

Upper Grande Ronde River Watershed Partnership
Place-Based Integrated Water Resource Planning
Stakeholder Meeting

Meeting Minutes

May 15, 2019

OSU Ag Extension Office

Island City, OR

ATTENDANCE: Rodger Huffman, Jesse Steele, Tim Bailey, Tim Wallender, Larry Larson, Shad Hattan, Jed Hassinger, Donna Beverage, Curt Ricker, Bill Gamble, Kathleen Cathey, Jessica Keys, Jim Webster, Winston Morton, Tony Malmberg, Kyle Carpenter, Anton Chiono, Margaret Matter, Susie Snyder, Brett Rudd, Dana Kurtz.

I. Welcome

Donna opened the meeting and introductions took place with participants sharing their concerns about groundwater: wells running dry, water rights, potential situation with drawdowns, reduction in recreation options, impact on streams and wells, cattle needs, adequate recharge, a decrease in ground water of any amount should be concerning, and are we prepared to take care of people without sufficient groundwater?

- a. Dana provided a summary of the last meeting, which included brainstorming surface water strategies. Everyone is encouraged to submit additional ideas. Minutes from previous meetings were offered for review and no changes were suggested.
 - i. The current planning process seems to be going well, as less changes have been suggested. Feedback from last meeting included suggestions to capture all ideas and be accepting of other ideas for the purpose of brainstorming.
 - ii. Dana reviewed the project timeline and meeting guidelines. Donna reminded everyone that the governance agreement is available for everyone to review; signing is needed in order to vote, in addition to attending two of the four most recent meetings.

II. Step 4 Issues and Strategy Brainstorm

- a. Dana recapped Sub8 issues.
- b. Strategies
 - i. Storage/Recharge
 - Recharge of alluvial and basalt wells
 - Aquifer storage and recovery in confined alluvial aquifers
 - Capture snowpack for storage, measurements, and use
 - Ladd Marsh storage opportunities
 - Infiltration galleries
 - Pump floodwater into aquifer and use later
 - Aboveground storage
 - Reroute stream flows during high water for storage and recharge

- ii. Research/Data Collection
 - Spatially distributed and long-term data collection
 - Systematic sampling of groundwater wells
 - Community Engagement
 - Characterize and Understand Groundwater Resource (rate of change, flow direction)
 - Collect information from users to determine which basins have issues
 - Verify accuracy through Hampton and Brown geology study
 - Study paired forest plots (canopy reduction to increase water storage)
- iii. Land Management
 - Support collaborative forest partnership projects
 - Road management (recharge groundwater from runoff)
 - Modify forest canopy for water storage
 - Fire management
- iv. Habitat Restoration
 - Restore watershed functions via floodplain connectivity & stream restoration
- v. Infrastructure/Conservation
 - Capture municipal rooftop drain water; pond and use
 - Reroute stormwater for storage
 - Municipal conservation efforts – low flow shower heads and toilets, reflected in building codes
 - County based conservation program with State support
 - Public outreach for unincorporated users
 - Evaluate effectiveness of WMCP conservation efforts
 - Plan for industrial reuse if a large industry relocates to watershed
 - More efficient summer delivery system, but run water through leaky ditches in the winter to recharge groundwater (water ditched and sloughs in the winter, minimal water flows)
- vi. Policy Actions
 - Groundwater mitigation approach
 - Define confined versus unconfined aquifers
 - Consider OTEC programs that offset conservation costs
 - Incentivize conservation

III. Conclusion

a. Next meeting is June 12, 2019 @4pm at the OSU Extension Office

b. Other Comments

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cinda Johnston
Union County Planning Department Specialist