Oregon
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MEMORANDUM

TO: Water Resources Commission

FROM: Brenda Bateman, Senior Policy Coordinator

SUBJECT: Agenda Item B, June 3, 2010
Water Resources Commission Meeting

Integrated Water Resources Strategy Update

I. Introduction

During this agenda item, Commission members will receive a briefing from the Integrated Water Resources Strategy (IWRS) Project Team, and will have an opportunity to discuss and provide input on recent events, accomplishments and public policy issues.

Topics for this session include:

- The 2010 IWRS Open Houses
- Media Coverage
- The Policy Advisory Group
- Public Comments Received (February 1 – May 1, 2010)
- Public Policy Discussion

II. The 2010 IWRS Open Houses

The Project Team has conducted nine of the 11 Open Houses. The purpose of these events is three-fold: (1) to share information about the purpose, development, and schedule of the Strategy; (2) to solicit input from Oregon communities about what they see as the primary water resource challenges and solutions for their communities; and (3) to showcase already-existing water resource solutions in Oregon communities today. See Attachment 1 for the complete schedule of Open Houses and the flyers used to advertise these events.

These Open Houses have enjoyed strong turnout and participation from the general public, water resource stakeholders, tribes, elected and appointed officials, and local, state, and federal agencies. In each venue, the Project Team conducts two programs (at 4:00 pm and again at 5:30 pm), providing background information about the project. Local, professionally trained facilitators then take over, facilitating discussions with community members and focusing on "challenges and opportunities." These conversations have been very thoughtful and respectful on the whole. Local watershed councils, soil and water conservation districts, educational

institutions, public and private entities have contributed funding, time and materials, advertising and more, in support of these events.

The Project Team has received kudos for taking time to hold discussions in these communities, for providing a Kids' Center at each Open House, and for constructing and displaying a traveling map gallery that describes the kinds of challenges and opportunities that lay before us.

The "headcount" of participants is difficult, with Open House visitors coming and going throughout the evening. The estimated number of participants is as follows:

March 31, Gresham	100
April 7, Ontario	130
April 8, Umatilla	90
April 22, Bandon	70
April 28, Tillamook	40
May 11, Medford	70
May 12, Klamath Falls	50
May 13, Redmond	60
May 25, Burns	TBD
June 8, Salem	TBD
June 10, Eugene	TBD

For those unable to make it to one of the 11 Open Houses, the Project Team has set up a "12th Open House" on the project website, containing all of the materials, handouts, and surveys available during these meetings. Please visit www.wrd.state.or.us, and click on "Project Page" on the headline banner.

Already, recurring themes are beginning to emerge, as well as new ideas for water resource management. Information collected during these Open Houses will be aggregated, along with information collected during stakeholder workshops, and brought to the Policy Advisory Group for consideration and recommended action.

III. Media Coverage

The media has provided strong coverage of the Integrated Water Resources Strategy during the past few months, providing particular help in advertising the Open Houses. Both the Capital Press and the Oregonian ran the opinion pieces (Op-Ed) written by the four chairs involved in this effort: Chair John Jackson, Water Resources Commission; Chair Bill Blosser, Environmental Quality Commission; Chair Marla Rae, Fish and Wildlife Commission; and Chair Bob Levy, Board of Agriculture. See Attachment 2 for this Op-Ed, along with related articles.

IV. The Policy Advisory Group

The IWRS Policy Advisory Group (PAG) met for the second time on April 14, 2010 at the Water

Resources Department. The Group revisited previous meeting notes, as well as draft revisions to the PAG Charter, Meeting Protocols, and Vision. The Group spent the bulk of its meeting engaged with state agency officials, who presented their views on data and information needs related to water resources (water quantity, water quality, and ecosystem needs). Agency representatives provided brief summaries of these information and data needs to PAG members before the meeting; see Attachment 3 for the original, unedited document. As a result of the meeting discussions, this document will see further revision in the future. Because of the extensive information presented, PAG members were not asked to come to consensus during the meeting. Instead, the PAG will be asked to make a series of recommendations related to information / data and other topics during subsequent meetings.

The Policy Advisory Group is preparing to develop "Recommended Actions" in a number of areas, and has dedicated its next several meetings to the following themes:

April 14 (completed):	Looking at Information and Data Needs
July 13, 2010:	Looking at Planning Needs: (coordinating with Land-Use, Forestry, Parks, County, and other "Plans")
October 6, 2010:	Looking at Public Policy, Statue and Rule
January 2011:	Looking at Funding, Education and Outreach

V. Public Comments Received (February 1 – May 1, 2010)

Since the last Water Resources Commission update, the Project Team has continued to receive public comments on the full range of Integrated Water Resources Strategy activities. Comments have arrived through a variety of media, including regular mail, email, website survey, and telephone.

Mirroring the IWRS itself, the nature of the comments has begun from discussion of "process" and "background information" to more of a focus on potential opportunities and solutions for the state. Comments continue to be positive and supportive of the overall inter-agency effort. Attachment 4 contains the formal public comments received by the Project Team.

VI. Public Policy Discussion

During a February 2010 briefing of the Environmental Quality Commission, EQC members posed a public policy question to Chair John Jackson and Project Manager Brenda Bateman, and asked that the question be brought to the Water Resources Commission as well. The purpose of the question is to encourage the WRC to re-visit and confirm its overall intent related to the Integrated Water Resources Strategy.

EQC Vice Chair Professor Ken Williamson—Head of Oregon State University's School of Chemical, Biological and Environmental Engineering—noted that in academic discussion of water policy, one typically finds three schools of thought:

a. Those who place a premium on instream use of water,
b. Those who place a premium on the Doctrine of Prior Appropriation (first in time, first in right) and who therefore tend to favor agricultural uses of water, and
c. Those who place a premium on the development of water markets and therefore tend to favor municipal and industrial uses of water.

Professor Williamson asked, "Under what paradigm does Oregon manage water today, and under what paradigm should Oregon manage water tomorrow?"

Today's discussion explores whether these three paradigms provide an accurate representation of the choices facing Oregon during the development of the Integrated Water Resources Strategy.

IX. Conclusion

The Project Team continues to work on multiple projects and components related to the Integrated Water Resources Strategy. Enclosed as Attachment 5 is an updated workplan, whose primary edits include an updated calendar. The next update to the Water Resources Commission will include concluding observations about the 2010 Open Houses, as well as guest presenters on the topics of "Australia's Response to Drought" and "Lessons Learned from Water Marketing Efforts around the West."

Attachment 1: Open House schedule and flyers
Attachment 2: Media Packet
Attachment 3: Policy Advisory Group April 14, 2010 "A Look at Data and Information Gaps"
Attachment 4: New IWRS comments received between February 4, 2009 and May 1, 2010
Attachment 5: Revised Preliminary 2009-2012 IWRS Workplan (dated June 3, 2010)

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