

Governance Task Force Minutes
October 30th, 2014, 1:00 pm to 3:10 pm
Oregon Water Resources Department
North Mall Office Building
725 Summer St. NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

GOVERNANCE TASK FORCE MEMBERS

David Filippi, Stoel Rives; Teresa Huntsinger, Oregon Environmental Council; Rob Kirschner, The Freshwater Trust (TFT); Mark Landauer, Special Districts Association of Oregon; Janet Neuman, Tonkon Torp; Kimberley Priestley, WaterWatch; Gil Riddell, Association of Oregon Counties; Eric Quaempts, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (on phone); Amanda Rich, The Nature Conservancy (TNC); April Snell, Oregon Water Resources Congress; Jeff Stone,; Brad Taylor, Eugene Water and Electric Board; Chris Taylor, West Coast Infrastructure Exchange (on phone).

Absent: Katie Fast, Oregon Farm Bureau; Tracy Rutten, League of Oregon Cities; Patrick Griffiths, City of Bend.

FACILITATION TEAM

Richard Whitman, Office of Governor John Kitzhaber, Convener; Racquel Rancier, Oregon Water Resources Department (WRD); Nancy Salber, Governor's Natural Resources Office.

OBSERVERS

Leslie Bach, TNC; Brenda Bateman, WRD; Kaylin B, TFT; Tom Byler, WRD; JR Cook, Northeast Oregon Water Association; Tim Hardin, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife; Scott Jorgenson, Sen. Whitsett's Office; Margaret Matter, Oregon Department of Agriculture; Tom Paul, WRD; Mateuz Perkowski, Capital Press; Josh Spansail, WRD; Jon Unger, WRD.

MEETING OBJECTIVES

- ~ Understand the context of water supply development in Oregon
- ~ Define task force goals and objectives; establish sideboards
- ~ Develop shared understanding of bill provisions
- ~ Identify potential structural changes needed

Agenda, PowerPoint, copies of SB 839, and other meeting materials for this and other governance meetings will be available on-line:

http://www.oregon.gov/OWRD/pages/SB_839_Governance_Task_Force.aspx.

Look under the specific meeting date.

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Introductions and Understanding the Context

Richard Whitman started the meeting and indicated that the group would review the provisions of SB 839. His approach has been to think about identifying what questions need to be addressed in order to have a functional program.

Framing the Context of Water Supply Development in Oregon

Racquel Rancier discussed the state's implementation of the Integrated Water Resources Strategy and efforts to implement recommended actions related to water supply development for both instream and out-of-stream needs. She noted that place-based planning, feasibility study funding, and project funding are all important elements of a comprehensive water supply program. She then provided an overview of the SB 1069 Feasibility Study grants program.

Review of Bill Structure

Richard Whitman provided a detailed reviewed of the provisions included in SB 839.

Charge of Governance Task Force and Discussion of Objectives

Richard Whitman identified specific charges of the Governance Taskforce as identified in SB 839. In order to have a functioning program, issues that may need to be considered generally fall under the following categories:

1. What actions/types of projects should be funded under SB 839?
2. Who makes the decisions?
3. How are decisions made (process and criteria)?
4. What is the form of public investment in the project?

Questions/Comments

1. What SB 1069 projects have found the studied project to be "feasible"? How many have moved forward?
2. Where is the list of SB 1069 project types that can and cannot be funded?
3. When do we use SB 839 for restoration projects, compared to using OWEB funds?
4. What is expanded storage? Could it include dam safety projects?
5. Who is supposed to review and approve funding applications? SB 839 says WRC.
6. How often will funding decisions be made? SB 839 says once per year.
7. Does EACH project have to show benefits in all three categories (environmental, economic, social/cultural). Could projects be bundled?
8. How does underground water storage protect streamflow? Early in the process through SVFs, not late in the project through 25% releases.
9. How to best implement loan standards? Consult with Treasurer's Office, IFA, regarding constitutional fund.
10. How much money should be put in each fund (planning, feasibility studies, implementation)?
11. Is there any flexibility in structuring funding pots?
12. How are decisions made (metrics for public benefits)?
13. What is the state role? Grants, financing, and/or non-management equity role?

14. How to allocate newly developed stored water, when not specified by the applicant (as per SB 839, Sect. 18(3)(b)).
15. Should there be a pre-consultation process?
16. Project monitoring. What does it look like?
17. Sequencing: How and when does SVF analysis get done? (including permitting process).
18. Should there be an advisory committee? If so, who should be included? Who should be on the technical team?

TO DO

1. Legislative bill to change the reporting deadlines. Bond money available in May. Rule-making done by June. Complete all task force work.
2. Description of what should / could be funded under SB 1069, 839, etc.
3. Research what monies are available at state, federal, private level.
4. Bring scoring/ranking information (e.g., BOR, Specialty Crop Block Grants, Revolving Fund)
5. Show timeline of the process "the life of an application."
6. Identify demand for SB 1069. Projects funded through SB 1069 as projects potentially moving toward implementation phase.