



Oregon Solutions-WISE

July 31, 2012 Project Team Meeting Summary

RVCOG offices in Central Point

Participants:

Convener **Representative Peter Buckley**

Lesley Adams, Rogue Riverkeepers; **Amy Amrhein**, US Senator Merkley; **Bryan Baumgartner**, Rogue River Valley Irrigation District; **Carol Bradford**, Medford Irrigation District; **Mark Grenbemer**, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board; **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; **Erin Kurtz**, NRCS; **Steve Mason**, WISE; **Bob Morris**, Talent Irrigation District; **Jim Pendleton**, Talent Irrigation District; **Marilyn Rice**, Jackson Soil & Water Conservation District; **John Roberts**, Oregon Water Resources Commission; **Carl Tappert**, Rogue Valley Sewer Service; **Russ Stauff**, Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife; **John Vial**, Jackson County; **John Ward**, Rogue Flyfishers; **Chuck Wheeler**, (by phone) National Marine Fisheries Service; **Dawn Wiedmeier**, Bureau of Reclamation; **Randy White**, Jackson Soil & Water Conservation District.

Staff: Jim Jacks, Oregon Solutions

Welcome & Introductions:

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

Workgroup Status Reports:

1. Agriculture/Irrigation District – Brian Hampson summarized the Workgroup’s recent activities.
2. Instream – Bob Hunter summarized the Workgroup’s July 30th meeting.
3. Municipal Stormwater – Jim Jacks described the Workgroup’s draft Report.
4. Governance – Jim Jacks described the agenda for the Workgroup meeting scheduled for later in the day.
5. Communications/Media – Bob Jones summarized the Workgroup’s July 30th meeting.
6. EIS Funding – Jim Jacks gave a brief update on the status of the three funding scenarios:

Programmatic EIS Recommendation

The Project Team reviewed the two page memo recommending a Programmatic FS/EIS. A short discussion followed.

The WISE Project Team unanimously **agreed** that the Bureau of Reclamation would pursue a Programmatic FS/EIS.

WISE Action Plan Draft

Some of the Workgroups have been using the draft WISE Action Plan and it has been helpful as a road map. Project Team discussion comments included:

- It is a living document
- The Org Task Problem Solving section should be broken out into more detailed bullets and specific tasks
- As WISE moves forward, each Workgroup should do a Gantt chart for their future activities

The group also had a discussion about momentum, staffing needs and creating a budget. The Project Team **agreed** to create a Budget Workgroup. Their task is to write a draft budget and circulate it to the current partners and the Project Team. The following people **agreed** to participate: Lesley Adams, Brian Hampson, Kate Jackson, Bob Jones, Steve Mason, Jim Pendleton and Randy White.

Governance 2nd Draft Proposal

The Project Team reviewed and discussed the second draft proposal from the Governance Workgroup. The primary direction of the proposal is formalization. The Project Team was asked for feedback for the Governance Workgroup to consider at their meeting later in the day.

Comments and questions included:

- Do the Partners” go away and get replaced by a “Board of Directors?” Answer = Yes.
- We need a group recognized by the community to be in charge of the project.
- Should other cities be on the Board?
- Should the Soil & Water Conservation District be on the Board?
- Assuming ODFW will regulate the future benefit sharing agreement, what role should they play on the Board or on the PAC?
- When creating this Board, be careful how large it gets. In other basins the cities share one seat on the Board. The irrigation districts also share one seat.
- The size of the Board needs to balance functionality with enough members so that people feel invested.
- The Board will need to negotiate a benefit sharing agreement and put it into an MOU.
- They need an advisory committee and access to technical assistance.
- The Board must be able to have MOUs with other organizations so they can do whatever they need to get done.
- The Governance Workgroup should bring us a final recommendation at the August meeting for us to approve and then forward to the WISE Partners for consideration and adoption.
- That timeline might be too fast.

The WISE Project Team unanimously **agreed** that the “formalization” direction is appropriate.

Declaration of Cooperation (DoC)

Everyone received a hardcopy of their individual draft Declaration of Cooperation page of commitments. They had previously received them via email. A group discussion occurred.

Convener Rep. Buckley said he would lead an effort to organize the Southern Oregon legislative delegation to advocate for up to \$1.5 million of state funding for the WISE EIS. He pointed out that several DoC pages included this language: “Meet with members of the local state legislative delegation by November 30, 2012 to advocate that state funding towards the federal matching funds for WISE be listed as a top priority by the Southern Oregon legislative delegation for the 2013 legislative session.” It is critical that these meetings occur to get legislators on board.

- John Roberts offered to organize a meeting with an OWRD hydropower specialist and the WISE team.
- Randy White said he was hiring an outreach coordinator and potentially could make assisting WISE part of their duties.

The group was asked to think about and answer the question “what is the value of a completed WISE project to my organization?”

Action Items/Next Steps:

- **Everyone** After a short discussion the group **agreed** that the last Oregon Solutions – WISE Project Team meeting will be on **Thursday, August 23rd from 9 am – 12 pm** in the RVCOG conference room.
- **Jim Jacks** will make the suggested revisions to the WISE Action Plan and circulate it.
- **Lesley Adams, Brian Hampson, Kate Jackson, Bob Jones, Steve Mason, Jim Pendleton and Randy White** will serve on the Budget Workgroup. They will write a draft budget and circulate it to the current partners and the Project Team.
- **Jim Jacks** write a meeting summary and distribute it.
- **Amy Amrhein** will email Steve Mason the monthly federal grant list.
- **Jim Jacks** will email the group a link to the OWRD Integrated Water Resource Strategy.
- **Jim Jacks** will email Randy W and Brian H a one page WISE executive summary as a cover page for the DoC commitments page.
- **Jim Jacks** will contact Project Team members regarding their DoC commitments page

Adjourn:

Representative Buckley thanked RVCOG for hosting us, complimented the group for their hard work and adjourned the meeting at 12:00 pm.