

OWEB/OWRD Coordination

The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board and Oregon Water Resources Department collaborate frequently in a variety of initiatives/ways. The following bullet points list out many of those.

Policy/Strategy related

- **Water Core Team** – OWRD and OWEB leadership and policy staff participate on the interagency Water Core Team that facilitates interagency communication/collaboration on water issues.
- **OWEB Board** – A Water Resources Commission (OWRD’s policy and rulemaking board) representative sits on the OWEB board.
- **Integrated Water Resource Strategy (IWRS)** – OWEB has provided input to OWRD for the update of Oregon’s IWRS and continues to implement several actions identified in the strategy. OWEB is now mentioned in statute (ORS 536.220) as one of the state agencies participating in the development and implementation of the IWRS. There is also now a requirement for the development of a biennial interagency IWRS workplan, which will involve OWEB.
- OWEB’s Director and OWRD’s Director are both appointed to the 35 member **Oregon Climate Action Commission** as nonvoting members. The OCAC was formed by the Oregon Legislature to coordinate state and local efforts to reduce Oregon’s greenhouse gas emissions and to help the state, local governments, businesses, and Oregonians prepare for the effects of climate change.

Funding related

- **Regional Review Teams and Technical Review Teams** – OWRD provides technical input reviewing and evaluating proposals as part of several OWEB grant program review teams. Example grant programs include Open Solicitation (including Water Acquisitions); Focused Investment Partnership; and Telling the Restoration Story. OWRD regional and headquarter staff participate, with their specialized knowledge of water quantity related issues in both a watershed context, but also evaluating current water quantity conditions and potential impacts of individual proposals. This is a significant investment of OWRD staff time and resources with every grant offering. OWEB staff have participated on OWRD’s Place-Based Planning grant review committee.
- **HB 3293 Best Practices for Community Engagement** – OWEB, OWRD, DEQ, ODFW, Oregon Health Authority (OHA), and Business Oregon are collaborating to create and adopt into rule a set of best practices in community engagement related to water projects.
- **Technical assistance in program development** – OWRD provided extensive assistance to OWEB as the agency was developing program guidance and launching new grant programs for drought recovery and resiliency during 2022. OWEB staff advised on the development of the OWRD Place-Based Planning grant program. In addition, OWEB

provided assistance to OWRD during 2022 to assist OWRD grant program staff with program development. In 2023-2024, OWRD has periodically provided subject matter expertise to OWEB as OWEB launches the first OWEB-administered program that includes lottery bond dollars.

Monitoring/Data related

Statewide streamflow monitoring – OWRD’s monitoring work is essential for managing out of stream and in-stream water rights and is also an essential tool for documenting current habitat conditions and improvements from OWEB funded projects such as irrigation efficiency and water acquisition.

- **Strategic Enterprise Approach to Monitoring (STREAM) Team** – This partnership of seven natural resource agencies, co-led by OWEB and DEQ, collaborates regularly on technical issues related to water monitoring and information needs. OWRD, ODFW, ODF, DSL, and ODA also contribute data and technical expertise to this partnership. An example is sharing continuous water temperature datasets among agencies to better track and understand the impact of climate change on Oregon water resources. The team also maintains an annually updated inter-agency water-related monitoring map and monitoring calendar.
- **The Oregon Water Data Portal** – Both OWEB and OWRD participate on interagency teams related to Oregon’s developing water data portal. This effort is currently convened by DEQ, with oversight from DAS. DEQ first received funding in the 2021-2023 budget to conduct scoping around the data portal and prepare a legislative report. The project received funding in DEQ’s 2023-2025 budget to continue moving forward.
- **Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds reporting** – OWRD provides input as OWEB completes the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds Biennial Report on coordinated actions to restore salmon populations and watershed health. OWRD actions include not only the Integrated Water Resources Strategy, but also Place-Based Integrated Water Resources Planning. This place-based water planning is a voluntary, locally initiated and led effort, in which a balanced representation of water interests works in partnership with the state to understand and meet their instream and out-of-stream water supply needs and is currently occurring in four basins around the state. OWEB has helped fund the capacity of local participants, assessments and can help fund the resulting implementation of the plans.

Shared services

OWRD Human Resources, Payroll and IT staff share their services with OWEB. The agencies coordinate closely together regarding these support services, meeting at least once per month and having regular manager-to-manager check-ins. In addition, OWEB leases office space for staff from OWRD’s Bend office. OWEB and OWRD submitted a joint Program Option Package (POP) in the 2023-2025 budgeting process for an internal auditor position. The position was not included in the agencies’ legislatively adopted budget but serves as an excellent example of interagency budgeting coordination.