Deschutes Basin Water Collaborative (DBWC)
Planning Team Meeting

June 4, 2021 | 1:00-3:00pm

Summary Outcomes:

- *New member:* Josh Bailey, North Unit Irrigation District, joined the DBWC meetings for the first time.
- *Co-chair:* Ron Nelson officially stepped down from co-chair responsibilities; DBWC needs to elect another co-chair or elevate Bobby as the sole chair
- Natasha Bellis announced her transition from DRC to the Deschutes Land Trust. She will be phasing out of her position with DRC by the end of July
- *Meeting notes:* Because the meeting packet came out late, Scott will be giving an additional week for the members to review the notes before making them final.
- Scott suggested that the DBWC establish a proactive legislative agenda for future legislative sessions. He explained that the DBWC is not nimble enough to be reactive during session.
- *Groundwater Committee:* The DBWC Working Group will review OWRD's five year report at the August meeting.
    - Holly Mondo said that it will be helpful to have a key takeaways document to go with the report in August.
- *Communications Committee:* Scott recommended using the completion of the framework for action in August and the start of the Comprehensive Water Management planning as a launch of the DBWC. He also recommended using press releases at that time.
    - Bobby Brunoe said that DBWC should do outreach and communications with other entities and counties around the state to explain the work of the collaborative. Kate agreed and recommended tying the press release, re-launch, and travelling presentations into the same timeframe.
    - Kate will work with Bobby to come up with a list of important people and entities to connect with. Bobby mentioned Wasco County, the Lower Deschutes Managers group, and the mayor of Maupin right off the bat.
- *Upper Deschutes Water Management Plan:* Need to answer: What are different tools needed to answer the tough questions?
    - Staff are putting their heads together to determine a prioritizing process to work through that list. Andrew Purkey will likely be leading that process with the subcommittee.
    - Staff will be modifying the plan timeline based on feedback from the DBWC members.
- *Committee Composition:* The members in attendance agreed to move toward an executive committee as opposed to a planning team. However, they were open to keeping the planning team if it became more effective.
    - Staff will write up a one pager with more specificity on what we will be doing. The document will include the planning team responsibilities, where we are at, and the suggested role of the executive committee. If other planning team members want to keep the planning team, they will be asked how to make the meetings more effective.
        - Annette suggested making the meetings 60 minutes and solely decision oriented to be more effective.

- Scott said they can be slimmed down to an hour and only be held if they are needed.

FULL NOTES

Attendees: Josh Bailey, NUID; Mike Taylor, Wild River Owners Association; Annette Liebe, Governor's Office; Bruce Scanlon, OID; Robert Brunoe, CTWS (co-chair); Nancy Gilbert, Juniper Group of the Sierra Club; Joanne Richter, Great Old Broads for Wilderness; Mike Tripp, Trout Unlimited; Kyle Gorman, OWRD; Shon Rae, COID; Holly Mondo, Coalition for the Deschutes; Harmony Burright, OWRD;

Staff: Scott Aycock, COIC; Ciara Williams, COIC; Kate Fitzpatrick; DRC; Natasha Bellis, DRC;

Introductions & Welcome – *DBWC Co-Chairs Ron Nelson & Bobby Brunoe*

Because Josh Bailey with North Unit Irrigation District was new to the group, Scott roll called for introductions. The record of attendance can be seen above.

Scott announced that Ron Nelson has officially stepped down from co-chair responsibilities. He explained how Ron wishes the best for the group, but he would like to fully embrace retirement. Scott said that the DBWC needs to elect another co-chair or elevate Bobby as the sole chair. Scott shared the co-chair responsibilities, which can be found in the charter:

- Convene meetings and invite participants to the DBWC.
- Speak on behalf of the DBWC, as appropriate and only regarding approved decisions
- Help decide on DBWC's internal funding and staffing issues
- Strive to invest in meeting all participants' needs.
- Help resolve conflicts
- Help secure resources and political support for implementation of agreed-upon actions

Natasha Bellis announced her transition from DRC to the Deschutes Land Trust. She will be phasing out of her position with DRC until the end of July, when she officially stars her role as Executive Director of Deschutes Land Trust.

April 2, 2021 Planning Team Meeting Notes – *Scott Aycock*

Scott screen-shared the agenda and reviewed the course of events for today. He asked if there are any other items that the group should be considering today. ***Because the meeting packet came out late, Scott will be giving an additional week for the members to review the notes before making them final.***

April 2, 2021 DBWC Working Group Meeting Outcomes – *Scott Aycock*

Scott shared the outcomes of the working group meeting. The document can be viewed on the webpage. Scott proposed that the DBWC should establish a proactive legislative agenda for future legislative sessions. He explained that the DBWC is not nimble enough to be reactive during session.

Kate announced that there are three bills going through Ways and Means right now. One is HB 3103 for the transfer of character of use for stored water. There is also money to establish a task force on the location issue. There is another bill that would take that location question to the Supreme Court. The third bill is HB 225, which is related to supporting regional water management planning including money for groups like DBWC.

Natasha added that the bills will need to make it through Ways and Means soon because the end of session is June 22.

Committee Reports

Groundwater Committee – Vernita Ediger

The Groundwater Mitigation Planning Team has been looking at how to approach this body of work. As they dug into their planning, they realized that the state has been in the process of analyzing data that will be helpful for the group to look at; in order to ensure their work is in alignment with the State, they have put the DBWC's work on pause until the report comes out this summer.

They want to clarify the relationship between the Groundwater Committee and OWRD. They want to ensure there is alignment and will perhaps pursue a formal documentation of their relationship. Additionally, the committee wants to clarify the scope of their work and look at which aspects of groundwater mitigation they have the most impact and influence over. They will be spending time looking at outcomes and deliverables, and become clear on what product they are going to put out and what form it will take.

Kate shared that OWRD invited the group to submit technical assistance requests to clarify components of groundwater mitigation in the meantime. They have submitted one request that would update the information on groundwater declines and the various causes. The other request will be getting clarification from the state on what process has to happen to raise the cap.

Kyle Gorman emphasized that working with OWRD through this process is key.

Because the report will not be out until July, Scott recommended reviewing it at the August DBWC Working Group meeting. Vernita agreed with that option since the committee is also waiting for participants to become less burdened by the legislative session.

Holly Mondo said that it will be helpful to have a key takeaways document to go with the report in August.

Communications Committee – Kate Fitzpatrick

Kate said that the logo has been finalized, and they are now working on the brochure. The meetings consist of honing in on what will go in the brochure. It will ultimately be a high level vision for the basin and strategies the DBWC is working towards. Kate hopes that the brochure creation will dovetail with the framework for action.

Kate said that there was never an official launch of DBWC and she would like to work toward coherent message on who the DBWC is, with the work of the communications committee. ***Scott recommended using the completion of the framework for action in August and the start of the comprehensive water management planning as a launch of the DBWC. He recommended using press releases at that time.***

Bobby Brunoe said that DBWC should do outreach and communications with other entities and counties around the state to explain the work of the collaborative. Kate agreed and

recommended tying the press release, re-launch, and travelling presentations into the same timeframe.

Kate said she will reach out to Bobby to come up with a list of important people and entities to connect with. Bobby mentioned Wasco County and the mayor of Maupin right off the bat.

Scott also said it would be worthwhile to ask them about their priorities and use it as an opportunity to learn too. That way, we can make it worth their while when the DBWC engages them in the future. ***Bobby mentioned the Lower Deschutes Managers group as another group to connect with.***

Funding Updates – *Kate Fitzpatrick and Scott Aycock*

OWEB grants

DBWC submitted two OWEB grants: one for Technical Assistance and one for Outreach and Engagement. They are both geared toward helping DBWC fund the Comprehensive Water Management Plan. DBWC had their virtual field tour with the regional review team. Kate explained that the state wants to see technical information and stakeholder engagement coupled in the place based planning process. However, the Deschutes Basin was not one of the place based planning pilots designated by the state. Therefore, they are pursuing OWEB grants to fund their work. She asked members to lean on their connections with OWEB to convey the importance of this work and the need for the two grant requests in achieving a multi-faceted plan.

Annette and Bobby requested to see the grant applications.

Harmony believed they would see the importance of weaving the two applications together. She also noted that the OWEB Partnership & Capacity Building grant program will be a good fit for DBWC whenever they decide the re-run it.

Kate explained how OWEB is funding some of their flow restoration work, therefore proponents of their applications need to be aware of how the current funding requests differ from the other projects. Next, they will be making the regional recommendation for funding.

City of Bend

Scott took a funding request to the Regional Administrators meeting. DBWC has a funding gap for 2021. The City of Bend agreed to provide $15,000. They will be convening again next week to discuss ARPA funding. Scott will be bringing the DBWC's work to that meeting. Scott implored Bobby to get a Warm Springs representative at that table.

Deschutes County request

DBWC made a request for some of their APRA funding for on-farm work in COID. They also made a request to become a community service partner. Deschutes is pulling together an official request form for the partnership, which could equate to $20,000 annually.

Other

Visit Bend is devoting some of their funds to support conservation projects and efforts that support tourism. Kate said to keep this funding source in mind for future projects.

The Bureau of Reclamation Water Management Options pilot money will support the OWRD Feasibility Study for the prioritization tool box to prioritize projects in the Smith Rock-King Way area.

Upper Deschutes Basin Comprehensive Water Management Plan – *Natasha Bellis*

At the last Working Group meeting, they introduced the plan to accelerate the framework for action. The document will provide context for the collaborative. They also introduced the Upper Deschutes Basin Comprehensive Water Management Plan, which will include the elements in framework including more details on water quality and policy. They submitted a draft timeline for completing and rolling out of these plans. Natasha addressed the concerns about the aggressive timeline. She said that they will be revising the timeline, but they need to understand what is needed to work through the tough issues established at the last technical committee meeting. Natasha reviewed the tough issues table at a high level.

She acknowledged that the list is not exhaustive and there will be more. Scott also added that there will likely be sub-questions.

The committee needs to answer, "what are different tools needed to answer those questions?". Staff are putting their heads together to determine a prioritizing process to work through that list. Andrew Purkey will likely be leading that process with the subcommittee. Staff will modify the plan. The Framework for Action will be coming out with in the next couple of months.

At yesterday's commission meeting, there were conversations around what the state can do to support a basin once they have a place based plan in place. There will be a subgroup of the commission to get a more concrete answer by the August meeting. Harmony said they are working to build more specificity and clarity. She thinks that receiving plans this year will help force a decision, but the timeline of that is uncertain. ***She said it would be helpful for the DBWC and other groups to articulate their needs in writing and use that to elevate to Harmony and Kyle as well as to legislators.*** The memorialization from the state is needed for the long haul.

DBWC Committee Composition: Discussion – *Scott Aycock*

Scott proposed the suggestion to replace the planning team with an executive committee. The executive committee would include the chairs, staff and a representative from agriculture, in stream, and communities. The working group would choose the members of the executive committee. The planning team members held a discussion on the proposal with the following points:

- Worries about the difficulty in selecting the representatives on the executive committee
- Higher level leadership teams create efficiencies
- What role would the state play if there is a transition? OWRD and the Governor's Office.
- If we don't transition, how to make the planning team more useful?
- The committees have become redundant
- How often with the executive committee be meeting?

- Concern for the other committees becoming too large if the planning team members shift to the other committees.

The final suggestion was to have staff write up a one pager with more specificity on what we will be doing. The document will include the planning team responsibilities, where we are at, and the potential role of the executive committee. If other planning team members want to keep this group, they will be asked how to make this meeting more effective. Annette suggested making the meetings 60 minutes and solely decision oriented to be more effective. Scott said they can be slimmed down to an hour and only be hold them if they are needed.

June DBWC Working Group Agenda Build - *All*

- April WG meeting outcomes
- Draft Framework for Action
    - *Will be moved to the August agenda.*
    - *The technical committee will review it first*
- *Standing:* Comprehensive Upper Deschutes Basin Water Management Plan Updates
- *Standing:* HCP update
- NASA/others https://openetdata.org/ water management tool
- *Standing:* Committee reports
- *New standing:* Implementation and ongoing work
- Case Study: Yakima
    - Harmony suggested having the members watch a background video first in order to dive into more advanced content during the meeting
    - Staff will work with them to tailor their presentation toward DBWC information needs
        - How they were able to leverage federal and state investments

3:00 ADJOURN