

DRAFT – CBWP Meeting Notes | Thursday, March 31, 2022

The Harney Community-Based Water Planning (CBWP) Collaborative held a meeting on Thursday, March 31 from 5:00-8:00pm via Zoom. An in-person option was offered at the Harney County Community Center. An audio/video recording of the meeting can be accessed by clicking [here](#) (Access Passcode: ^U1qUxVT). A participant list for the meeting is provided on page 2-3.

Action Items

- Mark your calendars for the following meetings and stay tuned for more details (See the [CBWP Calendar](#)): Full Collaborative hybrid meetings - April 28 and May 26 @ 5:00-8:00pm via Zoom with an in-person option at the Harney County Community Center (478 N Broadway Ave, Burns, OR 97720)

CBWP-Related Updates

Groundwater Portion on the Integrated Water Plan: Project staff received minor suggestions on draft 2 from Collaborative members and partners (thank you!). At this point, we are working our way through all edits. The draft has been taken offline to allow project staff time to develop draft 3. Draft 3 is expected to circulate by the next Collaborative meeting.

Strategy Edits: After the consensus event on the strategy list in December 2021, it became clear that OWRD was not supportive of the language in 5 strategies. Project staff worked with OWRD to alleviate concerns by re-editing language. Those edits were then taken to the Coordinating Committee who decided that a special meeting was necessary to go through edits in depth; some folks felt that edits changed the intent of strategies that the Collaborative already agreed to. That special meeting was held and Coordinating Committee members and OWRD staff are now more comfortable with the language. During their March 16 meeting, the Coordinating Committee decided that an additional consensus event is NOT needed for Collaborative support of the new edits. The edits were presented at the Full Collaborative meeting on March 31 where minor wordsmithing occurred. Check out the edits [here](#).

Process Status + Next Steps: Harney Valley Groundwater Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

The Collaborative heard a status update from Ken Bierly (CBWP Technical Consultant) on the CREP proposal. Ken shared that the following:

FSA guidelines that have been completed:

- Technical Team developed proposal
- Proposal reviewed with local and state groups
- State of Oregon submitted a proposal for FSA Washington DC to review

FSA guidelines in process:

- A Draft MOA between Oregon and USDA
- Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA) with a 30-day review and comment period
 - Scoping in April 2022
 - Preliminary PEA for FSA review in May 2022

- Draft PEA available for public review in June 2022
- Final PEA and Record of Decision TBD
- Draft Operations Manual TBD
- Solicit enrollment before 2023 irrigation season

FSA guidelines not started yet:

- FSA makes a formal decision and schedules a signing ceremony between Secretary of Agriculture and Oregon Governor

Ken's presentation slides can be accessed [here](#) or on the [CBWP Relevant Presentations](#) webpage.

If you have any questions related to CREP, please contact Ken (bierlykenneth@gmail.com).

Closing the Gap(s): CBWP Strategies + Implementation Framework

Holly Mondo (CBWP Project Manager) shared an updated version of the Implementation Framework based on feedback received from Collaborative members (See [February Full Collaborative Meeting Notes](#)). Holly first went through all elements of the framework to orient the Collaborative. She then shared that the framework now includes all issues and strategies and that columns were added to: 1) highlight whether a specific strategy was linked to other strategies; 2) show whether the lead entity agreed for developing/implementing RAs and; 3) determine whether a specific RA is feasible through a voluntary agreement.

After the update, Holly shared that there are issues that do not currently have strategies that address them. Holly and Ken drafted strategies for the Collaborative to consider (See [CBWP Proposal to Address Gaps in Issues and Strategies](#)). Subsequent to much discussion, Collaborative members found that the proposed strategies needed more work before they can be considered for a consensus agreement. Holly and Ken were tasked with using Collaborative input to develop the proposed strategies more, then presenting those developments to the Coordinating Committee before bringing them to the Full Collaborative in April.

What to Expect at the April Full Collaborative Meeting

- A presentation from Jennifer Diffley (Culp & Kelly, LLP) and Rachel O'Connor (Environmental Defense Fund) on the Voluntary Agreement Analysis
- A presentation on the OWRD/USGS Groundwater Study Roll-Out
- Preparation for May Consensus Events (1. Strategy Additions and 2. CBWP Groundwater Plan)
- Schedule Update (Celebration for Finishing Phase 1 (Groundwater), Presenting CBWP Groundwater Plan to Commission, Transitioning to Surface Water, etc.)

CBWP 3/31 Meeting Participants

1. Bierly, Ken
2. Boschmann, Darrick
3. Brown, Lisa
4. Freed, Zach
5. Haslick, Brandon
6. Hendrickson, Cole

7. Iverson, Justin
8. Letham, Kirby
9. Mackay, Jeff
10. McCanna, Ben
11. Mondo, Holly
12. Moon, Karen
13. O'Connor, Laurie
14. Otley, Shane
15. Owens, Mark
16. Parrett, Steve
17. Richman, Lesley
18. Rickman, Steve
19. Shelman, Kristen
20. Short, John
21. Smith, Brenda
22. Smith, Cheryl
23. Smith, Haley
24. Southworth, Jack
25. Spriet, Jason
26. Thelen, John
27. Thelen, Marjorie
28. Wicks, Teresa