

## Bandon Open House Discussion – April 22, 2010



Integrated Water Resources Strategy Spring 2010 Open House Events  
Conference and Community Center, 1200 11<sup>th</sup> Street SW, Bandon, OR 97411  
Facilitation provided by members of the Integrated Water Resources Strategy Project Team.

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This document reflects public input gathered during the open house event held in Bandon. Participants were asked to identify the water resource challenges facing their community as well as any policies, projects, or approaches that they would like to see as part of the Integrated Water Resources Strategy. The event facilitator also asked audience members to share their vision, hopes, and goals for the state and to provide any education or outreach ideas that would help the public gain a better understanding of water resource issues facing Oregon. The discussion that took place reflects a true brainstorming session where no efforts were made by agency staff to rebut, debate, or prioritize any of the ideas, suggestions, or comments shared during the event.

### 4:00 Session

#### Challenges

1. Multinational corporations coming into the region, pilfering water (bottled water).
2. Infrastructure for delivering water is very old and needs a tremendous amount of money to improve it.
3. Bandon only owns 10% of its watersheds.
4. The amount of water ODFW claims for instream water rights.
5. Science used for public water rights (ODFW).
6. Non-point source pollution from stormwater and impervious surfaces.
7. The ability of the Water Resources Department to address permit applications for water rights.
8. Fair allocation of a limited water resource.
9. How to prove that instream water rights are used or needed.
10. In times of water shortage, figure out how to get water.
11. Mandatory conservation programs are not supported.
12. Sustainment of adequate sources for agriculture in Curry County.

13. Private water right that has a proposed pipeline coming across my property---concerns about water quality with streams.
14. A proposal to the legislature to monitor use of water withdrawals, requiring individuals to pay for it. This is an expensive measurement and monitoring requirement for individuals.
15. Pre-1909 claims that have not been adjudicated.
16. Funding for irrigation.
17. Planning for an uncertain future in the face of development and climate change.
18. Too “regulatory” about storage.
19. The south coast cannot obtain water rights for storage.
20. Cities do not have infrastructure to hold sewage.
21. Priorities for water use and conservation.
22. Baseline standards by the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) are unattainable and too stringent. People question DEQ’s science.
23. Water odors in some areas are very bad.
24. Monitoring resources at agencies.
25. Useless meetings.
26. The cost of obtaining water rights is too much. The process for water rights needs to be streamlined.
27. Exporting water out of state.
28. Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife is pulling Water Resources Department string and they will never allow storage.

### **Solutions and Opportunities**

1. Own and protect drinking water source areas.

2. Create a sunset of public water rights. Private water rights fall under the “use it or lose it” standard; public water rights should be the same.
3. Tools, incentives, and funding for landowners to implement best management practices for addressing nonpoint source pollution.
4. Create a sunset of all water rights.
5. Protection of water quality for public use.
6. Maintain existing water rights.
7. Need science-based scenarios for modeling for local communities to better plan for the future.
8. Fund infrastructure for wastewater treatment plants to reduce pollution.
9. Implementing water rights banking to allow users to trade water. Look at California and Colorado as examples.
10. Have municipalities require utilities to implement conservation practices.
11. Provide more off-stream water storage for cattle. Helps groundwater and surface water.
12. Need biodiversity and variety of farming types.
13. Need containment farms—resulting in no pollution (e.g. greenhouse gardens).
14. DEQ should be more flexible with property owners regarding septic systems - cut them some slack. DEQ should focus on municipalities.
15. DEQ standards should be based on monitoring, not modeling.
16. Grant funds for reservoirs.
17. Less review on water right applications (do a quick review and approve).
18. The Water Resources Department needs to clear the backlog of applications before implementing a new water strategy.
19. Exporting water out of Oregon should not be allowed.

20. Need to respect regional differences when determining solutions for water supply. In Coos County, we cannot get water out of wells and trying to do so is very expensive.
21. The Water Resources Department should focus on conservation through storage. Lots of water is lost to the ocean.
22. Promote the capture and storage of water.
23. Needs better cooperation among agencies. Avoid "turf battles" between agencies.
24. Funding to address nonpoint sources.
25. Consider using inexpensive mechanisms, such as composting toilets which can improve water quality and conserve water. These toilets would relieve pressures on our water treatment plants, reduce energy use, and improve soil quality, among other things.

### **Education and Outreach**

1. Understand that water was not pristine to begin with.
2. Identify successful water treatment processes (possibly Arcata, California) and provide outreach to communities.
3. Provide education for newcomers to the area (individuals, businesses, etc).
4. Educate the public about human waste and its coincident problems.

### **Vision**

1. Create a lifetime exemption of fees for those who already have water rights.

### **5:30 Session**

### **Challenges**

1. Lack of storage.
2. Barriers to developing storage.
3. We do not have wells to develop here; we can only rely on our rainfall.
4. Maintain the water rights doctrine.
5. Pre-1909 claims have not been adjudicated in this area, in both Coos County and Curry County.

6. Maintaining water quality is a challenge. We are limited in our ability, in terms of financing, to do this.
7. Electricity rates.
8. Increased rates or fees for water right transactions. Unfair fees on water storage facilities.
9. Federal laws are affecting my local jurisdiction (navigability).
10. More water management was done in the 20-30's with fewer resources than today, such as dams, hydropower.
11. Coos County is having problems with the water treatment facilities, and these problems, in terms of water quality, need to be addressed. This may be a coastal thing.
12. The future of livestock watering may be in jeopardy, including domestic use.
13. We are a fragmented community where our wells are completely different from other areas (determining the aquifer capacity and resource is difficult).
14. Cities are not supportive of residents wanting to use graywater for irrigation.
15. Unable to drink water from our own streams.
16. The word "waste" is overused. Treated water that is not used is wasteful; however, other applications are simply diverting water which later returns to the system.
17. There is a misconception that we are using water. We are borrowing water.
18. Water that is "borrowed" is not returned via its original state. It needs to be treated, which constitutes a cost. Therefore, any type of water, used or borrowed, comes with an associated cost.
19. The state does not have few dollars; however, it does have precious dollars.

### **Solutions and Opportunities**

1. Options for storage, such as increasing storage areas. This area only receives heavy rains.
2. Maintain water quality.
3. Reasonable energy to move water. I do not want to move it at an expensive cost.
4. Better water treatment facilities.

5. Local or regional management of water. I do not think the Governor should be managing water at the regional or local level. The local community should be responsible for their own well being.
6. Maintain livestock and domestic uses.
7. Give tax credits and grant permission to use graywater.
8. Government entities should function as a private business. For example, if fewer wells are being developed, budget cuts should be considered in the enforcement section.
9. Aquifer storage and recovery.
10. Regionalize rules.
11. With 100 inches of water, you will see runoff. Therefore, recognize and understand the impacts to water quality.
12. Carbon sequestration. Optimum growth for plants.
13. Make it easier to transfer water rights from surface water to groundwater. Currently, there are many hoops to jump through in order to do this.

### **Education and Outreach**

1. Better understanding of aquifers.
2. Take urban areas off water for a 24 hour period to reinforce how important water is.
3. Water resource issues need to be taught from Kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade.
4. Teach water conservation.
5. Educate the public on what happens to water through various uses and what practices result in improved water quality.

### **Vision**

1. Enough water for all beneficial uses.
2. Producers need water; they cannot wait 20 years for a water right. Our only options are to mine it, grow it, or lock it up – that's it. This state is locking it up. There isn't any water left. The bottom line is, you are going to either produce it or lock it up. Decide whether you are going to allocate the water or lock it up.

3. We borrow water, we don't use it.