

Recommendation

At the Harney Community Based Water Planning (CBWP) Collaborative's meeting on Thursday, December 14 (5:00-7:30pm), signatories who have attended two of the last four meetings will be asked if they support the recommendation below.

Consensus eligibility can be viewed on page 2 or accessed [here](#).

Why is this consensus decision being held this month?

The CBWP Collaborative Ecological Working Group, composed of subgroups focused on wetlands, rivers and streams, and lakes and reservoirs, completed drafting their Step 2 and 3 reports. The reports and key takeaway documents have been available for Collaborative review since July 2023. The Working Group provided monthly updates to the Collaborative to keep folks apprised of information gathered and work done to date. Once drafts were finished, each subgroup delivered presentations to the Collaborative to share conclusions drawn from their respective research. Collaborative members, including agency partners, had ample time to review documents and ask authors questions.

At this point the Collaborative is eager to focus on the PBP Step 4, the Critical Issues List and strategy building. Before we can do so, the Collaborative must reach consensus on the Step 2 and 3 reports as these are foundational to the remainder of the Collaborative's process. It is important to note that the purpose of the Step 2 and 3 documents are to use the best science and information to characterize the basin's conditions to help assess the basin's future needs. While these reports are not "living," meaning they will not be updated as new information becomes available, the Integrated Water Resources Plan can and will be updated (See Background section below for more information).

Recommendation for Consensus:

The Harney CBWP Collaborative supports the Step 2 and 3 reports from the Ecological Working Group as the best science and other information available currently and supports use of those reports in surface water planning.

**The Harney CBWP Collaborative recognizes that there could be inaccuracies reflected in the Step 2 and 3 reports if/when new information becomes available. Any inaccuracies in the Integrated Water Resources Plan will be corrected as information becomes available.*

Background:

According to [OWRD's Place-Based Planning Step 3 Guidance](#), "[p]artners should be given ample time to review the written materials and they should be approved using the decision-making process outlined in the governance agreement" (page 10). The CBWP governance agreement, or

[Working Agreement](#), outlines our decision-making process and details the use of a consensus tool.

[OWRD's Place-Based Planning Guidelines](#) define Steps 2 and 3 as the following:

- Step 2: Characterize Water Resources, Water Quality, & Ecological Issues
 - Describe and assess current water supplies, water quality, and the status of ecosystem health to determine any existing challenges and potential opportunities.
- Step 3: Quantify Existing and Future Needs/Demands
 - Define how much water is needed to meet current and future water needs – instream and out-of-stream – water quantity, water quality, and ecosystem needs/demands. Plans should address how climate change, population growth, and land use affect water resources and the ability to meet these needs within the community. Meeting water needs should be considered within the context of specific watersheds, accounting for the hydrological, geological, biological, climatic, socio-economic, cultural, legal, and political conditions

Steps 2 and 3 are not living documents. These reports seek to characterize the basin as it is today, not 10 years from now. If the Step 2 and 3 reports are being constantly updated, writing the Integrated Water Resources Plan (Step 5) would be impossible. The Integrated Water Resources Plan will be the living document that incorporates principles of adaptive management and can be updated according to a process and timeline agreed upon by the Collaborative (like when best available science becomes available).

Eligible CBWP Collaborative Members for December 14 Consensus Event:

1. Sam Artaiz, 2
2. Katie Baltzor, 2
3. Keith Baltzor, 2
4. Lisa Brown, 2
5. Donald Doverspike, Absent
6. Mark Doverspike, 2
7. Zach Freed , 2
8. Brandon Haslick, 2
9. Cole Hendrickson, Abstain
10. Jeff Mackay, 2
11. Karen Moon, 2
12. Breanna O'Connor, Absent
13. Chance Peila, Absent
14. Rick Roy, 2
15. Alexandria Scott, 3
16. Kristen Shelman, 2
17. Janna Stevens, Abstain
18. Tara Wertz (Alternate: Jess Wenick), Absent

19. Teresa Wicks, Absent

Ineligible:

Tony S., 2

Interests represented include: Landowners, Residents, Recreation, Conservation, Local Government, State Agencies, Tribal, and Federal Agencies