

Newport Open House
Best Western Agate Beach Inn
June 20, 2016
Meeting Notes

Q1 & Q2: How has the recent drought affected you? In what ways did the drought affect your community?

- Patterns of sport fisherman catching fish changed last year from previous year, assuming the change resulted from temperature.

Q3: How did you respond to drought? Please share any successes or strategies.

- *[note: no comments provided]*

Q4: What actions should be pursued to better prepare for future droughts?

- California has been dealing with drought for very long time, and as citizens, they use a third less water than Oregonians do. We need to focus on efficiency, not more infrastructure or more diversions. Increase costs to the ratepayers to incentivize conservation.
- Beaver recovery and habitat restoration. Recognize that beavers are a keystone species. They can help with water storage retention and offer habitat refuge for salmon and other native species. Recognition of beavers as a water resources strategy is long overdue.
- How do we prepare for a future with less glacial snow melt?
- The state needs to be able to understand how climate change will affect different water systems (snow driven vs. rain dominated systems).
- Build resilience through water sharing agreements.

Q5: What most concerns you about the future with regard to water?

- We are very much concerned about fish in this region. In particular, the lack of funding and staff to complete instream flow studies.
- Largest concern for water into the future, as our economy can't grow due to lack of water availability.
- There should be better mechanisms in place for strategic financing, especially for targeting water loss and aging infrastructure.
- Water loss is pretty common in the smaller water districts. Working on incentives to create less loss and greater conservation from the users.
- Concerned about the emphasis on out-of-stream needs.

Q6: Any other thoughts or comments you would like to share with the IWRS Project Team?

- The Project Team needs to clearly communicate to other state officials that Newport deeply cares about fish and wildlife needs. There are no excuses that can justify not taking greater action on this.
- State must complete a study of water demands in the future for the fish and wildlife needs. The economy on the coast is very fish dependent.
- Issue of amount of water loss, water loss is not a non-compliance issue, financing issues to fund infrastructure repairs. Typically in small monetarily stressed areas. Recognizing that your strategy extends beyond our region, please consider making the Fort Rock/Christmas Valley area a high priority for future groundwater studies. In the 1970's, it was mostly sagebrush, but today, there are 1000's of acres under irrigation, using groundwater. Please study how the aquifer feeds the Ana River, a tributary to Summer Lake.
- At future events like this one, bring in a panel of agency directors to discuss these types of issues with us.