
Date: July 5, 2019

To: Environmental Quality Commission

From: Richard Whitman, Director

Subject: Agenda item L, Informational item: Place-based planning for Oregon's water needs
July 18-19, 2019, EQC meeting

Why this is important DEQ often works with other state agencies and local partners to implement the standards, policies and rules of the commission. One example of this collaborative partnership is DEQ involvement in the Integrated Water Resource Strategy, a multi-agency effort to protect Oregon's water quantity, quality and availability. DEQ will present on recent place-based planning efforts undertaken in several Oregon communities and provide an opportunity for planning project participants to reflect on their involvement and next steps for their communities and the waters of Oregon.

Oregon's Integrated Water Resource Strategy Oregon's Integrated Water Resource Strategy was finalized in 2012, as directed in House Bill 3368 (2009). The Water Resources Department, the lead agency for the Strategy, worked with natural resource state agencies, including DEQ, to evaluate the state's instream and out-of-stream water needs for quantity, quality and ecosystem functions. Through the development of the Strategy, the agencies worked with their commissions or board and a policy advisory group to evaluate the varied needs of Oregon's communities related to its water. The Strategy identified four key objectives, a set of critical information needs and a list of identified recommendations for action, to meet these needs for the state. One of these recommendations was to use a place-based approach to integrated water resources planning.

Place-based water planning grants program In 2015, the Oregon Legislature allocated \$750,000 to allow the Oregon Water Resources Department to provide grants to communities engaged in place-based water planning. This funding enabled the Water Resources Department to provide grants to four communities that are working with state agencies to test this new approach following a set of guidelines. The five steps in the planning process include establishing a collaborative, consensus-based process, understanding current water conditions, examining current and future water needs, developing integrated solutions, and adopting and implementing a plan. DEQ staff have been involved in each of the four planning groups, mostly for technical assistance and data support.

Union County Commissioner Donna Beverage served as Co-Convener of Upper Grand Ronde Place-Based Planning group, and will present on the Strategy and one of these projects, along with DEQ and WRD staff.

**EQC
involvement and
next steps**

There is no commission action associated with this informational item. DEQ and Water Resources Department staff would like to have an opportunity to provide a more detailed presentation about the place-based planning program to the EQC at a future meeting.

The Upper Grand Ronde and Lower John Day planning groups anticipate moving from planning to implementation in 2020. The Mid-Coast planning group expects to have a plan in 2021 and the Harney planning group expects to have a plan in 2023. The planning groups will bring their plans before the Water Resources Commission for recognition and may elect to bring their plans before the EQC for recognition.

**Supporting
materials**

Attachment A: Place-based project updates and status handout (2018)

Link 1: Oregon Integrated Water Resource Strategy (2017 update):
https://www.oregon.gov/OWRD/wrdpublications1/2017_IWRS_Final.pdf

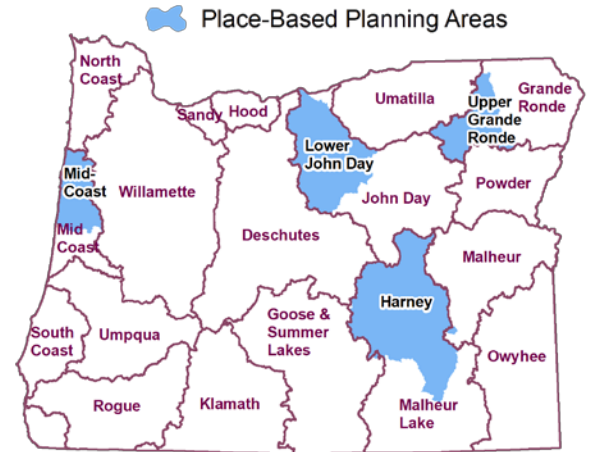
Link 2: 2012 IWRS Executive Summary:
https://www.oregon.gov/owrd/wrdpublications1/IWRS_Executive_Summary_Final_2012.pdf

Report prepared by Roxann Nayar
Water Quality Division Integrated Water Resource Specialist

Place-Based Planning Updates July – December 2018

Program and Place-Based Updates

- Learning Partnership gatherings, generously supported by the Ford Family Foundation, held in July and November to support peer-to-peer learning between the different places.
- Planning Step 4 Guidance developed and delivered.
- Inter-agency meeting in October to begin Step 5 Guidance which includes inter-agency review process and criteria.
- Update to the Water Resources Commission in November.
- Technical assistance delivered by OWRD includes: water rights analyses, municipal water use/demand, report reviews, guidance on groundwater information available.
- OCCRI climate change reports developed for Eastern Oregon.



Harney - Malheur Lake Basin

Conveners: Harney County Court & Watershed Council
 OWRD Grant: \$150,000 Other Grants (to-date): \$133,625

- Meetings of the full Collaborative held in July, October, and November.
- Hosted a Learning Partnership meeting.
- Four working groups gathering and discussing water data/information – 14 meetings in total.
- Multiple presentations from content experts.
- Developing summaries of working group deliberations and findings for Steps 2/3.
- Recipient of a grant from DEQ to help summarize water quality information.

More information: Contact Rianne BeCraft at 541-360-1695 or rianne@hcwatershedcouncil.com

WEB: www.hcwatershedcouncil.com/community-based-water-planning

Planning
Step 2/3

Upper Grande Ronde Sub-Basin

Convener: Union County
 OWRD Grant: \$207,000 Other Grants (to-date): \$10,000

- [Step 3 Integrated Water Resources Needs and Vulnerabilities Report](#) completed.
- Stakeholder meetings held in August, September, and November.
- Field Trip to explore potential Step 4 solutions by visiting existing projects that were implemented to address water quality and quantity concerns for municipal, ecological, and agricultural users.
- Hosted a Learning Partnership meeting.

More information: Contact Scott Hartell at 541-963-1014 or shartell@union-county.org

WEB: <http://union-county.org/planning/place-based-integrated-water-resources-planning/>

Planning
Step 3/4

Lower John Day Sub-Basin

Convener: Gilliam SWCD & Wheeler SWCD
 OWRD Grant: \$200,000 Other Grants (to-date): \$10,000

- Partnership meetings held in July, August, September, October, and November with field tours in July and October of current and potential restoration sites.
- Step 2 State of Water Resources Report finalized in December.
- Public comment and review of Step 2 report invited from November to December. Considerable public outreach to encourage review and input.
- Step 3 subcommittees formed and meetings held in November and December.

More information: Contact Herb Winters at 541-384-2672 x110 or gilliamswcd@gmail.com

WEB: See the group [GoogleDrive Folder](#)

Planning
Step 2/3

Mid-Coast Region

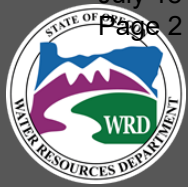
Conveners: City of Newport, OWRD, Seal Rock Water District, Gibson Farms
 OWRD Grant: \$150,000 Other Grants (to-date): \$235,000

- Partnership meeting, hosted by the City of Yachats, held in October.
- 680 people participated in a survey by Oregon's Kitchen Table to share knowledge, values, and priorities about water.
- Regular meetings of three working groups (instream/ecological, self-supplied and municipal/water district supplied) to assess instream and out-of-stream water needs.
- Hiring a local planning coordinator was identified as a high need for the Partnership.

More information: Contact Timothy Gross at 541-961-5313 or T.Gross@NewportOregon.gov

WEB: www.midcoastwaterpartners.com

Planning
Step 3



Place-Based Integrated Water Resources Planning



Helping Oregon communities plan for their current and future water needs

Place-based planning is one of the recommended actions from the 2012 Integrated Water Resources Strategy (IWRS). It provides an opportunity for communities to work collaboratively, in partnership with the state, to understand their water resources challenges and needs, and identify potential solutions to meet those needs. The place-based planning [draft guidelines](#) describe the five steps and key planning principles central to any place-based planning effort.

Planning Step 1

Build a collaborative and inclusive process – Conveners assemble partners representing a balance of interests, including state agencies and work with partners to: create a governance agreement that describes how the partners will collaborate and make decisions using consensus; develop a communication and outreach strategy to ensure an open and inclusive process; and develop a work plan outlining how they will execute Planning Steps 2-5.

Planning Step 2

Gather information to understand current water resources and identify knowledge gaps – The planning group assesses and describes water resources in the basin, looking at water quantity, quality, and ecology. This effort includes collecting and synthesizing existing information, identifying any gaps in knowledge, and developing strategies to fill these gaps.

Planning Step 3

Examine current and future water needs/demands for people, the economy, and the environment – The group identifies and prioritizes current and future instream and out-of-stream water needs/demands using an integrated approach. Groups also examine water challenges and vulnerabilities, such as how climate change may affect water resources and the ability to meet water needs.

Planning Step 4

Identify and prioritize strategic, integrated solutions to meet multiple water needs – The group collaboratively identifies a long-term strategy and near-term recommended actions to address the instream and out-of-stream issues and needs identified in Steps 2-3. Consensus-based strategies and actions are captured in a plan.

Planning Step 5

Approve and implement a place-based integrated water resources plan – The group approves the plan and develops more detailed plans to implement actions. The Water Resources Commission and other agencies will have an opportunity to formally accept the plan, based on whether it is consistent with the IWRS, the guidelines, and state water policy.

Key Planning Principles

- Locally-initiated and led collaborative effort
- Voluntary, non-regulatory process
- Includes a balanced representation of water interests
- Conducted in partnership with the state
- Addresses instream and out-of-stream needs
- Looks at water quantity, quality and ecosystem needs in an integrated approach
- Creates an open and transparent process that fosters public participation
- Builds on and integrates existing studies and plans
- Does not infringe on existing water rights
- Adheres to IWRS principles and state laws

Learn More!

Visit the web page: <http://bit.ly/owrdplanning> Email: placebasedplanning@wrd.state.or.us
Contact Planning Coordinators Harmony Burrig (503-986-0913) or Steven Parrett (503-986-0914)