provided an update on Department business and late-breaking issues. Ryan Andrews gave a drought status update during the Director's report.

D. Legislative and Budget Update

https://youtu.be/0UfZ1Ew_Dbc?t=5491

Racquel Rancier, Policy Manager, and Bryn Hudson, Water Policy Analyst, provided an update on the 2021 Legislative Session and discussed the status of Department bills and other Legislation the Department is tracking.

Public Comment

April Snell, Oregon Water Resources Congress

https://youtu.be/0UfZ1Ew_Dbc?t=8003

E. Securing Oregon's Water Future - Oregon Business Council Water Report

https://youtu.be/0UfZ1Ew_Dbc?t=8412

John Audley, John Audley Consulting, and Martin Doyle, Professor of Water Resources Management at Duke University, presented a recent Oregon Business Council report on Oregon's water challenges and opportunities.

Public Comment

April Snell, Oregon Water Resources Congress

https://youtu.be/0UfZ1Ew_Dbc?t=11898

Kimberley Priestley, WaterWatch

https://youtu.be/0UfZ1Ew_Dbc?t=12283

Mary Anne Cooper, Oregon Farm Bureau

https://youtu.be/0UfZ1Ew_Dbc?t=12964

F. Feasibility Study Grants Funding Recommendations

https://youtu.be/0UfZ1Ew_Dbc?t=14094

Kim Fritz-Ogren, Water Resources Development Program Manager, and Becky Williams, Grant Program Coordinator, presented the funding recommendations for the 2020-21 funding cycle of Feasibility Study Grants.

Vice Chair Corn commended staff on the report, and noted he was pleased with the geographic diversity of the applicants and that small grants were able to be competitive in the process. Commissioner Baumgartner inquired about the Upper John Day ASR Study in terms of approval of their resubmittal. Commissioner Moll commented on the application scoring process. Commissioner Kihara moved to approve the funding recommendations for the 2020-21 funding cycle, seconded by Vice Chair Corn. Voting in favor of the motion: Baumgartner, Quaempts, Corn, Moll, Reeves, Smitherman, and Kihara. Motion passed.

G. State Recognition of Place-Based Integrated Water Resources Plans

https://youtu.be/0UfZ1Ew_Dbc?t=16131

Steve Parrett and Harmony Burreight, Planning Coordinators, provided background information on the purpose and value of state-recognition of a Place-Based Integrated Water Resources Plan to inform a discussion among Commissioners and prepare the state to support plan implementation. Commissioners responded to three questions posed to them at the end of the presentation.

H. Groundwater Resource Concerns Assessment – 2021

https://youtu.be/0UfZ1Ew_Dbc?t=19659

Justin Iverson, Groundwater Section Manager, and Ben Scandella, Groundwater Data Chief, presented a recent statewide evaluation of groundwater resource concerns. Commissioner Moll commented on the value of coordination and communication of OWRD with other entities. Commissioner Baumgartner inquired about the use of this report in terms of prioritization of future groundwater basin studies, and as a tool for broader communication on groundwater resource concerns.

I. Preview of Upcoming Rulemakings

https://youtu.be/0UfZ1Ew_Dbc?t=23878

Breeze Potter, Water Policy Analyst and Rules Coordinator, presented a preview of four upcoming rulemakings. Director Byler recognized Mary Grainey for 40 years of state service and highlighted her career achievements.

Public Comment

April Snell, Oregon Water Resources Congress

https://youtu.be/0UfZ1Ew_Dbc?t=25588

There were no further requests for public comment.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Nirvana Cook

Nirvana Cook, Commission Assistant