



Harney County Watershed Council

Meeting Summary – Tuesday, July 16, 2024

5:30-7:30pm meeting by Zoom

Burns, Oregon

**5:30-7:30pm Convene Watershed Council monthly meeting
Review agenda, Introductions, appoint time-keeper**

Continuing project updates/Action Items

1. Strategic Plan – review updates. (30 minutes – action item)

The update to the Strategic plan is nearly complete and the budget piece is in progress. Projections for the next couple of years are yet to be completed. The Plan should be ready for review and acceptance soon.

2. Community Based Water Planning –(10 minutes – informational)

Next meeting: July 23, 2024 - ZOOM ONLY

a. Full collaborative

The Collaborative reached consensus on the Strategies for the Surface Water Plan at the June meeting. A timeline was shared to complete writing the Surface Water Plan by the end of the year.

b. Coordinating Committee Call update- Brandon

The Coordinating Committee has started discussions on what an “implementation team” may look like. The CC is also starting to review chapters of the Surface Water Plan as the project manager and plan writer complete their first drafts. The CC will have two weeks to review and send comments, then will share with the full collaborative. Need to start having discussions on what the implementation team will look like and what kind of funding will be needed to support implementing the plan.

3. Division 512 Rules Committee update

a. Review of June 27 meeting

i. Review of USGS Groundwater Model

A number of members of the RAC and the public attended the presentation. USGS explained about the data and information that was used to develop the model. They talked about what the model can and can't do, and how it can assist discussions between the RAC and OWRD in developing the rules.

ii. Rules committee – new format – discussion groups

The Rules Committee met in the afternoon. A new process for moving forward was presented. The Department had a handout which explained more about how they were expecting the RAC members to interact with Department staff. Some items the RAC members will have influence to give in put and possibly change, some items will be presented as information only. It was also noted that between RAC meetings there will be opportunities for “discussion groups” that will be led by Oregon Consensus and HDP to help RAC members and the public to work through the information presented with regards to changing the rules. Discussion group meetings will be held on Monday July 22, 29 and August 5th from 10am to 11:30am at the Community Center meeting room. Discussion continued on setting up boundaries for a Serious Water Management Area (SWAMPA), and for a Classification designation. Discussion revolved around using the



Harney County Watershed Council

Greater Harney Valley Area of Concern as the boundary for these to designations, or including the portion of the Silvies HUC that extends into Grant County.

b. Next RAC meeting August 13.

Additional RAC meetings have been set for August 13, October 2, November 13, December 18,, 2024 and January 22, 2025.

4. Membership

5. Project updates

a. Five Mile Dam

A water user meeting was held on June 24 at the Community Center. Several water users were present and gave input and asked questions of the contractor. There were concerns about fish presence and the need for fish passage. The questions was asked and it is thought that the dam was installed sometime between 1915 and 1927. There was discussion on when boards were usually put in and taken out. Concerns were discussed. The Coordinator and the Contractor visited the bridge after the meeting and notes and measurements were taken. The contractor will work to refine the passage window and update the concepts and will work to update the water users within about a month's time.

b. Silvies River Hydraulic Model

The contract was extended as there was difficulty in obtaining measurements of the structures that the contractor identified. Mostly due to higher than expected river levels last winter. Contractors are planning to be in the area in late August/September to complete measurements that they are able to obtain and then complete the model by fall.

c. Beaver habitat

The contractor messaged and reported that they are working on hand mapping the dams within the project area. They are getting the new lab members trained on the BRAT model and will be doing general modeling work this fall.

- d. Cow Creek TA - I had forgotten to include the Cow Creek TA project on the agenda for this meeting. I will check with Ashley from DU and Brianna from SWCD/NRCS to have an update for the August meeting.

New Business

CBWP/Water Outreach Public meeting planning

Karee has been working with Brenda, Holly and Alexandria to plan a public outreach meeting to help inform the public of the work that CBWP has been doing, we would like to include the Wetland Collaborative, NRCS, SWCD include FSA with OWRD to have information on the CREP program. OWRD will not be the sponsor, but a participant of this outreach meeting. It is scheduled for October 1, but waiting on confirmation of the facility before moving forward.

BUDGET – Then 24/25 budget was approved after the June meeting.

Approval of Minutes from April & June (no May meeting) – Financial review – reports (10 minutes – Action item)

Items for next agenda:



Harney County Watershed Council

Scheduled meetings:

CBWP full collaborative meeting – Tuesday, July 23, 2024 4-6pm Zoom only

Harney Basin Wetlands Collaborative – Friday, August 23rd 12:30pm

Division 512 rules committee meeting -August 13, 2024

Mission of the Harney County Watershed Council

Harney County Watershed Council works to improve watershed health for the benefit of our communities and the environment!

Vision of the Harney County Watershed Council

People in Harney County are working together to ensure healthy watersheds and thriving communities.