DRAFT Proposal – Surface Water Planning Phase

"Place-based integrated water resources planning will allow communities to identify their water resources needs and then partner with the state to develop solutions and a suite of projects that will help meet those needs now and into the future."

What is the purpose of the Harney Basin Surface Water Plan?

Steve P.: (To have a) voluntary, locally initiated and led effort, in which a balanced representation of water interests work in partnership with the state to understand and meet their instream and out-of-stream water supply needs (currently and in the future).

Holly: To identify main issues that exist in the basin related to surface water (in and out of stream) that the community can help solve with local initiated efforts.

Ken: Build a common understanding of Surface Water resource issues and identify potential solutions that can be implemented locally.

What are the characteristics of a good surface water plan? See Jamboard
What are the goals of the Harney Basin Surface Water Plan? See Jamboard
What are the sideboards of the Harney Basin Surface Water Plan? See Jamboard

By following OWRD's guidelines of place-based planning, the SW plan will equip folks with a shared understanding of the issues affecting surface water resources in the Harney Basin and the proposed solutions, developed by the CBWP Collaborative, to address those issues. The planning area for the SW phase will be the same that it was during the groundwater phase – the Harney Basin or all basins that flow to Malheur and Harney Lake. The SW plan, and ultimately the integrated SW-GW plan, is being developed for local governments, Tribal governments, municipal water utilities, agricultural interests, domestic water users, conservation/environmental groups, small businesses, private landowners, state and federal agencies, etc. as a guide for management. The SW planning process will likely take between 12-18 months; it is unknown how long the *implementation* of the integrated SW-GW plan will take.

The following draft schedule outlines an 18-month planning process. The draft schedule breaks down specific tasks to complete by month to stay on track and highlights potential milestones to achieve, marked by an asterix.

August 2022 – September 2022

- Focus on Step 1- Build a Collaborative
    - (Ongoing) Identify who needs to be at the table – who do we need to engage? (Irrigators, agencies, environmental groups)
    - CC discusses how to engage community members with a stake in surface water and how to get new CC members

    - Create and circulate outreach materials (newspaper article, Facebook posts, flyer, etc.)
- Determine how to align with work that other Collaborative groups are working on (HBWC, County's Flood Study, etc.)
    - Keeping lines of communication open with other groups
        - Holly attend HBWC meetings to represent CBWP
    - Start collecting SW data- historic information?
- (Ongoing) Design robust process!
    - Collaborative review and provide input on process proposal
        - Agree on sideboards for process (i.e., what are the things we are NOT recommending changes to? Oregon water law and existing water rights, Tribal sovereignty rights, what else?)
        - Agree on goals for process

October 2022 - January 2023

- Focus on Step 2 – Characterize Water Resources, Water Quality, & Ecological Issues

Step 2 Information Developed During Previous Planning

Information	Source	Status
Lakes and Reservoirs	Ecological Work Group	Completed
Wetlands	Ecological Work Group	Completed
Streams and Aquatic Life	Ecological Work Group	Working Draft
Water Rights	Technical Assistance Report Memo from Bryce Meyers & Rachel Lovelford	Completed
Floodplain and Flood Hazard Mitigation	Kleinschmidt Associates	July 2022 Draft
Catchment contributions and vegetation uptake for ET	Vegetation Management Working Group	Completed

- Other Step 2 topics may include:
    - Aquatic biotic systems
    - Tributary systems

        - Timing and duration of spring runoff and how to influence and better manage it
    - SW contributions to GW
    - Water storage
    - Water use
    - Water quality
    - Data gaps
- Collaborative determine what information we already have and what information we need to gather
    - Staff compile information from previous working groups (wetlands, lakes, streamflow, watershed conditions, water rights, etc.)
        - Make available somehow and determine whether there is additional information needed for planning?
            - Develop technical assistance requests, if applicable
            - Determine whether new working groups need to form
- Wrap up Step 2 in January- make sure we have a baseline of information that people are comfortable with to move on to Step 3

February-May 2023

- Focus on Step 3 – Quantify Existing and Future Needs/Demands
- Working groups to do much of this work and then bring back to the Collaborative to review
    - Assign a person to be responsible for completing each of the Working Group reports?
- Topics may include:
    - Current Status of Surface Water Allocation (Adjudication)
        - Out of Stream Uses
        - In-Stream Uses
    - Drivers of Out of Stream Surface Water Uses
    - Drivers of In-Stream Surface Water Use
        - Redband Trout
        - Other in-stream uses
    - Effects of Climate Change on Future Needs and Allocations
    - Issues of Surface-Groundwater Connections
    - Data Gaps and Needs
    - Tribal Surface Water Rights
    - Future Needs and Conflicts
    - Catchment contributions

- Collaborative review and provide input on list of issues to address with SW plan that CC developed (see page 4)
    - Holly will keep adding to jam-board throughout the process so if folks come up with issues before this time period, those will be captured
- *At some point, get consensus on Working Group reports?

June-September 2023

- Focus on Step 4- Develop Integrated Solutions for Meeting Long-Term Water Needs
- Go through issue list and parse down, if possible and necessary, by combining similar issues
    - *At some point, get consensus on issues list
- Develop desired outcomes to address issues, then start developing strategies with recommended actions to achieve desired outcomes—*Are we resolving the issue?*
    - *At some point, get consensus on strategy list

October 2023 – January 2024

- Write and refine SW Plan and integrate with GW Plan
    - Integrated Plan: Chapters X through Y= GW, Chapters Z through A= SW?
        - SW plan NOT a separate plan from GW?

February 2024

- Seek Collaborative consensus on Integrated Water Resources Plan

What are the issues and /or questions regarding SW that the Collaborative should consider addressing?

