**Legislative Concept for State-Supported Water Planning**

Water planning is critical for understanding the instream and out of stream water needs and then charting a path for addressing those needs. Small water systems, basins/regions, and others often need assistance for planning, from accessing and analyzing information to identifying the water management solutions that would best address their critical water issues. The Department seeks to be a partner in planning to help secure areas water future through the creation of a grant program designed to support multiple forms of water planning.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue/Topic</th>
<th>Problem</th>
<th>Proposal</th>
<th>Policy Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Funding authorization** (type of fund) | Without reliable funding across biennia, planning could stagnate or be impeded. Those planning need to be able to do so across two biennia (e.g., 3-year grant). | Establish fund authority separate and distinct from the General Fund with continuous carryover funding (and via a policy option package, provide a base budget appropriation for recapitalization). Allowing funds to carryover allows for reliable grants aligned with the timing needs of the grantee. | Policy Origination:  
  - Gaps and Needs 2021-2023  
  - Independent Evaluation by NPCC and fact sheet  
  **Section 2 in Water Planning Legislative Concept** |
| **Fund Purpose**                 | Lack of financial resources pose a barrier to water planning, a critical component to a secure water future. The Department does not have authority to provide financial assistance for planning after place-based planning sunset. | Create a planning fund to provide grants to support local/regional/basin groups and communities in water planning.                                                                                         | Policy origination:  
  - Senate Bill 266 sunsets June 30, 2023  
  **Section 2 in Water Planning Legislative Concept** |
| **Eligible financial assistance** | It is difficult to obtain funding resources for the range of expenses related to planning efforts, such as drought contingency plans, place-based plans, or water conservation plans. Costs relating to planning may include pre-planning situation assessments, facilitation, community engagement, technical analyses, plan development,  | Establish a fund that awards competitive grants for planning effort that increase understanding of water resources and challenges; develop strategies or solutions to increase water resiliency to sustainably meet water needs, or coordinate implementation of strategies or solutions. This includes pre-planning situation assessments, | Policy origination:  
  - Senate Bill 266 provided authority for grants and technical assistance for place-based integrated planning, but lacks specific authority for some planning related activities such as training, or other types of water planning.  
  - Gaps and Needs 2021-2023 |
| **Authority to use funds for contract services and to provide support beyond funding** | Providing direct grants is insufficient to support places in successfully planning. Other support services are needed to help with planning. | Authorize the Department the ability to use some of the funds for operation of the program and to support grantees with technical support, training, data and tools, learning opportunities, and other services. | Policy origination:  
- Pilot of place-based planning: need for adequate technical support and data, training, learning, evaluation services, etc.  
- [Gaps and Needs 2021-2023](#)  
- [Gaps and Unmet Needs 2019-2021](#)  
- [Independent Evaluation by NPCC and fact sheet](#) | **Section 3(2) and 3(3) in the Water Planning Legislative Concept.** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Inter-agency coordination** | Inter-agency coordination is a challenge as resources are often uneven in joint efforts such as planning. | There needs to be a discussion about the role of other agencies to provide technical assistance. | Policy origination:  
- [Independent Evaluation by NPCC and fact sheet](#)  
- Pilot of place-based planning  
- [Gaps and Needs 2021-2023](#) | **Section 3(3) and Section 3(6)(f) in Water Planning Legislative Concept.** |
| **Cost Match** | Cash match leverages state funds and makes the planners more invested in a cost-effective and efficient process. | Allow state grant funds to pay for a variety of plan development costs and coordinating plan implementation. Require 25% cash match for state funding to | Policy origination: This is a standard practice for many funding programs. | **Section 3(4) of Water Planning Legislative Concept** |

**Coordination of implementation, and convening groups.**

Drought contingency plans, water system or water conservation plans, community capacity building, and place-based integrated water resources planning (both development and implementation coordination).

**Section 3(1)(a-c) and 3(2) in Water Planning Legislative Concept.**
| Scope of grant awards – types of planning | One size fits all planning will not support Oregon’s environment, economy, and communities or meet the varied situations across Oregon. Different basins or regions need different forms of water planning, depending on their particular water situation, assets, and needs. | Make the planning fund multi-purpose, in that it can fund a variety of different forms of planning (e.g., basin scale integrated water resources planning, drought contingency planning, pre-planning, etc.). | Policy origination:  
- Oregon’s IWRS  
- 2016 Drought Task Force: drought planning  
- Pilot of place-based planning: feedback from planning groups, independent evaluation  
- August 2017 Water Resources Commission Staff Report  
**Section 3(5)(a-d) of Water Planning Legislative Concept** |
| Scope of grant awards – Diversity, equity, and inclusion | Without a deliberate focus and resources underrepresented, underresourced, or disproportionately impacted groups may be excluded or not properly included in planning and implementation efforts. | Allow state grant funds to pay for community capacity building in environmental justice communities through education, outreach, and financial assistance (e.g. stipends). Environmental justice communities broadly defined per HB 4077 (2022) | Policy origination:  
- Oregon Water Futures report  
- Pilot of place-based planning  
**Section 3(5)(e) and (8)(c) of Water Planning Legislative Concept** |
| Scope of grant awards - Coordination of plan implementation | Plans are commonly not implemented due to lack of resources for groups to coordinate implementation and maintain momentum in collaboration. Resources to support plan implementation are essential so plans do not sit on a shelf and serve little value due to lack of capacity to move strategies forward. Other funding opportunities exist for feasibility studies and project implementation, but not for | Allow state grant funds to pay for coordination of plan implementation; this could include ongoing facilitation funds, stipends for member participation, etc. | Policy origination:  
- Stakeholder feedback  
- Pilot of place-based planning  
- Gaps and Needs 2021-2023  
- Independent Evaluation by NPCC and fact sheet  
- Virtual Conversations with other states (Series 1 and Series 2) |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place-Based Integrated Water Resources Plan</th>
<th>Section 3(5)(f) of Water Planning Legislative Concept</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Coordination of groups to implement their plans.</td>
<td>A description of place-based integrated water resources planning is offered consistent with the sunsetting legislation.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statewide IWRS</th>
<th>Section 3(6)(a-h) of Water Planning Legislative Concept</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| The legislation defining this type of planning sunsets on June 30, 2023. | Define a direct relationship between state-supported place-based planning and the IWRS. Specifically, updates to the IWRS must review and consider state-recognized integrated water resources plans. Require place-based planning to follow the IWRS guiding principles. | Policy origination: 
- Stakeholder feedback 
- Pilot of place-based planning 
- Virtual Conversations with other states ([Series 1](https://example.com) and [Series 2](https://example.com)) |

| Planning requirements and need for rulemaking | Policy origin: 
- Pilot of place-based planning, best practice from other states  
- [Independent Evaluation by NPCC](https://example.com) and fact sheet  
- [August 2017 Water Resources Commission Staff Report](https://example.com) |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Place-based and Integrated Water Resources Plan (IWRS) - Place-based integrated water resources planning is offered consistent with the sunsetting legislation.</td>
<td>Provide rulemaking authority to provide more detail on allowable expenditures, funding prioritization, the review process and plan requirements, requirements for engagement with environmental justice communities.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>