



Harney Groundwater Rules Advisory Committee: Discussion Groups

Meeting via Zoom

Monday, February 3, 2025 from 10-11:30 AM (PT)

Meeting Summary

Meeting Zoom Recording Link: https://media.pdx.edu/media/t/1_o07kqhuw

Attendees:

Bobby Cochran (Oregon Consensus), Harmony Burright (High Desert Partnership), Brenda Smith (High Desert Partnership), Chad Karges (HDP), Christopher Hall (Water League), Curt Blackburn (Real Estate Broker), Debbie Gouveia, Jason Spriet (OWRD), Kelly Meinz (OWRD), Ken Bierly, Lorissa Singhose, Tim Seymour (OWRD), Mark Owens, Barbara Howard, Jess Wenick, Andy Root, Jerry Grondin, Melissa Petschauer, Louie Molt, Sabrina Mackey, Sheena Miltenberger, Jay, Breanna O'Connor, Kristen Shellman, Rob Frank

Summary

Introductions

Bobby Cochran from Oregon Consensus and Harmony Burright from High Desert Partnership opened the meeting and asked participants to introduce themselves.

Tim (OWRD) provided some additional context on the proposal to use springs and streams, natural ET, and domestic wells as model constraints. And he also said that was a proposal, and there could be other options. OWRD wanted to ensure there was some articulation of potential impacts of a management scenario for those. The discussion group offered feedback and asked a number of questions. Some of the feedback included:

- Why not include mitigation measures in the rules rather than model constraints (i.e., for domestic wells);
- Will OWRD have the capacity to adequately and adaptively manage implementation of the rules;
- The new rules are changing permit conditions, so why not update all the permits so they are consistent (i.e., with similar base years for measure well-level declines);
- Why not just do reductions by priority date across the basing (i.e., no reductions for water rights prior to 1990, 0.5 AF reduction in duty to 2.5 AF for 1990-1999 rights, and 1.0 AF reduction for rights 2000-2025)?

Some members of the group asked how OWRD could take responsibility for the problem? Jason replied that, as a representative of OWRD, he does take some responsibility. Some group

members mentioned the financial obligation of the State to make this right. Is there a mechanism or timeline?

A future discussion group might focus on implementation of groundwater management (i.e., exploring differences in the current permit conditions, getting clear on the stages of implementation, and getting clear on how the contested case process works).