

Upper Grande Ronde River Watershed Partnership
Place-Based Integrated Water Resource Planning
Stakeholder Meeting

Meeting Minutes

July 17, 2019, 4-6PM

OSU Extension Meeting Room

La Grande, OR

ATTENDANCE: Ann Hulden, Margaret Matter, Steve Parrett, Mike Burton, Tony Malmberg, Anton Chiono, Del Little, Tucker Billman, Curt Howell, Jed Hassinger, Larry Larson, Tim Bailey, Chris Motes, Donna Beverage, Roxy Naylor, Tim Wallender, Kyle Carpenter, Rodger Huffman, Dana Kurtz.

I. Welcome

- a. June 12, 2019 Stakeholder Meeting Recap: The June meeting including a brainstorming session about water quality and emailed answers from Roxy Nylar (DEQ) as a follow up to previous questions.
- b. Stakeholder Feedback: Many articles were provided.
- c. Email protocol: Feedback was sought regarding the current mode of communication to disseminate articles and information via email; the group generally wanted to continue this method of information sharing.
- d. Meeting Guidelines: Respect all ideas, one speaker at a time, always offer a solution with a criticism.
- e. Place-based Planning Recap: This is the group's 23rd meeting and it is currently working on step 4.

II. Step 4 Strategy Analysis and Review

- a. Major strategy categories: 13 major strategy categories were ranked (see attached)
- b. Spreadsheet/Ranking Method: The ranking spreadsheet was reviewed and suggestions were made. Dana will revise the spreadsheet, send to the group for comment, compile feedback and resend spreadsheet for everyone to rank major strategy categories (recommended, considered, not recommended), then the group will discuss the summary at the next meeting (September 25).
- c. Strategies: Aboveground off-channel storage was discussed.

III. Conclusion

- a. Next meeting was changed to September 25, 2019 @4pm – 7pm at the OSU Extension office
- b. Future ranking ideas?
- c. Other Comments

The meeting was adjourned.

Major Strategy Categories to be ranked 7/17/19

(Organized from lists below: 13 Strategies (in red) to be ranked/reviewed by stakeholders, sub-strategies (in black) provided, but not ranked/reviewed separately)

- **Storage - Aboveground-Off Channel**
 - Existing sloughs
 - New dams/reservoirs
 - Deepen existing reservoirs
 - Raise the storage levels in existing reservoirs
 - Wet meadows
 - Wetlands
 - Enlarge/deepen existing ditches
 - Capture snowpack (store and use)
 - New linear storage
- **Storage - Aboveground-On-Channel**
 - New On Channel dam (storage)
 - Reroute stream flows during highwater for storage and recharge
- **Storage - Underground Storage**
 - Aquifer Storage and Recovery
 - New belowground reservoir
 - Aquifer storage and recovery in confined alluvial aquifers
 - Infiltration galleries (city areas and other areas)
 - Use floodwater, pump it into an aquifer and use it later
 - Recharge of basalt wells
 - Recharge of alluvial wells
- **Research**
 - Reservoir Research
 - Flooding and fire oral histories
 - Use Hampton and Brown study of area geology and pair it with groundwater wells to verify accuracy
 - Collect anecdotal information from users to see what parts of the watershed have issues
 - Are there high mercury levels?
 - Nitrate abatement needed?
 - Reexamine 303(d) standards to determine if we should advocate for them to be changed
 - Review demand and supply calculations
- **Data Collection**
 - Install flow gages
 - Coordinate interagency data sharing
 - Gather data to improve estimates of actual use versus water rights
 - Improve on farm efficiency monitoring and modeling
 - Systematic sampling of groundwater wells
 - Characterize and Understand the Groundwater Resource (rate of change, flow direction)
 - Study paired forest plots (30% canopy reduction to allow for water storage – Starkey)
- **Monitoring**

- Monitoring – groundwater quality (nitrates, arsenic, coliform) in addition to surface water quality
- Toxic algae blooms (testing, nutrients, temperature)
- Spatially distributed and long-term data collection (intensively monitored watershed)
- **Policy Actions**
 - Meet with USACE (Levee Strategy) - invite to meetings
 - Utilize new water reservations
 - Utilize cross basin transfers
 - Split season leases
 - Develop a water market
 - Minimum flow agreements (ex: Lostine river, dixie creek - turn water off if below certain point)
 - Voluntary water lease transfers (ex: 15 mile “FAST” program, stop withdrawals when temperatures are predicted to be lethal for fish)
 - Source water exchanges – “bucket for bucket exchange”
 - Point source control
 - Develop a wetland mitigation bank
 - Review the economic sustainability of agriculture, consider advocating for government subsidies for crops that use less water
 - Support collaborative forest partnership projects
 - Replace surface water deficits with groundwater
- **Outreach and Education**
 - Awareness of ECSI listed sites
 - Promote recycle chemical program (for pesticides, ag and municipal)
 - Inform the public about best practices for lawn care (fertilizers flow to the creeks) outreach and education needed
 - Public outreach for toxic algae blooms
 - We get a city water quality report – maybe watershed wide
- **Land Management – Public Land**
 - Raise organic soil content (forest land)
 - grazing management on federal lands (range management of elk)
 - timber management on federal lands (manage forest canopy)
 - Upland land management
 - Road management for allowing runoff to recharge groundwater, locations, culvert sizing, surfaces (decrease sedimentation through management)
 - Monitor uplands for erosion (sediment)
 - Invasive species management
 - Buffer Zones
 - Vegetation management – opportunity and costs for each type of project
 - Fire management
- **Land Management – Agricultural Land**
 - Raise organic soil content (agricultural land)
 - Reduce nutrient (nitrogen and phosphorus) loading through irrigation efficiency
 - Improve irrigation efficiency for agriculture uses
 - Plant alternative crops to use less water
 - Floodway easements for farmers
 - High residue farming
 - Prevention of contamination when flooding occurs

- Improve farming practices (no till methods, more organics into the soil)
- **Land Management – Municipal Land**
 - Bioswales (vegetation infiltration)
 - Filter strips
 - Improve municipal water efficiency
- **Habitat Restoration**
 - Reconnect and restore floodplains
 - Enhance riparian vegetation and stream shading
 - Upland restoration
 - Stream restoration (restore channel morphology)
 - Beaver reintroduction and beaver dam analogues
 - Alpine meadow restoration
 - Create new wetlands and reestablish old wetlands
- **Infrastructure/Land Modification**
 - Open up the valley
 - Construct Levee System
 - Levee Setbacks
 - Pump flood water for storage
 - Construct a Parallel Flood Channel to alleviate flooding issues
 - Microhydroelectric power
 - Control warm water (thermal refuge in winter, divert for later use)

DRAFT