

Recommendation

At the Harney Community-Based Water Planning (CBWP) Collaborative’s meeting on Monday, August 4, 2025, eligible Collaborative members will be asked if they support the recommendation below (see Page 4-5 for a list of eligible members).

Why is this consensus decision being held this month?

The August consensus event represents the culmination of nearly a decade of work by the Harney Community-Based Water Planning (CBWP) Collaborative. This milestone event centers on whether the Collaborative will formally adopt the Integrated Water Resources Plan. Achieving consensus on this draft is a critical step that, pending a recommendation for state recognition from the Plan Review Team (PRT), will allow the Plan to be presented to the Oregon Water Resources Commission at its September 11–12 meeting.

The development of the Integrated Plan has followed a structured and transparent process designed to ensure broad stakeholder engagement and collaborative decision-making. Key milestones in the process include:

- Draft 1 distributed to the Full Collaborative: 1/24
 - Edits due on Draft 1: 2/7
- Draft 2 distributed to the Full Collaborative: 2/14
 - Edits due on Draft 2: 2/28
- Draft 3 distributed to the Full Collaborative: 3/6
 - Edits due on Draft 3: 3/20
- Consensus Event on Draft 3: 3/20
 - Consensus achieved
- Submitted to the Interagency Review Team: 3/24
 - Feedback received: 6/20
- Distributed for Public Comment: 3/26
 - Public comment period ended: 6/26, no comments received
- Full Collaborative Meeting: 6/30
 - Reviewed the PRT’s Require Improvements on the Integrated Plan, and discussed project staff’s approach and timeline for incorporating feedback by 7/14
- Resubmitted revised Integrated Plan to PRT: 7/14
 - Feedback and final decision on recommendation for state recommendation received 8/1
- Full Collaborative Meeting: 8/4
 - Final consensus on adopting the Integrated Plan

To ensure broad participation and awareness, a comprehensive outreach strategy was implemented, including:

- Social media posts and online updates
- Direct outreach to key stakeholder groups, including:

- City of Burns and Hines
- Cattlemen and Cattlewomen associations
- Farm Bureau
- Stock Growers
- County Court
- Key individuals involved in the Groundwater Phase
- Other relevant organizations and community leaders

Recommendation:

The Harney Community-Based Water Planning (CBWP) Collaborative supports adoption of the Final Integrated Water Resources Plan. In doing so, the Collaborative acknowledges the following:

- Supporting the final Plan does not imply unanimous agreement with all language contained in the document.
- Any factual inaccuracies can be addressed in future updates as new information becomes available.

To move forward: **Do you agree with how the Collaborative addressed the Plan Review Team’s comments?** If so, your response signifies formal adoption of the Integrated Plan by the Collaborative.

Consensus Guidelines from the [CBWP Working Agreement](#):

Consensus: The Collaborative, Working Groups, and Coordinating Committee will operate by consensus. Consensus is defined as “all group members can live with the recommendation or decision.” Instead of simply voting for an item and having the majority determine the decision, a group using consensus is committed to finding solutions that everyone actively supports, or at least can live with. A consensus tool (see below) will be used to signify whether the group has reached a consensus and the level of agreement on a given proposal which will indicate whether refinements to a proposal are needed to get to a consensus. It is the responsibility of all members with a concern to describe their concerns to the group and also offer alternatives for consideration which meet the Vision of the Collaborative. If consensus is not achieved the group will use time as available to refine the proposal in the meeting, and if they cannot reach consensus it will go back to the working group to develop into a refined proposal.

Collaborative Decision-Making: All substantive decisions about the contents of the plan and recommended actions will ultimately be reached by consensus of the Collaborative’s signatories. Signatories must have attended at least two (2) of the last four (4) full Collaborative meetings to formally participate in making decisions. If a signatory to the Working Agreements cannot attend, either in person or remotely, a meeting of the full Collaborative at which a consensus decision will take place, the signatory may designate an alternate to make his/her decision of support by proxy. It is the signatory’s responsibility to inform their alternate about the decision to be made, as well as relevant background context, and to prepare the alternate for stating the signatory’s level of support. Decisions of the Collaborative will be reached by consensus of those in attendance (in-person or by phone) and clearly captured in the meeting notes.

Consensus Tool: A consensus tool using a range of 1-5 will be used to signify whether the group has reached a consensus and the level of agreement on a given proposal which will indicate whether more work is needed to refine the proposal toward a consensus. If anyone in the group shows a “5”, the group does not have consensus.

The levels are:

“1” I enthusiastically agree.

“2” I agree.

“3” I am on the fence, have questions, or am neutral.

“4” I have serious questions or concerns, but am not willing to block forward movement of the group.

“5” I object and will block forward movement of the group.

Eligible Collaborative Members:

Based on our records, the following are currently eligible to participate in the Harney Community-Based Water Planning’s (CBWP) consensus decision making event on March 20, as they have either:

- Signed on to the CBWP Working Agreement and attended at least two of the last four Full Collaborative meetings (February, March, April, June). If you would like to sign on to the Working Agreement prior to August 5, please email me (holly@hcwatershedcouncil.com).

-OR-

- Participated in either the Groundwater Plan Consensus Event or Surface Water Plan Consensus Event.

Name	Meets Working Agreement Criteria	Participated in Groundwater Plan Consensus Event	Participated in Surface Water Plan Consensus Event
Katie Baltzor	✓		✓
Keith Baltzor	✓		✓
Dave Banks	✓		
Ken Bierly	✓		✓
Lisa Brown	✓	✓	✓
Mark Doverspike	✓		✓
Zach Freed		✓	
Janna Guzman	✓		✓
Brandon Haslick	✓	✓	✓
Cole Hendrickson	✓		✓
Jeff Mackay	✓	✓	✓
Ben McCanna		✓	
Karen Moon	✓	✓	✓
Breanna O'Connor	✓		✓

Laurie O'Connor		✓	
Mark Owens		✓	
Steve Paret		✓	
Melissa Petschauer	✓		✓
Steve Rickman		✓	
Pat Sharp		✓	
John Short		✓	
Kristen Shelman	✓		✓
Alexandria Scott	✓		✓
Brenda Smith		✓	
Teresa Wicks	✓	✓	✓
Jess Wenick	✓		