

**From:** [COOK Nirvana \\* WRD](#)  
**To:** [Kimberley Priestley](#)  
**Cc:** [Caylin Barter](#); [Karen Lewotsky](#); [Amelia Porterfield](#); [Chrysten Rivard](#); [COOK Nirvana \\* WRD](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Public Comment, Agenda Item I  
**Date:** Thursday, December 2, 2021 2:39:02 PM  
**Attachments:** [WSC-WW-TU-TNC-OEC Feedback on 10-18-2021 Draft Framework for Water Future Conversations 11-1-2021.docx.pdf](#)

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Thank you Kimberley...I am acknowledging receipt of this written public comment for the Water Resources Commission meeting, agenda item I.

*Nirvana*

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**From:** Kimberley Priestley <kjp@waterwatch.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 2, 2021 2:16 PM  
**To:** COOK Nirvana \* WRD <Nirvana.COOK@water.oregon.gov>  
**Cc:** Caylin Barter <cbarter@wildsalmoncenter.org>; Karen Lewotsky <karenl@oeconline.org>; Amelia Porterfield <a.m.porterfield@tnc.org>; Chrysten Rivard <Chrysten.Rivard@tu.org>  
**Subject:** Public Comment, Agenda Item I

Dear Nirvana,

Attached and below please find public comment on Agenda Item I from Wild Salmon Center, Trout Unlimited, Oregon Environmental Council, the Nature Conservancy and WaterWatch of Oregon on Agenda Item I. The attached letter and the email below were sent previously to Director Byler, Rep Helm, Rep Reardon and Rep Owens. We are offering for the Commission's consideration these ideas for strengthening the IWRS connections as feedback is incorporated into subsequent drafts.

Thank you, Kimberley

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**From:** [cbarter@wildsalmoncenter.org](mailto:cbarter@wildsalmoncenter.org) <[cbarter@wildsalmoncenter.org](mailto:cbarter@wildsalmoncenter.org)>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 1, 2021 10:11 AM  
**To:** BYLER Thomas M \* WRD <[Thomas.M.Byler@oregon.gov](mailto:Thomas.M.Byler@oregon.gov)>; 'Rep Helm' <[Rep.KenHelm@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:Rep.KenHelm@oregonlegislature.gov)>; 'Rep Owens' <[Rep.MarkOwens@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:Rep.MarkOwens@oregonlegislature.gov)>; 'Rep Reardon' <[Rep.JeffReardon@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:Rep.JeffReardon@oregonlegislature.gov)>  
**Cc:** 'COOK Nirvana \* WRD' <[Nirvana.Cook@oregon.gov](mailto:Nirvana.Cook@oregon.gov)>; Karen Lewotsky <[karenl@oeconline.org](mailto:karenl@oeconline.org)>; Amelia Porterfield <[a.m.porterfield@tnc.org](mailto:a.m.porterfield@tnc.org)>; Zach Freed <[zach.freed@tnc.org](mailto:zach.freed@tnc.org)>; Chrysten Rivard <[Chrysten.Rivard@tu.org](mailto:Chrysten.Rivard@tu.org)>; Kimberley Priestley <[kjp@waterwatch.org](mailto:kjp@waterwatch.org)>; Jack Dempsey <[jack@dempseypublicaffairs.com](mailto:jack@dempseypublicaffairs.com)>; Ryan Fisher <[ryan@nwpublicaffairs.com](mailto:ryan@nwpublicaffairs.com)>; Caylin Barter <[cbarter@wildsalmoncenter.org](mailto:cbarter@wildsalmoncenter.org)>  
**Subject:** Feedback of Conservation Groups on 2021-23 Water Future Conversations Framework

Dear Director Byler and Representatives Helm, Owens, and Reardon,

Oregon Environmental Council, The Nature Conservancy, Trout Unlimited, WaterWatch, and Wild Salmon Center thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the draft framework for

implementing budget priorities from the 2021 Legislative Session. We appreciate your collective hard work on this – from pushing to get these processes passed and funded, to thinking extensively through how the work will progress over the biennium. We also appreciate you walking through the framework with us and explaining the logic and intent for how it will guide the many next steps.

Understanding that some of those steps are already or will soon be underway, we offer the attached collective feedback to enhance clarity and align the proposed framework with existing policy. We are keeping our feedback concise, as you requested, while also explaining why these revisions are needed to achieve consistency with the IWRS and 2021 legislation.

We look forward to working together to advance this important work in the years ahead and building on the framework you have laid out.

Best regards,  
WSC, WW, TU, TNC & OEC

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Oregon  
Environmental  
Council  
It's Your Oregon

November 1, 2021

Dear Director Byler and Representatives Helm, Owens, and Reardon,

Thank you for taking the time to share the draft “Water Future Conversations” document with our five conservation groups. We appreciate the explanation of the goals and vision underlying this document and hearing the plan for how it will be used. We offer the following collective feedback.

Our organizations have consistently advocated for agency budgets, staff positions and policy priorities within OWRD, ODFW, and DEQ that would help the state better manage our water resources and build upon the Integrated Water Resources Strategy (IWRS). Given our engagement in crafting and securing the incredibly meaningful water investments in 2021-23, we wish to highlight several concerns with and recommendations for the Water Future Conversations document as currently drafted:

- The document appears to prioritize new objectives not found in legislation, budget, or IWRS language. We recommend the document be reoriented to clearly support the well-vetted objectives and guiding principles of the IWRS.
- The document pathway appears to give the outcomes of a variety of unnamed community forums (in yellow) the same weight as state-led processes. While we fully support the inclusion of community voices in this proposed framework, we recommend the document be revised to remove this conflict with the IWRS guiding principle related to Facilitation by the State.
- The document should include clear provisions for open, transparent public involvement, to be consistent with the IWRS guiding principle related to Public Process.

To better reflect the intent of the 2021 budget and longstanding statutory directives meant to strengthen and update the IWRS, we offer the following proposed amendments:

- Nest the entire graphic inside an IWRS frame and state its overarching goal, which reads:  
**“A framework for improving our understanding of Oregon’s water resources and meeting our instream and out-of-stream needs, including water quantity, water quality, and ecosystem needs for generations to come.”**
- Modify the title of the section labeled “Locally led engagement” (in yellow) to “Place Based Engagement” and collapse the two rows in yellow into one that reads:  
**“Place-based, Regional and other community water conversations”**
- Collapse the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> objectives (in orange) regarding community involvement into one objective that reflects the 2017 IWRS’s guiding principle on Collaboration, which reads:  
**“Support formation of regional, coordinated and collaborative partnerships that include representatives of all levels of government, private and non-profit sections, tribes, stakeholders and the public. Collaborate in ways that help agencies cut across silos.”**
- Modify the 5<sup>th</sup> objective (in orange) regarding regional management to reflect the HB 5006 budget note that guides this discussion, which reads in part:  
**“Consider regional water management opportunities that build on the 100 Year Water Vision and further the goals of the Integrated Water Resources Strategy.”**

We offer these changes in the spirit of aligning the Water Future Conversations framework with the IWRS, as well as the 2021-2023 budget and statutory directives. We would welcome a follow-up meeting for further discussion. We remain committed to active engagement in the work necessary to achieve a sustainable water future for Oregon, and are eager to partner with you and other relevant agency leadership as a detailed plan is developed for the implementation of this important effort.