



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Renee Davis, Deputy Director
SUBJECT: Agenda Item I— Oregon's Secure, Safe and Resilient Water Future
October 16-17, 2018 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This report briefs the board on an emerging state initiative, supported by the Governor's Office, to develop and implement a 100-year vision for Oregon's water future.

II. Background

Oregon is known for its clean and relatively abundant water. However, development, climate change, population dynamics, and lack of ongoing investment in clean water stress the quality of water in our rivers and streams, create significant water scarcity in the summer and fall seasons, and increase the potential for water infrastructure failures and public health impacts.

III. Oregon's Vision for Secure, Safe and Resilient Water Future

The Governor's office, with support from agencies including OWEB, Oregon Water Resources Department, and Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, has begun scoping of a vision for Oregon's water future. The intent of this 100-year vision is to address changes in climate and population dynamics in ways that enable Oregon to steward its water resources to ensure clean and abundant water for the state's people, economy, and environment. Strategic investments will result in resilient natural and built water systems across the state to support safe and healthy communities, vibrant local economies and a healthy environment (Attachment A).

Earlier this year, directors of the state natural resources agencies and the Governor's Natural Resources Office (GNRO) re-convened Core Team—a deputy-level roundtable previously created in the early years of the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds—to further develop the water vision. Core Team also is inventorying known information about Oregon's water assets and the current condition of natural and built water systems, along with gaps in this information, to help identify the nature and extent of the problem and need. This work will help develop funding strategies for the future.

IV. How OWEB is Involved

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden is working closely with GNRO and other agencies to advance the water vision, including outreach to legislators and a range of interest groups. Deputy Director Renee Davis is a member of Core Team, and serves on the inventory sub-group of the team. Finally, at the June 2018 meeting, the board awarded

funding via the Governor's Priorities line item in the 2017-19 spending plan to help support this work (Attachment B). The water vision specifically connects to Strategy 4.4: Partner to design strategies for complex conservation issues that can only be solved by seeking new and creative funding sources.

V. Next Steps

Governor Brown has selected Oregon's Vision for a Secure, Safe and Resilient Water Future as a one of her natural resources priorities for the 2019-21 biennium. As the Governor's Office reviews agency request budgets, the Governor's staff will work with agencies to identify necessary and appropriate policy option packages for inclusion in the Governor's budget that will advance this initiative.

In the meantime, outreach and coalition-building will continue, led by GNRO and agency directors, and Core Team will continue work on the inventory of built and natural infrastructure and water assets. Staff will provide periodic updates to the board as progress is made and new developments occur.

VI. Recommendation

This is an information item only.

Attachments

- A. *Preparing a Secure, Safe & Resilient Water Future for All Oregonians* 2-pager
- B. Memo from Jason Miner, Governor's Natural Resources Policy Manager, to the board

Preparing a Secure, Safe & Resilient Water Future for All Oregonians

The need for a 100-year program for generations to come

Premise:

Oregon is known for its clean and relatively abundant water. However, development, climate change, population dynamics and lack of ongoing investment in clean water stress the quality of water in our rivers and streams, create significant water scarcity in the summer and fall seasons, and increase the potential for water infrastructure failures and public health impacts. Oregon's local economies and communities are increasingly vulnerable to drought, floods and fires. These realities place Oregon's quality of life, natural resources and economic future at risk.

Vision:

To address changes in climate and population dynamics, Oregon will steward its water resources to ensure clean and abundant water for our people, our economy and our environment, now and for future generations. Strategic investments and policies will result in resilient natural and built water systems across the state to support safe and healthy communities, vibrant local economies and a healthy environment.

This strategic approach will answer questions, including:

- What is the current state of Oregon's water supply and water quality?
- Considering climate change and population shifts, where are the most vulnerable communities and areas in most need of improved access to clean water?
- How do we ensure that Oregon's water systems (natural and built) are safe, sound and resilient to carry us into the future?

Goals:

- HEALTH: Secure, safe, accessible, and healthy water for current and future generations of Oregonians
- ECONOMY: Provide clean ground and surface water for current and future economic vitality for all Oregonians
- ENVIRONMENT: Ensure native fish and wildlife have access to the cool, clean water they need to thrive
- SAFETY: Strengthen resiliency in the face of natural hazards such as floods and drought

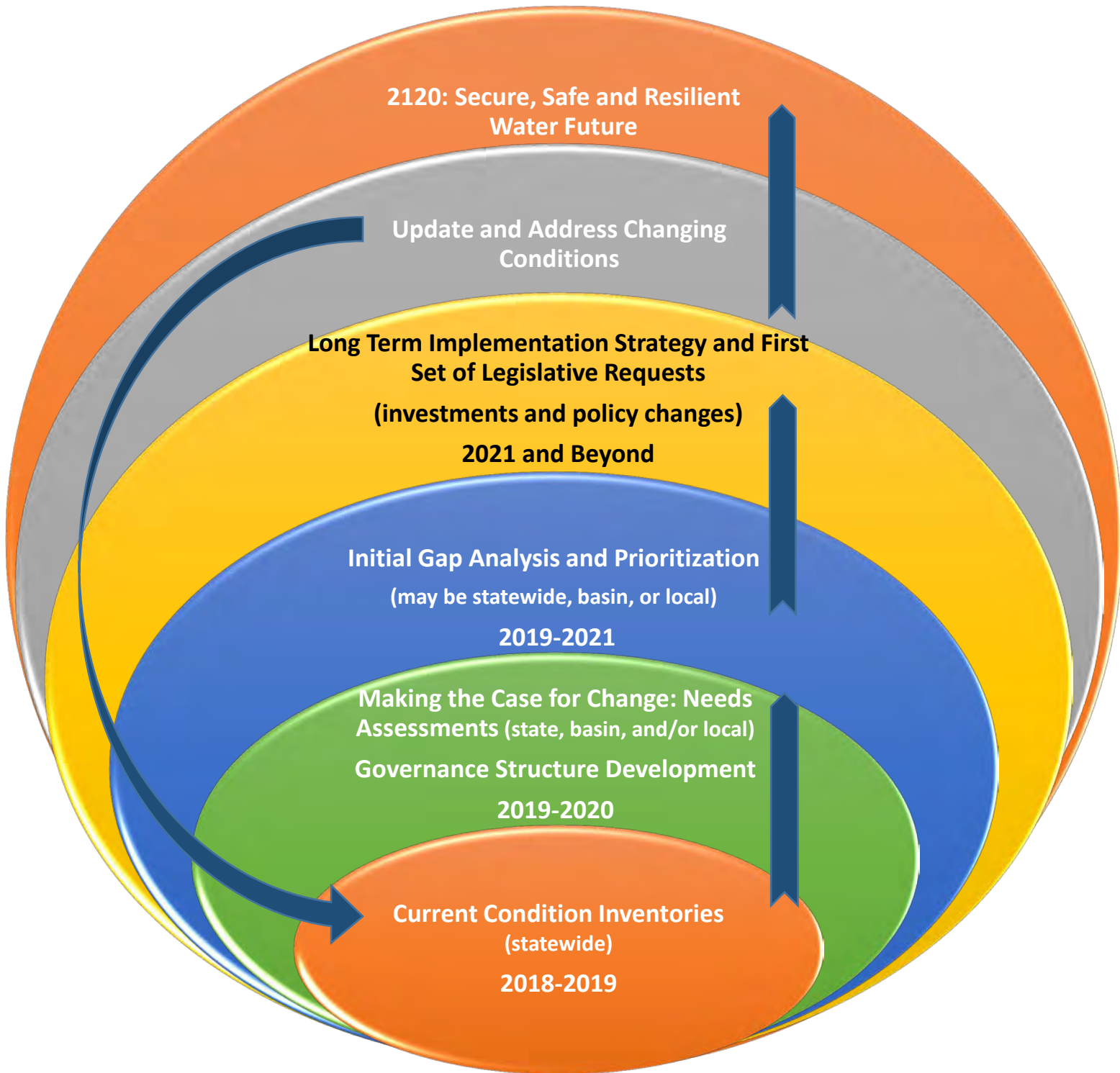
Approach:

To have a lasting impact, we must work in a broad coalition on a multi-year effort to assess the current condition of green and built water systems to help identify the nature and extent of the problem and need. This will help us to develop funding and policy strategies for the future. Our efforts must be broad and comprehensive in scope reaching all sectors, addressing a range of needs and taking into consideration overall watershed health, including but not limited to:

- ✓ Surface and ground water supply for communities and agriculture, and in-stream water for fish and wildlife
- ✓ Water infrastructure safety, resiliency and preparedness
- ✓ Clean water for healthy watersheds that support communities, businesses, agriculture, fish and wildlife
- ✓ Statewide and basin specific information and education on water needs and issue

Preparing a Secure, Safe & Resilient Water Future for All Oregonians:

The need for a 100-year program for generations to come



Kate Brown
Governor



MEMORANDUM

Date: August 13, 2018

To: Meta Loftsgaarden, Executive Director, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board


From: Jason Miner, Natural Resource Policy Manager, Governor Kate Brown's Office

Subject: Board award for the Governor's Priority line item

Governor Brown's Natural Resource Office appreciates that the OWEB Board has approved our request for \$65,450 from the board's Governor's Priority line item in the agency's 2017-2019 spending plan to support the Governor's efforts to ensure a secure and resilient water future for all Oregonians.

Grants made under this award will ultimately support increased on-the-ground restoration work across Oregon. Specifically, the funding will support work that helps us better understand the context for change in water infrastructure, including what has been accomplished in other areas, and helping to better define and frame Oregon's water infrastructure as it relates to community resilience, economy, and health.

These investments will also provide us a better understanding of which public and private entities are working where, and why, and helping develop a shared vision and path forward on this important issue.


Jason Miner
Natural Resources Policy Manager