Appendix C: 2023 – 2025 Oregon Water Data Portal Tribal and Interested Party Engagements

As part of the iterative process of developing the Oregon Water Data Portal, the project team ventured to provide outreach to both Tribes and interested parties across various user groups. Additionally, as others learned about the project, we were invited to provide presentations and answer questions in water and/or data related groups. The main project engagement for Phase 2 was the OWDP Webinar Presentation in November 2024. Over 100 participants joined to learn more about the OWDP project and its pilot portal as well as provide feedback and input on the project thus far. See Section 2 below for more details.

Below is a summary of engagements that the OWDP project team participated in to help encourage input into the project as well as demonstrate the project progress. This is not an exhaustive list, but a sampling of presentations given to various groups.

- December 2023: STREAM Team Meeting
- January OWDP Legislative Status Report
- February 2024: Presentation to the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources
- May 2024: New Mexico Data Initiative Workshop
    - See Section 1 below for details
- June 2024: DEQ Information Governance Council Meeting
- November 2024: OWDP Update Webinar
    - See Section 2 below for details
- January 2025: State and Tribal Natural Resource Work Group Presentation
- January 2025: Water Core Team Presentation
- January 2025: Beta Pilot Portal User Testing – Round 1
    - See OWDP Phase 2 Final Report, Appendix F for details
- February 2025: South Benton GW Monitoring/ WellIntel Meeting
- May 2025: Beta Pilot Portal User Testing – Round 2
    - See OWDP Phase 2 Final Report, Appendix F for details

The June 2023 OWDP Stage 1 Final Report included detailed summaries of several engagements that may also serve as a valuable future reference.

- Appendix C: Tribal and Stakeholder Engagement Sessions
- Appendix D: Technical Workshop Stakeholder Engagement
- Appendix E: Oregon Water Data Portal – Engagement Summary

Translation or other formats

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Section 1: New Mexico Data Initiative Workshop May 2024 notes

Notes are compiled by Sarah Mattecheck, DEQ, who attended the sessions.

Thursday May 9, 2024

Attendees: Christopher Morton (NM), Jacob Brown (NM), Jake Ross (NM), Stacy Timmons (NM), Rachel Hobbs (NM), Taylor Christina (TX), Ariel Quintana (TX), and Joel Natividad (datHere)

Meeting with New Mexico Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resource, Texas Water Data Hub, and datHere staff to discuss their data catalogs using CKAN. datHere is the contractor for both New Mexico and Texas and built their enterprise data catalog using dataHere's CKAN Data Management System Distribution. It is a comprehensive, central repository of all data assets' Metadata.

Joel Natividad

- DCAT-US version 3 just released by federal government.
  - Updated specification designed to facilitate data cataloging, discovery, and interoperability among US government agencies.
  - Update will allow you to search on content and not just the metadata.
- Texas hired a programmer and datHere mentored and trained the programmer on CKAN.
  - Introduced them to CKAN community.
  - New Mexico is currently hiring a programmer and would like similar help with training.
  - Learning curve is steep with CKAN but a programmer familiar with python or other common languages can learn.
    - Good to have someone familiar with open source projects and willingness to report issues and give feedback is essential.
  - Working on creating better documentation so people can learn from each other.
- Need to build coalitions because the way software is being developed now is patchwork and people want to keep it proprietary.
- Digital infrastructure needs to be standards based and open source.
- New tools being developed for Texas and New Mexico.
  - Current way is to set up metadata and then upload but new tool will allow for uploading data and then the tool will suggest metadata.
    - This is important because in Texas the time and energy to create the metadata is a barrier for people getting their data in the datahub.
  - Using AI to do statistics – looks at data and tells you what these data sets are about and suggests tags.
    - Can notice when something has changed in the database or when an update has occurred.
    - Big issue right now is managing the data ongoing – need data stewards and this will make it easier to manage data from different places.
- Current tool – data harvester.
  - New Mexico Portal grabs from other places.
  - Codes are already written for harvesting data from Socrata and ESRI.
- Issue with agencies and organizations wanting to keep data private.
  - One way around this is to publish all datasets as private initially and then have an easy way to publish when ready or bought in.
  - Instead of organizations exporting data and then using it with their data they could upload their datasets as private and then interact with all public data.

- - Ways to keep parts of data sets private and others public.
- CKAN wants to be a data management and data governance platform.
  - Central metadata hub – leave everything where it is but reduce friction by having a central metadata hub.
- Techniques for joining seemingly unrelated datasets – solution is if you have time and location you can join datasets that are seemingly unrelated.

Texas staff

- Each entity that is adding data to hub needs a data administrator.
- They are doing a lot of thinking around administration and how to maintain the hub.
- Creating incentives since no body has to do this – no legislation.
  - Making filling out the metadata easier and as pain free as possible.
- Examples of when sharing data led to less regulation.
  - Everyone has a perception that sharing data will lead to bad things or more regulation but there are stories of how data can lead to better outcomes for people.
  - Sharing data on an engendered turtle in Texas led to the turtle being delisted and regulations lifting.
- If you want to protect what you have and what you have a right to then you need to have data
- Location based searching – look at a location and pull all water data related to that location.
- Goal is for the hub to be at the level of google search ability – this is the dream.
- Recommended book Recoding America.

Friday May 10, 2024

Morning session

- New Mexico project governance.
  - Implementation Team.
  - Directing Agencies.
  - Executive Steering Committee.
  - Technical working group.
  - Data users working group.
- Highlights of work.
  - Coordination and collaboration between agencies.
  - Building data literacy.
  - FAIR – findable, accessible, interoperable, reusable.
  - WaterSmart grants.
- Vision.
  - Focus on where you want to go, point in the direction you want to head and don't get hung up on the obstacles.
- NM Agency Panel discussion.
  - Funding – success through clear business cases and telling the story.
  - Big benefit – the initiative has gotten agencies to work together.
  - People collecting data need efficient ways to upload data.
  - Hard to find people with experience in APIs.
  - Build it for the future.
- OpenET – satellite based evapotranspiration data for improved water management.
- Human centered design to understand users.
  - Texas is taking a human centered design approach to their hub.

- o Sometimes if you just ask people what they want/need people are not able to tell you – they may not know.
- o Alternative – watch people do their job in their work context to see what they need and what would make their lives better.
- o We don't want to build something that nobody wants or needs even if it seems like a good idea.
- o User testing.
  - ▪ Small groups tell you a lot – if 5 people make the same mistake you know you need to fix it, you don't need 100 people to make the same mistake.
  - ▪ Can be done with a final product or with wireframes.
- o The user testing led Texas to put the metadata at the top instead of at the bottom since they noticed people were not reading the metadata when it was at the bottom.
  - ▪ Organizations were concerned about misuse of data so putting it at the top helped quell their fears.

Afternoon session

- Texas.
  - o Bringing together what is already there.
  - o Catalog metadata and link to publicly available data.
  - o Explore and download data all in one place.
  - o Metadata – standardized, intuitive, useful.
    - ▪ Standards – how it should be used and caveats of usage.
- Internet of Water.
  - o Create something similar to google for water data.
  - o Discoverable, accessible, interoperable.
  - o GeoConnex – standards, use cases, prioritization for software and data development.
- USGS data.

Section 2: Summary of November 2024 OWDP webinar

On Nov. 14, 2024, the Oregon Water Data Portal Team held a webinar to discuss and share accomplishments, project updates, and next steps. The project team also presented pilot portal updates and lessons learned from other state agencies that are successfully implementing a water data portal. Over 100 participants heard from project team members at this informative update webinar about the necessity of Oregon having a modernized information management system where different data types are easily accessible to all parties through a dedicated, cooperative effort involving many agencies, with input and guidance from a breadth of interested parties, Tribes, and technical experts.

The team discussed the outcome of previous outreach efforts in 2022 that included over 63 of Oregon's water associations who were invited to a session intended for water decision makers and a session for water data users. Both sessions were well attended with over 44 participants in the associations group and 24 people in the users group. Additionally, Tribal engagement included a briefing coordinated with Oregon's Natural Resources Working Group, letters of consultation from DEQ sent to each of the nine federally recognized Tribes, and follow-up briefing meetings with individual Tribes.

The project team delivered information about the challenges that many Oregon agencies will face when contributing data to a portal and the importance of identification of data gaps and prioritization for which data sets will be available. The portal will initially involve state agency data with some federal and local government data that is currently available and ready for integration in the portal, and data inclusion is expected to grow

over time. To support Oregon's portal development efforts, the webinar included a summary of an April 2024 meeting held in Oregon with representatives from water portals already developed in New Mexico, Texas, and Idaho to share their experiences developing water data portals. The information exchange included topics such as state funding approaches, and the risks of delaying water data modernization from slower responses to water-related crises or missed economic opportunities. Importantly, the webinar showed a preview of the pilot portal and the projected schedule for the pilot portal completion. The next project phase of work will be to continue the pilot portal development, addressing critical agency data gaps, and continued engagement with interested parties and Tribes.

The presentation is available on the project website.

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