

Water Resources Department

North Mall Office Building 725 Summer St NE, Suite A Salem, OR 97301 Phone (503) 986-0900 Fax (503) 986-0904 www.Oregon.gov/OWRD

MEMORANDUM

TO: Water Resources Commission

FROM: Thomas M. Byler, Director

SUBJECT: Agenda Item I, December 3, 2021

Water Resources Commission Meeting

Framework for Conversations About Oregon's Water Future

The 2021 Legislative Session resulted in an unprecedented investment in water and included many new tasks and responsibilities for the Department and others. As a result, the 2021-2023 biennium will be very busy with numerous water-related efforts being implemented roughly over the same period.

In this informational item Tom Byler, Director, will brief the Commission on a one-page framework document (attachment 1) that identifies key water conversations and actions that will occur this biennium that are related to the Integrated Water Resources Strategy and 100-Year Water Vision. The purpose of the document is to help the public better understand some of the important water work that will be undertaken in the next year and a half.

Director Byler will be joined by State Representative Ken Helm, Chair of the House Water Policy Committee, and Representatives Jeff Reardon and Mark Owens, who serve as Vice Chairs on the Committee. The three Legislators played a significant leadership role on water issues during the 2021 legislative session.

Attachments:

1. Framework for Oregon Water Conversations

...support these objectives...

... and inform

IWRS Update (HB5006 funding to WRD for update)

State-Supported Regional Water Planning & Mgmt Table (HB5006 funding to WRD/OC to convene table)

> Value of Oregon Water Business Case (HB5006 funding to WRD for business case)

Water Data Framework (HB5006 funding to DEQ for data framework)

Evaluation of Place-Based Planning (ongoing WRD assessment)

Initial Business Oregon Infrastructure Inventory (BizOR statewide inventory)

Community engagement in water project support (HB 3293 Design and Implementation)

ocally led capacity

Tribal engagement (SB5545 funding to WRD to partner with tribes)

Equitable Water Access: community leadership development (SB5545 funding to WRD to support BIPOC and other impacted communities)

Community Water Needs Forums in some counties (county led and supported)

Place-based, Regional and other locally determined community conversations

Data & information for effective water decision-making at local, regional and state levels.

Increased recognition of the importance of investing in and managing water.

Community leaders representing the diversity of Oregon engaged in strategic water planning and management in their communities.

Support continued collaborative efforts of water champions representing diverse interests in Oregon water.

Effective state-supported regional governance system and framework for planning and implementation, strategic prioritization, and investments in water.

- 2023 Legislative Session
- 2022-2027 **Integrated Water** Resources Strategy
- Priorities for Oregon's leaders

State-led engagement