

Upper Grande Ronde River Watershed Partnership
Place-Based Integrated Water Resource Planning
Stakeholder Meeting No. 38

Meeting Minutes

March 17, 2021

Misener Room & Conference Call

ATTENDANCE: Leonard Flint, Kyle Carpenter, Cheryl Murchison, Bill Gamble, Jim Webster, Jesse Steele, Joe Lemanski, Jessica Keys, Susanne Snyder, Curt Howell, Matt Insko, Larry Larson, Anton Chiono, Kathleen Cathey, Curt Ricker, Steve Parrett, Jed Hassinger, Rodger Huffman, Donna Beverage, and Dana Kurtz.

I. WELCOME

a. Introductions

Donna opened the meeting and asked for feedback about the Step 5 report. Many felt it was really well done and some areas could use some minor refinement and/or detail. Some areas could be more concise; the concern is its readability while maintaining context in a comprehensive report. It also should be easy to update down the road. More time may be needed to talk over bigger issues.

b. Meeting Guidelines

Dana reviewed guidelines for virtual meetings: state your name when speaking, speak up, mute your microphone when not talking, and use chat function to share ideas/comments when others are speaking.

c. Recap of February 10, 2021 Stakeholder meeting

Since the last meeting, work groups met individually to formulate action plans. The cities are scheduled to meet together as a group to potentially be on the County's Natural Hazards plan, making them eligible for flood funding. The Infrastructure subgroup will meet with the Bureau of Reclamation to review the existing flood model. Other groups are also progressing.

Dana reviewed the updated timeline:

March 17	Discuss and approve major revisions to Plan
March 31	Finalize Step 5
April 14	Approve Step 5 (30-90 day agency review)
May 12	Wait/work implementation
June 9	Wait/ work on implementation - Presentation to OWRD (Presentation of final plan to OWRD Commission in September)
June 30	Grant extension expires

Matt requested to change meeting times to 6:30 p.m.; no one opposed the change. Rodger suggested that more thought be given to scheduling the next meeting too soon; is that enough time to make the changes and have time to review them? Dana agreed that March 31 may be too soon for everyone to review the new changes if they're released on March 24. Anton asked if it was necessary to rush the next meeting; time should be given to do it right. Dana noted that one reason for scheduling additional meetings now is because June and July attendance has been

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low in the past. The group worked through scheduling conflicts and it was determined that the next meetings will start at 6:30 p.m. on April 7, April 20 (Tuesday), and May 12.

d. Feasibility Study Update

The feasibility study grant application was recommended for funding by the Oregon Water resources and will be voted on by the Oregon Water Resources Commission on June 4. This would study built storage and address instream flow studies on Catherine Creek and the upper Grande Ronde River. It would provide \$230,000 for the project, including funds from OWRD, CTUIR, ODF&W and OWEB. The review team comments were that the application was exceptionally well prepared, had comprehensive information on all study aspects, and was identified through the integrated Place-Based planning process. Steve noted that this was a big win for the partnership; the application was the strongest amongst the pool of applicants.

II. Step 5 Plan

a. Review Step 5 plan and revisions

Dana reviewed Step 5 guidance, the template plan, and review criteria. This group will continue with quarterly Stakeholder meetings with updates from subgroups.

Steve said the review team is fairly subjective and includes staff from OWRD, ODF&W, DEQ, and ODA. This is a pilot project so it's the first time they are applying criteria to the plan, too. Feedback will be in the spirit of being helpful to improve the plan if necessary. The review team may have a few comments to address and then the planning group will adopt a final version.

Dana said that after feedback, the thought is to remove the policy brief from the beginning of the report and then potentially revisit at a later time. No one was opposed to that suggestion.

Dana explained that in regards to comments about readability and shortening the report, feedback was received to update the end section of Step 5 by replacing it with a spreadsheet. One idea is to provide more detailed information about each strategy on its own page with a summary of each one; this would eliminate the overall table. Since this report is supposed to stand on its own without referencing Steps 1-4, each watershed still needs to be addressed individually. Feedback about this change was that it is a lot of information to take in and that having one page per strategy would help in being able to look at one area at a time.

III. Conclusion

- a. Next meetings are on April 7, 2021 and April 20, 2021 (6:30 -8:30pm).
April 20 is a Tuesday!

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b. Other Comments

Steve noted that some partners who were signatories to the governance agreement have missed a recent meeting; outreach may be needed to ensure that they are caught up and will have the right to vote.

Steve reminded the group that the public can comment on the OWRD budget at the March 22 Legislature session. It is important for the Legislature to hear from communities and what is important to them.

Anton added that the Legislature is also considering a Bill for additional funding for Place-based Water Planning.

Leonard added that he has heard of a potential funding source that is coming directly to cities, some of which must be used specifically for stored water and infrastructure.

Steve informed the group that OWRD has been hosting a series of virtual conversations. The next four sessions focus on the transition from planning to implementation. Sessions are on the second Tuesday of every month at noon.

Donna adjourned the meeting at 6:18 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cinda Johnston
Union County Planning Department Specialist