

Oregon Solutions WISE project
January 17, 2012
Higher Education Center Building in Medford

Meeting Summary

Member Participants:

Co-conveners **Senator Jason Atkinson** and **Representative Peter Buckley**

Lesley Adams, Rogue Riverkeepers; **Amy Amrhein**, US Senator Merkley's office; **Bryan Baumgartner**, Rogue River Valley Irrigation District; **Larry Butts**, Coastal Conservation Association; **Jay Doino**, Oregon Department Fish & Wildlife; **Traci Dow**, US Senator Wyden's office; **Mark Grenbemer**, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board; **Jeff Griffin**, Governor Kitzhaber's office; **Brian Hampson**, Rogue River Valley Irrigation District; **Craig Harper**, Rogue Valley Council of Governments; **Bob Hunter**, WaterWatch; **Kate Jackson**, Department of Environmental Quality; **Leigh Johnson**, Medford Water Commission; **Bob Jones**, Medford Water Commission; **Steve Mason**, WISE; **Larry Menteer**, Oregon Water Resources Department; **Bill Meyers**, Department of Environmental Quality; **Bob Morris**, Talent Irrigation District; **Jim Pendleton**, Talent Irrigation District; **John Roberts**, Oregon Water Resources Commission; **Jim Root**, National Fish & Wildlife Foundation; **Bill Ryan**, Jackson County Farm Bureau; **Russ Stauff**, Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife; **Carl Tappert**, Rogue Valley Sewer Services; **Roger Thom**, City of Medford; **Dan Thorndike**, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board; **Henry Vaninetti**, Medford Irrigation District; **John Ward**, Rogue Flyfishermen; **Randy White**, Jackson Soil & Water Conservation District.

Staff Participants:

Jim Jacks and Jim Johnson, Oregon Solutions

Members of the Public:

Steve Nelson, Coastal Conservation Association; Jud Parsons, Hillcrest Orchards; Robert Ward, Rogue Flyfishermen; Norm Wishart.

Welcome & Introductions:

Senator Atkinson and Representative Buckley welcomed everyone and thanked them for participating. Individual self-introductions were made.

WISE Past and Present:

WISE staff Steve Mason gave a 40 minute high level overview of the WISE project history and current status. In his powerpoint he covered several possible sources of additional water for the system including: conserved water by piping or lining canals, increasing reservoir storage capacity, and pumped water from the Regional Water Reclamation Facility and/or Lost Creek Reservoir. He listed various irrigation benefits and also instream benefits. The potential total water improvements could be between 24,000 and 67,000 acre feet per year. His 12 page powerpoint is attached.

Workplan Creation and Task List:

The Oregon Solutions WISE project team's three goals are: identify and secure EIS funding, create a phased implementation plan and create a structure to implement that plan.

Each of these goals requires many tasks to be completed before the project team can make decisions. The large group divided into three smaller groups and created a brainstormed list of tasks that need to be done for each goal. A typed copy of the flipchart notes is attached.

During these discussions it became apparent that a small handful of people have an extraordinarily broad and deep understanding of the WISE project, its history, and the various alternatives and components contained in the Preliminary Feasibility Report from 2009.

While many team members are familiar with WISE, few have enough information to feel comfortable making significant decisions and commitments based on their current level of knowledge. It is clear that the project team needs to have a more detailed and nuanced level of understanding about the project. Everyone needs to know enough so that they can ask pertinent questions and evaluate the pros and cons of the various ideas the project team will consider and of the tasks that will be done.

Planning Group:

A small planning group was formed and Bob Hunter, Bob Jones, Steve Mason, John Roberts and Jim Pendleton were asked to serve on it. Their role is to represent and serve the entire Oregon Solutions WISE project team, not just their organizations. It is not an executive committee making decisions. The planning group exists to make recommendations, especially about process, to the co-conveners.

Workgroups:

The total volume of work the entire project team needs to accomplish in the remaining five meetings is significant. A number of temporary workgroups were created around certain topics or issues. They are: stormwater, communications/media, irrigation districts, governance structure, instream, and agriculture. The co-conveners invited every member of the project team to participate on any of the workgroups. Please see the attached workgroup member list to see who is on which workgroups.

If you want to join a workgroup please let Jim Jacks, Oregon Solutions staff, know.

Next Steps:

Set next meeting date

Refine flipchart notes into task lists

Start workgroups

Contact additional participants