

# DRAFT Outline: Place-Based Water Planning Handbook

*ORS 537.872 - 537.873; OAR Chapter 690 Division 602*

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Discussion at the first Place-Based Water Planning (PBP) RAC meeting included a conversation around what is appropriate to include in rule and what is more appropriate for PBP guidance documents. To support those conversations, OWRD is providing an outline for the anticipated PBP guidance. The purpose of this guidance, also called the “Place-Based Water Planning Handbook” is to clarify and explain the implementation of the rules that are currently being developed.

## **Section I: Overview**

This section will introduce place-based integrated water resources planning, outline the phases and steps of planning, and discuss the benefits of state-recognition. It will help orient new potential planning groups to PBP and help readers understand how to navigate the handbook. It will also provide an overview of the role of state agencies in PBP.

## **Section II: Community Engagement Guide**

This section will be a set of guidelines and best practices for how to meaningfully engage communities in PBP. The guide is intended to be a tool to ensure that a diversity of voices are proactively and continuously included throughout planning and implementation. It is intended to be accessible, flexible, and inclusive in order to support diverse regions and communities. The guide will reflect the recommendation from the State-Supported Regional Water Planning and Management Workgroup.

## **Section III: Pre-Planning**

In the pre-planning phase of place-based water planning, interested parties from the community come together and assess their readiness and prepare to do Place-Based Integrated Water Resources Planning. This might include things like data availability assessments, community capacity building, and relationship building. This section will provide guidance around best practices for this pre-planning phase, including items should be considered when assessing readiness to plan and what steps should be taken in preparation for planning.

## **Section IV: Planning**

This section of the handbook will provide clear expectations about what should be included in a shared governance agreement and a place-based integrated water resources plan, including what criteria will be considered for state recognition of a plan, expectations for neutral facilitation and technical writing, and the roles and responsibilities of state agencies, conveners, and collaborative members. It will build on the guidelines developed during the PBP Pilot, outlining a 5-step planning process and specifying outcomes/deliverables for each step. This section will also outline what technical assistance is available to support planning, along with procedures for technical assistance requests. Templates for shared governance agreements and place-based integrated water resources plans will also be included.

**Section V: Implementation**

This section will provide guidance around best practices for implementation coordination, including options for collaborative structures, continued collaborative engagement, and reporting requirements to maintain state recognition.

**Section VI: Plan Updates**

This section will include similar guidance to the Planning section but focus on how to update an existing state-recognized plan. The planning collaborative should convene to update their plan every 10-20 years. Plan update frequency should be based on the need to develop new strategies or actions or because of significant changes in local conditions, data availability, or climate change information.

**Section VII: Grant Administration and Procedures**

This section will include information for all of the required grant reporting, administration, and procedures for recipients of place-based water planning funds.

**Section VIII: Place-Based Water Planning Support Tools**

This section will include tools as they are developed by the Department that support PBP. Examples include: data sources, decision support tools, resources to help navigate conflict, and best practices for meeting and convening.

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