



“What We Heard”

A Summary of Input Provided to the State of Oregon in Pursuit of Place-Based Integrated Water Resources Strategies Spring – Summer 2014

Throughout 2014, the Oregon Water Resources Department and its partner agencies invited public comment and held a series of workshops with stakeholders throughout the state. These efforts represent the next phase of Oregon’s Integrated Water Resources Strategy (IWRS), a statewide blueprint adopted in August 2012 to help the state meet its instream and out-of-stream water needs. Such water needs include water quantity, water quality, and ecosystem needs.

The Department requested input to design a process that Oregonians can use at the local level in order to meet their water needs. If done properly, these local strategies will roll up into the state’s IWRS, helping to garner political, technical, and funding support for implementation of water resources projects and programs.

The Department developed and used a discussion paper, [“Place-Based Integrated Water Resources Planning: Observations from the State of Oregon”](#) to help focus these conversations. The paper contains a number of questions (refer to pp. 37-38) about how to design a place-based integrated water resources strategy (IWRS), what it should contain, how to approve and fund it, and more.

The following groups hosted place-based workshops during 2014:

- Association of Oregon Counties’ Water Policy Committee
- Deschutes Water Alliance & Deschutes Basin Study Workgroup —Bend, OR
- IWRS Agency Advisory Group
- IWRS Federal Liaison Advisory Group
- League of Oregon Cities’ Water Policy Committee
- Northeast Oregon Water Association — Boardman, OR
- Oregon Association of Nurseries — Multiple Agricultural Organizations, Wilsonville, OR
- Oregon Cattleman’s Association — Baker City, OR
- Oregon Environmental Council — Multiple Conservation Organizations, Portland, OR
- Oregon State University — Water Summit, Silverton, OR
- Oregon Water Resources Department — Field Services Division
- Oregon Water Resources Department — Technical Services Division
- Oregon Water Resources Department — Water Rights Services Division
- Oregon Water Resources Commission
- Oregon Water Utilities Council — Keizer, OR
- Regional Water Providers Consortium Technical Committee — Portland, OR
- Rogue Valley Council of Governments, organized by Oregon DEQ — Central Point, OR
- Tualatin River Watershed Council — Hillsboro, OR
- Yamhill County Water Task Force — McMinnville, OR

Below is a summary of feedback gathered during workshops and through several months of public comment. This feedback came from diverse geographic and water industry perspectives across Oregon. Some of the statements and suggestions directly contradict each other. Many statements were made more than once.

Verbal statements received during the course of workshops are included in this document but are not attributed to any individual or group. Written statements, received during the period of public comment, are also incorporated into this document without attribution; these written statements are on-line in their original form with attribution (note: contact information of individuals has been removed for privacy), and included as Attachment 2 of the staff report.

This feedback will enable the state to develop a draft set of guidelines during Fall 2014 that will help with the development of place-based IWRSs. The Water Resources Department is seeking funding during 2015-17 to enable two or three communities to pilot test these guidelines where suggestions and improvements can be made before launching a statewide program. Below are suggestions and input shared during workshops and through the direct public comment.

What the "Introduction" to the Guidelines Should Contain

- In the guidelines, WRD/the state should lay out the primary objective, "to meet Oregon's water needs."
- Local communities could provide a secondary objective, laying out the specific challenges or priorities they plan to address over the next three to five years. Examples: water supply, drought, flood, climate change, aging infrastructure, seismic concerns, water quality (habitat and environmental health, public health and safety), economic development, access or equity for environmental justice communities, etc.
- Place-based IWRSs should plan 50 years into the future, like the state IWRS does.
- "Integrated" means meeting instream and out-of-stream needs; addressing groundwater and surface water challenges; meeting water quantity, water quality, and ecosystem needs, too.
- Note and respect that communities are working along a spectrum. Example: some haven't convened a group yet, some are beginning discussions, some have projects ready to implement, and some have already implemented projects. Basins like the Yakima in Washington and the Deschutes in Oregon have already formed groups, sought federal funding, and are getting projects implemented.
- Start with a pilot project to test the guidelines; adjust from there.
- Remember that water is a public resource that belongs to all Oregonians.
- Do not undermine or delegate already-existing state authority in policy, rule, or law. Such authorities include management of water resources, statewide land-use planning goals, water right permitting and enforcement, pollution discharge permits, existing basin programs, and negotiation of tribal water rights. Do not delegate these authorities or control of water to local or regional bodies.
- Re-iterate sideboards already stated in the IWRS:
 - Recognize public interest in water
 - Comply with state law and policy
 - Ensure balanced representation of all interests
 - Have meaningful process for public involvement
 - Ensure full representation by state agencies, federal agencies, tribes, non-governmental organizations.

- Re-iterate principles already stated in the IWRS framework appendix:
 - Accountable and Enforceable Actions
 - Balance
 - Collaboration
 - Conflict Resolution
 - Facilitation by the State of Oregon
 - Incentives
 - Implementation
 - Interconnectedness / Integration
 - Public Process. Employ an open, transparent process that fosters public participation and supports social equity, fairness, and environmental justice. Advocate for all Oregonians.
 - Reasonable Cost
 - Science-based, flexible approaches
 - Streamlining
 - Sustainability
- Consider including, in its entirety, the text of the IWRS. Use as a “foreword.”
- Adopt guidelines in administrative rule. Convene a Rules Advisory Committee.

What Outputs / Goals Should We Expect

- Water resources projects that meet our water needs.
- Better, clearer policies and programs. This includes making recommendations to change existing basin programs, agency rules, or statutes.
- Confirm that this process won't take away existing water rights.
- Confirm that the state will maintain its existing authorities.
- Education/Outreach. This includes communicating with and involving local elected leaders, planning commissions, and citizens.
- Be very clear in the guidelines about what constitutes an acceptable strategy.
- Don't use the word “plan.” Sounds too passive. Use “place-based strategy.”
- Adequate, clean water for humans and other species.
- Confirm that participation is voluntary.

The Value of Place-Based Strategies: “What Does This Get Us That We Don't Already Have?”

- Defines and meets water demands / needs at the local level, both now and in the future.
- A formal mechanism that promotes, encourages, and supports efforts to address water issues.
- Establishes regional priorities.
- Allows local input in meeting local water needs, setting project priorities, and funding priorities by providing communities the responsibility and tools for meeting their own water needs.
- Allows more focused discussion and development of data, strategies, and action items specific to each basin.
- Bottoms up approach with room for the state to initiate the process, provide needed guidance and resources, and set the standards.
- Helps the state prioritize its investments. Legislators want to see buy-in and cost share.
- Increases / leverages / pools funding at the local, state, and federal level.
- Creates economies of scale, particularly for infrastructure funding, equipment, supplies, and contracts.

- Haven't we done enough talking already? When do we move to the tangible projects? This will only be valuable if projects get through quick. Don't want to sit around and talk all day.
- How does this differ from every other effort? Folks are fatigued by all the planning. We are tired of holding multiple meetings about water with different people / agencies. Could we at least reconcile the different plans or fix places where they conflict?
- A venue for agencies to coordinate their work.
- Documents / demonstrates consensus, community support, and local ownership of the solution.
- Ensures projects are vetted at the local level.
- Gets credit for work that has already been done.
- Expands upon individual local successes in one area to now tackle water quantity, water quality, and ecosystem needs collectively.
- Improves the opportunity for creativity, a broader context, a more holistic view.
- Avoids myopic, narrow approach. Avoids unintended consequences of single project or action.
- Provides venue for discussion among community members, and for those who haven't typically had a voice in water discussions.
- Helps to hear and understand each other's water needs.
- Leverages the ability of each participant to reach out to and involve their own network / constituents (multiplier effect).
- Demonstrates an inclusive and robust process in order to line up needed funding and support.
- Provides a venue to address water resource problems faster.
- Increases political voice in the capitol for water as an issue.
- Increases political voice for communities that are ready to implement water resource projects; gives communities a chance to compete for funding.
- Allows integration of efforts; helps avoid duplication.
- Build trust.
- Address multiple mandates at the same time.
- More efficient project development; one project could address multiple needs.
- Long term approach tackles multiple projects in sequence. Not just one project and then disperse the group.
- Assume this will be a long term discussion forum.
- Makes it easier to identify and negotiate trade-offs.
- Establishes a forward-looking group, identifying and guarding against threats to local water resources.
- Multiple jurisdictions share water sources; they should share protection / development of these resources as well. This responsibility extends beyond individual watershed councils, drinking water providers, irrigators, soil and water conservation districts, etc.
- Water right holders are bumping up against deadlines / sunsets and need to demonstrate local need for water (e.g., completion dates, or "C" dates, permit extensions, agricultural water right reservations).
- Theoretically, should cut down on the need for litigation.
- Could this result in regulatory flexibility?
- Water managers need to anticipate / prepare for future scenarios.
- This could be the mechanism to get good projects to the table.
- Caution: don't create a process that is so complicated and overwhelming that it is cost and time prohibitive to participate.
- Caution: don't lose or ignore the small projects along the way.
- This provides the linkage among many other kinds of plans that will provide the best end product.

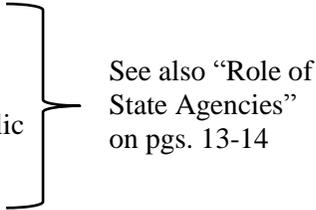
- Focus on improving resource reliability (out-of-stream) and flows (instream) at the same time (give them equal priority). Demonstrate continual improvements in these areas.
- Use of local knowledge.
- Creative solutions, based on site-specific circumstances and data.
- Place-based planning will provide the institutional infrastructure to foster cooperation during crisis.

Setting the Geographic Planning Boundaries

- Use a hybrid approach: state should set broad boundaries, stimulating voluntary participation within basins and among stakeholder groups.
- Define borders according to hydrologic units, like basins or watersheds. Nest them where appropriate.
- Hydrologic boundaries, based on USGS hydrologic unit codes (6 or 8 digit units). Further organizational sub-divisions should seek permission from the State, based on set criteria.
- Allow political jurisdictions to layer on top of hydrologic units, to ensure some staffing or institutional capacity to participate.
- State should ensure there is statewide coverage, with no geographic gaps.
- If there is no capacity or interest in an area, come back to it later. Focus on areas where there is already an interest.
- Don't have too many planning units.
- Willamette and Deschutes Basins are examples of basins that are too big and unwieldy to work as individual planning areas; may have to break into smaller boundaries.
- Make sure upstream impacts are discussed with those downstream.
- Communities interested in participating should identify themselves to the state.
- Encourage liaisons between planning groups (especially where there are out-of-basin transfers or other source/discharge locational issues).
- Don't allow plans to compete with each other within the same basin.
- Can get more done at a watershed level, compared to WRD's 18 administrative basins, which are very large.
- Define borders according to how the state has already organized its data (e.g., Washington uses Water Resources Inventory Areas, or WRIAs).
- There aren't many strong programs with basin boundaries to use as examples. There is nothing else like this in place.
- Accommodate other planning units already in place. For instance, ODFW has conservation and recovery plans that revolve around "Species Management Units." These boundaries won't line up perfectly with WRD basin boundaries.
- Do not foreclose opportunities to work at a larger scale (i.e., across state boundaries, across multiple basins, etc.)
- Call an interagency meeting to prepare for this.
- State approval of boundaries / groups wouldn't be beneficial. Areas will regulate themselves. Allow self-selection / delineation.
- Boundaries should be defined by the state, consistent with regional solutions, and correspond to drainage basins.
- Submit formal proposal of boundaries and participants to WRD for acceptance, allowing agencies an opportunity to suggest additional participants, a bigger area, a smaller area, etc.

- Regional Solutions cannot lead a place-based approach because they are not adequately engaged as a bottoms-up watershed approach.
- Build planning areas with help from watershed councils, soil and water conservation districts, cities, counties, tribes, water districts.

Governance Structure and Decision-Making

- There are different models used in other states: one organization could provide staff and leadership to the group; multiple organizations could provide staff and leadership; joint organizations could be created to provide staff and leadership.
 - Do NOT create a new layer of bureaucracy.
 - Must have local staff capacity in order to get things done.
 - Utilize inter-governmental MOUs at local, state, federal, tribal levels, if necessary. See examples from Oregon Solutions, inter-agency agreements, etc.
 - State should probably set standards for this.
 - State should approve final governance structure.
 - Group should agree on outcomes first and then pursue specific projects.
 - Make decisions based on consensus.
 - Make opportunities available for voting and minority reports.
 - State should initiate, chair, and govern group.
 - State should wait to be invited, providing technical assistance only.
 - Include a provision for state agency representation.
 - State and federal agencies should be allowed to vote, to ensure that the public interest is also represented at the table.
 - State could provide examples of governance structures.
 - Allow flexibility in structure, chairs/convenors/facilitators, decision-making, scope
 - Results shouldn't be binding decisions, just general recommendations.
 - Should have "initiating governments" trigger the process, like they do in Washington.
 - Give local groups latitude and responsibility for convening, setting priorities, implementation, and reasonable performance targets, with concurrence by the state.
 - If members are going to vote, ensure equal number of seats for out-of-stream and instream interests.
 - Everyone on the group should be a voting member, including agency staff.
 - Public review and comment should be a clear and significant part of the process.
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- See also "Role of State Agencies" on pgs. 13-14

Member Representation

- Ensure representatives at the table include cities and counties, including their planning staff.
- Local, state, federal agencies.
- Invite Tribes.
- Invite neighboring or adjacent planning groups.
- Private sector, including power companies and water-intensive businesses.
- Include forest land managers; one half of the state is federal forestland (U.S. Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service).
- Include key owners of storage (e.g., Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers)
- Include upstream water right holders.

- Include environmental justice communities—those traditionally under-represented in the public process. Give real notice to affected communities.
- Membership should be flexible.
- Interest groups can help facilitate information sharing and prevent re-inventing the wheel.
- State should be specific about who should be at the table; otherwise, a community will waste time fighting about it.
- Voting members should include interest groups that may play a role in plan implementation or may be affected by plan implementation.
- Send communications to everyone at the same time with the same information, even if some parties decline to participate or stop participating.
- The cost and benefits of participating need to be made very clear. Taking a voluntary approach means that time and resources should be spent on advertising and creative incentives to participate, whenever possible. This has been important aspect of local drinking water protection programs.
- Create a process for those that feel excluded to make a case to be included.
- Include your biggest critics. Why are they critics, after all?
- How do you limit the number of representatives at the table? Some communities will have large numbers of watershed councils, water districts, business, etc.
- The hard part would be getting interest groups to choose just one representative.
- Should you limit representatives in any way?
- Should representatives include state-wide organizations, or only local organizations?
- Consider inviting all interested parties and using a consensus process.
- Could there be a pre-meeting to identify who else needs to participate?
- What about basins that straddle state lines, service territories, or other important boundaries? Designate liaison between groups. Or, set up regular check in calls with leaders of neighboring planning areas.
- How senior should representatives be? Executive directors and their designees?
- “Initiators” should come from public agencies within the basin. Only work in basins that are ripe for planning.
- All stakeholders should be invited.
- Set forth participant requirements, whether they be general characteristics or named organizations. Participation must be balanced among water resources interests and water managers.
- Ensure full participation by state and federal agencies, affected tribes, NGOs.
- Balance representation between instream and out-of-stream interests
- Include statewide interest groups, not just groups with local interests.
- Involve neighboring planning groups, particularly where there are inter-basin transfers. (E.g., the Rogue Basin and Klamath Basin share water resources).
- Include at least one representative from the public.
- State should help identify groups that are missing and approve the final composition of the group.
- Foster genuine participatory democracy.
- Don’t tell groups they are required to be there or spend their own resources for this; similarly, don’t tell groups they can’t participate.
- This all comes down to where organizations will want to spend their own money, so they’ll get more say in the matter.

Comments about Public Involvement

- Use on-line collaborative space to share work and update interested parties between face-to-face meetings.
- Make sure information on-line is up-to-date.
- Ensure open, public meetings, including the media.
- Use media to help advertise meetings and key decision points.
- Ensure opportunity for verbal public comment and written public comment at meetings and on-line.
- Include “member of the public” at the voting table, like Texas? How to choose such an individual?
- Ensure transparent and accessible process to the public at all stages, including meetings, decision-making, draft documents.
- Have meaningful process for public involvement.
- Regular, in-person meetings, with time set aside for public comment.
- Post all documents on-line, including public comments.
- Follow public meeting laws.
- Include an educational component.

Convenor Compared to Facilitator

- Both are necessary.

Convenor

Host

Identifies and invites participants.

Ensures representation of public and private interests.

Brings cookies and coffee.

Champion of the process.

Strong, local leadership.

May differ by basin.

State specify qualifications

Consider having co-convenors

Get help from existing

entities (County

NRACs, Watershed

Councils, COGs, etc.)

Facilitator

Needs training in order to provide consistent process.

Must be experienced.

Builds trust with and among participants.

Moves conversation along, ensuring robust participation.

Provides the white board or flip charts!

Ensures transparent process.

Solicits information from all interested parties.

Brings positions together.

Responsible for meeting logistics.

Keeps thoughts / notes organized.

Actively helps process along.

Responsible for diverse and balanced viewpoints / inclusivity.

Shouldn't have a stake in the outcome. Neutral.

Data and Monitoring Plans

- Note significant data gaps. What information is needed for decision-making?
- Plan to monitor important trends.
- Plan to share data when collected and analyzed.
- Draw up an initial list of metrics, data, and information that form the basis for discussion, evaluation, and comparison. Refine through a pilot testing process.
- Design a data and monitoring plan for 50 years into the future.
- Require a range of scenarios to plan for and consider.

- If local plans and projects are going to roll up into the statewide IWRS, data must be structured and consistent across the state.
- State should provide a basic data framework for local plans, and allow flexibility for participants to include additional local issues.
- Characterize Local Water Supplies/Resources
 - State could provide some of the background information, including streamflows, hydrogeologic conditions (including surface water and groundwater interaction), water availability, water quality conditions for surface water and groundwater, fish passage barrier analysis, well locations, potential and current storage locations, dam ratings and conditions, withdrawn streams, groundwater limited areas, groundwater administrative management areas, etc.
 - Identify events that will affect future supply including: climate change, land-use change, aging infrastructure, seismic risks, drought, flood, fully appropriated systems, and impaired water quality.
- Characterize Instream and Out-of-Stream Water Needs / Demands
 - Consumptive needs/demands include municipal, agricultural, industrial/power, domestic
 - Instream needs/demands include flows needed to support fish, habitat, and ecological needs (including groundwater dependent ecosystems), water quality, navigation, recreation, and hydropower. Note any instream water rights, or scenic waterway flows.
 - Be able to characterize water needs and articulate history of unmet needs clearly. State should suggest a demand forecast method to ensure consistency and accounting of true needs. This should be as prescriptive as possible.
 - State and federal partners could provide some of the background information, including: water use, status of water rights, citations for current rules and statutes, instream flow needs and instream rights, scenic waterway requirements, biological opinions, total maximum daily loads (TMDLs), and recovery plans.
 - Identify events that will affect future instream and out-of-stream demands, including climate change, population growth and shifts, land-use change, water-energy needs, federal requirements, new infrastructure (i.e., dams that can supply instream and out-of-stream needs), and costs.
 - Predicting water demands should be much more tied into land-use planning, economic development, and business recruitment strategies. Often water is considered too late in the development process.
- Spell out mandatory data elements. Elements should include water quality impaired water bodies, instream water rights, anadromous fish ranges, approved TMDLs, water availability determinations, and special management areas, state scenic waterways.
- State should provide a template here, too! Use list of critical issues in 2012 IWRS for ideas.
- State should create a common terminology; define terms.
- Address instream and out-of-stream needs in tandem.
- Requires robust effectiveness monitoring and regular progress reports. Chronic non-attainment of targets should have consequences.
- Give communities latitude to determine what topics they have the capacity and interest to address.
- Partial plans that address only select interests should not be approved.
- Instream needs also encompass primary contact recreation and cold water fisheries.
 - Evaluate and meet instream needs, including: base flows, seasonally varying flows (SVFs), state scenic waterways, flows mandated by biological opinion, target flows, or instream water rights established through new applications or water right transfers.

- For basins in which streamflow requirements have not yet been set, new requests for water appropriation, diversion, or storage should be accompanied by an instream flow study, paid for by the state.
- Assess whether instream needs will be met in the future.
- Water Quality
 - Evaluate and improve water quality limitations and water quality data; at the very least, don't allow degraded conditions.
 - TMDLs generally provide excellent data, but have shown limited effectiveness / results.
 - Take proactive / precautionary approach.
 - Dept. of Environmental Quality and Dept. of Agriculture are the leads in setting standards. Hear and honor input from the community.
 - Link to water quality studies, management plans, and TMDLs and describe their requirements.
 - Describe water quality protections in the plan.

The Pursuit of Potential Water Management Tools, Techniques, & Technologies

- Provide a sample menu of options to communities.
- Access agricultural “reservations” of future water supplies; some exist, but have sunset dates.
- Conjunctive management of surface water and groundwater. Assume an interconnection unless proven otherwise.
- Coordinate a publicly available website or have one clearinghouse website for multiple state-agency plans.
- Groundwater management involves both water quantity and water quality considerations.
- Water conservation includes a number of techniques: piping and lining; changing how water is delivered to plants (flood, sprinkler, pivot, drip, timing); not using potable water for cleaning or flushing; use of variable pumps, aerators, and other devices to improve water efficiency.
- Water-Use Efficiency. Review Oregon Administrative Rules, which includes provisions against waste, encourages measurement, calls for the development of efficiency standards, etc.
- Storage. The days of huge in-channel storage projects may be over, given environmental constraints. Focus on: natural storage in snowpack, wetlands, and floodplains; new or expanded above-ground, off-channel storage; below-ground storage including injection and recharge; allocation of stored water; dam re-operations.
- Improve, maintain, rehabilitate, expand or develop water infrastructure.
- Ensure redundancy / inter-ties in water systems for emergency preparedness.
- Water reuse. Why isn't this technique used more often? Use treated wastewater as recycled water, where appropriate. Match the quality of water to its end use (e.g., recycled water for specific industrial uses), while conserving potable water for drinking.
- Desalination (ocean water and brackish water).
- Improved water quality. An integral part of any IWRS efforts; should be required. Describe areas of concern and how to address them.
 - Potential techniques could include: treatment to drinking water standards, natural treatment of stormwater and wastewater, water quality pollution control plans, pollution prevention, groundwater remediation.
 - Having adequate water quality data remains a challenge.
- Water Quality Protections. Set forth a path for determining and protecting the flows needed to support water quality needs.
- Source water protection (surface water and groundwater).

- Land-Use Planning. Adjust zoning / permitting of land to protect, or match, available water resources.
- Rotations or water sharing arrangements.
- Water right transfers.
- Develop sources of mitigation for new water right permits.
- Habitat restoration, protection, and access for fish and wildlife.
- Instream protections. An integral part of any IWRS efforts; should be required. Describe areas of concern and how to address them. Set forth a path for determining and protecting the flows needed to support instream needs.
 - Determine what instream flows are needed and where (determination should come from Department of Fish and Wildlife, Department of Environmental Quality, Parks and Recreation Department, federal agencies, or federal biological opinions).
 - Putting water instream voluntarily buffers against ESA.
 - Ensure fish passage and screening.
 - Evaluate whether current instream water rights are sufficient. If not, determine what work needs to be done.
 - Instream protections can be put in place through permit conditions, conservation projects, instream leasing—any other measures?
 - Protect this water all the way down the stream (i.e., make sure it's on the watermaster's radar).
 - How do we keep other states from taking more streamflow? Do we need compacts in place?
 - Develop standards to protecting environmental flows.
 - Resolve any instream water right applications that have been protested.
 - Allow local communities to make instream flow recommendations, based on scientific data.
 - Assess groundwater needed to support ecological purposes, including instream flows and groundwater-dependent ecosystems.
 - Look at threats to groundwater resources due to over-drafting.
 - Note the protections that are available for use in this basin.
- Climate change adaptation. Use best available climate change science. Address any disconnects between climate variability and how water supply is managed; how water storage, conveyance, and treatment structures and equipment are designed; how water quality is measured and managed; and how aquatic species are evaluated and managed.
- Clearly identify the projects you want to pursue as a basin. Document community support for the project or bundle of projects.
- Tools, techniques and technologies should be developed to meet instream and out-of-stream needs / demands.
- Measurement and reporting (tie to data and monitoring section above). Use groundwater investigations, monitoring wells, stream gages, telemetry, meters and other water-use measurement equipment to characterize the water resources of the basin.
- Encourage beaver recovery and restoration of beaver dams; they are key to Oregon's ecological health and ability to store water.
- Develop water user education programs.
- Include provisions for drought management.

Integration with Other Plans

- Would this be redundant with other plans? No, it should help to reconcile them and pull them together.
- Start with existing plans and project blueprints. Pick a project to see if it is feasible to pursue.
- Fund projects or groups of projects that meet instream and out-of-stream needs.
- Could Oregon ask for federal waivers where there are conflicting mandates and is Oregon willing to establish higher standards? (No examples provided).
- How closely does this approach track with the Bureau of Reclamation's WaterSMART Basin Study Program?
- How closely does this approach track with U.S. Forest Service Regional Plans?
- Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Conservation and Recovery Plans identify actions related to water such as increasing instream flow and improving water quality. Incorporate these into place-based IWRS efforts.
- Need to have stronger ties with land-use plans. Don't build homes or businesses where water isn't available. Don't build structures in stream channels, etc.
- Need to have stronger ties with "eat local food" movements, such as "eat locally and reduce your carbon footprint" and "food, not lawns." Do current policies and programs support these movements?
- Right now, consultants slog through competing mandates / requirements and let communities know what they need to do.
- Individual members may face different requirements (e.g., water management and conservation plans for water right holders, water use reporting for public entities, water system master plans for drinking water providers, etc.).
- Provides an opportunity to address multiple requirements at the same time.
- Would this mean the state needs to update its basin plans? Possibly. But, don't waste time making this the focus.
- Would this mean the counties need to update permitting or zoning ordinances? Maybe. It depends on the content of individual plans.
- Would this mean the federal agencies might change their reservoir operational plans (e.g., rule curves)? We can ask.
- Be open to regulatory flexibility as an outcome of the process.
- Would there be an opportunity to change water law or water rights, beyond using the traditional "water right transfers" process? Discuss it with agencies and stakeholders as part of the process.
- How do we address rules or water rights that define the dates of the irrigation or growing season, when the growing season is shifting earlier and increasing in length?
- Could this be a vehicle for regulatory / process streamlining?
- Could we get more coordination among federal agencies?
- Meet Oregon's existing statutory obligations.
- Abide by plans that are regulatory in nature. Coordinate, if desired, with other plans that are voluntary in nature.
- Take basin plans to the "next level," developing water resource projects that will meet each basin's water needs. Keep harkening back to the original basin planning goals outlined in HB 25 of 1955. Develop a Basin Plan for the Klamath Basin, which doesn't have one.
- Do not usurp basin plans. Basin plans have been set in rule; basin plans and the water allocation decisions that resulted should remain consistent with state priorities.
- Re-visit water quality basin plans, particularly re-examining designated uses for certain stream reaches.

- Watershed councils have assessments and action plans to improve conditions in their own watersheds. These have involved various sectors and community interests.
- Economic development interests should not guide place-based water management plans. Do not use regional economic priorities as a starting point for place-based water planning.
- Other plans include management of sensitive, threatened, and endangered species, international treaties, and agreements.
- Current water quality oversight is disjointed. We need a central clearinghouse for water quality issues and better coordination. No one state or federal agency seems to be able to help with complicated or multiple watershed quality problems. Local and state agencies that are short of funds are overlooking water quality violations.
- Incorporate data and strategies from existing water quality management plans. Eventually, place-based plans could be used to inform future versions of existing water quality management plans.
- Get ahead of conflicts that arise when well owners install new wells near existing underground injection controls (UICs).
- Agencies should reach out to each other and work to integrate plans / requirements before local communities even get involved.
- Regional Solutions can help make linkages.
- Pull in Oregon Dept. of Forestry, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, Dept. of Land and Conservation Development, and Business Oregon—those with data regarding current and future water demand.
- Consider the Northwest Power Planning Council’s Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program plan and sub-basin plans for hydro project requirements.

Role of State Agencies in Place-Based IWRS

- Provide checklist/guidelines to ensure integrated approach
- Absence of data is a huge hurdle right now.
- Set the context; lay out the facts.
- Provide a “state of the basin” or “patient diagnosis,” including:
 - Surface water and groundwater availability
 - Basin plan restrictions, including withdrawn streams
 - Regulation history
 - Recent water permitting activity
 - Water rights by quantity, season of use, place of use, character of use, point of diversion
 - Fish species present; biological opinion requirements
 - Connect data that is not currently linked to Oregon’s Water Rights Information System (WRIS), such as water management conservation plans, water use reporting data, groundwater data.
 - Identify available mitigation for new water right permits.
 - Serve as contractor for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ stored water.
- Serve as technical advisor and provide technical assistance (many agreed that was the most valuable role for the state). Examples include:
 - Data needs
 - Help with the process of activating department tools (e.g., ag reservations, permits, exchanges, etc.)
 - Identify the capacity of groundwater aquifers
 - Identify coming federal actions that may have an effect.
 - Get compacts, agreements, policies in place.

- Funding is important, but not the most important role. This is not a hand-out; need local buy-in as well.
- Provide early warning for phenomena such as drought, flood, and climate change.
- Actively participate in finding water resource solutions; don't just observe.
- Make sure all four project team members (Oregon Water Resources Dept., Dept. of Environmental Quality, Oregon Dept. of Agriculture, and Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife) are at the table.
- Ensure that state and federal agencies with local mandates / requirements actively participate in the process.
- Do NOT spend state resources on the meeting logistics.
- Yes, DO spend state resources on the meeting logistics.
- What can Oregon's inter-agency stream team contribute?
- Do not issue new state mandates as part of this process; serve as a technical advisor only.
- State and federal agencies shouldn't be voting members.
- State should initiate, chair, and govern group.
- State should wait to be invited, providing technical assistance only.
- Include a provision for state agency representation.
- State and federal agencies should be allowed to vote, to ensure the public interest is also represented at the table.
- Maintain state authorities and responsibilities.
- Provide sideboards that protect the public interest.
- Provide encouragement and leadership to try new water management tools.
- Provide a reality check when a project is not feasible.
- Ensure consistent approach and inclusivity.
- Ask Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife to provide target flows—what flows are needed and where. This is an overwhelming need across the state, and a significant bottleneck that needs attention.
- Ask Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife for fish passage priorities.
- Ask Oregon Department of Environmental Quality for a list of water quality priorities.
- Include the Oregon Dept. of Energy and the Energy Trust of Oregon for their water and energy efficiency programs.
- Coordinate with the long-term strategic investment approach taken by the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board.
- Partner between state and local entities, with shared responsibility for resources.
- The state must take a leadership role. HB 3369 (2009) and statute make clear that the state is responsible for developing an integrated water resources plan—no one else. The four project agencies should chair meetings with equal voting power, or Water Resources Dept. should chair with other agencies at the table with voting power.
- Look to Washington's process for determining the agencies involved and their Memorandum of Understanding among various natural resource agencies.
- Heavy involvement equals heavy-handed control; agencies should not have voting power and should only participate by invitation.
- Limit input to funding and technical assistance.
- The state has responsibility to protect the public interest, ecosystem services, watershed health, and lifecycles.
- Help with communications between the regions and Salem (HQ).
- Don't leave WRD to do this alone.

- Strongly incentivize efforts to meet instream and out-of-stream needs. Revisit point system for grant projects.
- State could provide examples of governance structures.
- Agency “mapping” exercise that describes sources of public funding, informational resources, and technical assistance would help communities.

Plan Review and Adoption

- Local planning unit should adopt final plan by consensus.
- Any required elements and amendments should be adopted by member responsible (i.e., anything that costs money or requires a vote of elected officials).
- Don’t require sign-off by counties or other organizations if it is not required and if it would slow the process down.
- Definitely have an inter-agency state review process. Without a review and adoption mechanism, state cannot determine which proposals have strong community support and how they fit into the state’s overall strategy.
- Review criteria should include a set of “fatal flaws” which if not met, would result in rejection of the plan (similar to Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board review team criteria). At a minimum, requirements of funding agencies should be included in the plan.
- State should acknowledge or accept place-based strategies and respond with a letter or other formal document.
- Have the Water Resources Commission adopt individual place-based strategies into the state-level IWRS as an appendix.
- Have a review and feed-back process by the state throughout the process, not just at the end.
- Ensure equity and legality of the outcomes.
- Update each local IWRS at least every five years, just like the statewide level.
- Refer to the place-based IWRS in local organizations’ comprehensive plans or master plans. For example, in the State Revolving Loan Fund, applications get points off if applicants cannot show the project as part of their master plan.
- Could this adoption at the local level help protect against future litigation? Could communities secure judicial validation of their approach?
- Every draft should be transparent and public. All participants should be polled.
- Review and input should be allowed from interests inside and outside of the basin.
- With the state as manager of the process, there would be assurance that planning guidance has been followed and that criteria have been met.
- Yes, state (4 project agencies and their commissions) should approve plans and guide local bodies in implementation.
- Local groups should adopt a plan every so many years (3 to 5?) or cease to exist.
- Local groups don’t need to adopt the plan; that’s the state’s role.
- Use review and acceptance process, similar to process used in Water Management and Conservation Plans (WMCPs).
- Allow citizens to review and comment on documents at the local level.

Funding

- Which federal agencies can help with funding? E.g., U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Environmental Protection Agency, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Geological Survey, Bonneville Power Authority.
- What state agencies can help with funding? Oregon Water Resources Dept., Oregon Dept. of Environmental Quality, Oregon Health Authority, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, Infrastructure Finance Authority, etc.
- Currently, there is no dedicated source of funding to help with place-based IWRS efforts.
- Show a clear path for funding multiple stages of project development: data collection/information, planning, feasibility studies, project implementation.
- Require a cost-share. Communities with skin in the game will have a greater commitment.
- Don't require a cost-share for early planning stages.
- Don't make planning monies competitive. Puts rural communities with less staff at a disadvantage. Just release funds to basins when they are ready.
- Make sure smaller / individual projects don't get lost in this conversation. Bundle them and move them together if necessary. Cumulative effects may be significant.
- Encourage communities to develop a self-funding mechanism, to develop the capacity to stay at the table. State of Washington self-assessments have allowed some Water Resources Inventory Areas, or WRIAs, to continue developing projects.
- Secure enough grant monies to incentivize this process.
- Should all state agencies send their grants and loans through this process? If so, be clear. If not, award more points for using this process. Put a process in place so that eventually, new projects seeking state funding will have to be part of a broader basin strategy.
- State funding is important to support projects with multiple—instream and out-of-stream—benefits.
- State should identify locations that are ripe for funding.
- State should identify potential sources of funding.
- Local communities can't afford to pay for long-term staff / capacity. Help pay for local staff to come to the table and stay at the table.
- Do not create any new dedicated funding sources for water resource projects stemming from these efforts. Use already existing funds and criteria (e.g., Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board or 319 funds).
- Do not give funding preference for projects that go through a basin planning approach; it's not fair. Just provide assistance to projects that apply for funding.
- Do not give out funding for projects if they don't meet state's place-based guidelines. Throwing money on the table without sideboards or criteria invites a poor process and end-product.
- Do not duplicate funding efforts (i.e., check beforehand to see if another state agency is already providing or considering a grant).
- Funding could come from multiple agencies that have a regulatory or outcome stake in projects.
- Use a competitive grant process and require a match.
- Use funding as an incentive to plan using an integrated approach. Help with costs like facilitation, technical expertise, contractors, studies, and meeting expenses. Do not use planning grant monies to pay for state staff.
- Continue to move forward on a dual track: using current funds to cover projects already underway, while also moving towards place-based efforts to plan water resources projects across the entire state.