

DRAFT Recommendation

At the Harney Community-Based Water Planning (CBWP) Collaborative's meeting on Thursday, July 28th, 2022, [signatories](#) who have attended two of the last four meetings will be asked if they support the recommendation below.

Why is this consensus decision being held this month?

The CBWP Collaborative has been working on the Groundwater Portion of the Integrated Water Resources Plan (Groundwater Portion) since 2016. They have compiled an incredible amount of information and have had countless discussions that informed project staff in their drafting of the Groundwater Portion.

The first iteration of the Groundwater Portion of the Integrated Water Resources Plan (Groundwater Portion) was made available to the Collaborative in January 2022, the second in March 2022, the third in April 2022, the fourth in May 2022, and the fifth in July 2022. It has gone through several rounds of editing and updates by Collaborative members and has been informed by the OWRD/USGS Groundwater Study, which was released in April 2022. The Collaborative is holding a consensus event in July to determine whether to circulate the Groundwater Portion for public comment and initiate the process for state agency review*.

Recommendation:

The Harney Community-Based Water Planning (CBWP) Collaborative supports that the Final Draft of the Groundwater Portion of the Integrated Water Resources Plan be circulated for public comment and submitted to the state agencies for review*.

Background:

* Because place-based planning requires both groundwater and surface water, the groundwater portion cannot receive full state recognition until the Collaborative finishes the surface water portion.

It has been communicated to the Department that there must be a process for the Collaborative to receive feedback and support from agencies on the Groundwater Portion as soon as possible to ensure that we are on track to receive state recognition. In response, the Department has agreed to a state agency review process for the Groundwater Portion. The state agency review will evaluate whether the Groundwater Portion and planning process followed SB 266, the Planning Guidelines, and IWRS guiding principles using the approach laid out in the Step 5 Guidance. It will identify if there are any required improvements/ feedback necessary to receive state-recognition.

Receiving feedback and support from agencies on the Groundwater Portion is an important milestone for the Collaborative as it will allow us to make required improvements on the Groundwater Portion with the participants that were instrumental in writing the draft while the information is still fresh. This will also provide an opportunity for agencies to advise the Collaborative on considerations for implementation of groundwater actions (some of which are

already underway) and considerations for the scope of the surface water portion. It is important for the Collaborative to receive feedback at this juncture.

Support from state agencies means that they recommend the Groundwater Portion and process be acknowledged by the Commission as being in alignment with the requirements to receive state-recognition, pending completion of the surface water portion.

In summary, the state agency review of the Groundwater Portion would verify that both the Groundwater Portion and process to date is on the path to receive state recognition.