Deschutes Basin Water Collaborative

Planning Team Meeting Draft Notes
Friday, April 4, 2025 | 10:30-12:30 PM | Hybrid

ATTENDANCE

Tri-Chairs: Commissioner Phil Chang, Deschutes County and Craig Horrell, COID

Members: Jeremy Griffin, OWRD; Owen McMurtrey, COCO; Kimberley Priestley, WaterWatch Oregon; Mike Britton, NUID.

Guests: Jeremy Austin, Central Oregon Land Watch; Carolyn Sufit, OWRD; Jessi Talbott and Jon Skidmore, COID; Lori Faha, City of Bend; Alison Toivola, BBK Law; Yancy Lind and Jim Powell, Citizens.

Staff: Scott Aycock and Jenn Greco, COIC; Kate Fitzpatrick, Lisa Seales, and Alex Ehrens, DRC; Andrew Purkey, AMP Insights

NOTES

1. **Welcome, Last Meeting Recap, Brief Updates** — *Scott Aycock, COIC*
   - Review and Accept Last Meeting Notes — ***Attach A March Meeting Notes***
   - Outreach Updates (DBBC Town Hall) — ***Attach B Big Issues 1 & 2 Matrix***
   - OSU Agricultural Extension Wants to Join Working Group
   - Staffing Announcement (Added)

Scott reviewed the notes from the March Planning Team Meeting. No edits or questions about the notes.

Scott went to the DBBC Town Hall and provided a high-level overview to those in attendance. It wasn't as well attended as previous ones. Craig let the group know that they take questions at those and provide answers that should be available shortly. Here is the link to the Q&A from the March 19, 2025 DBBC Town Hall.

Scott also shared that the OSU Ag Extension will be formally asking to join the Working Group at the meeting later this month. This will be provided in the Working Group Packet. They would like to be a full member and vote. Commissioner Chang said that Gordon has been providing good research to farmers in the region for a few years now. Lisa agreed that he has been actively involved in the Jefferson County Drought Group.

Scott acknowledged that the group still needs to provide a presentation to the COID and NUID Board.

Kate let the group know that she, Lisa, Alex, and Mike went to Water Day at the legislature and the place-based planning meeting. The new rules were adopted at the last commission meeting in March. These are more geared at the grant making process versus the draft process.

Scott will be going to the Governor's Office to be the Regional Solutions Coordinator starting in May. His last day is April 25, the date of Working Group. In preparation, the group needs to discuss pathways forward for facilitation. There are a few options on the table. COIC does not have a replacement at this time, so the group can go out for a new facilitator or allow Lisa from DRC to facilitate in the interim, with Kate and Alex providing content. Staff are open to other suggestions as well. DRC wants to make sure the group is comfortable with their staff providing facilitation, as they have an in-stream mission.

WaterWatch, COCO, and LandWatch all support Lisa. Jim Powell asked if there is a furloughed Federal employee who could do it. Commissioner Chang brought up Kerry (Carrie) Press who is facilitating Ochoco Collaborative.

ACTION: Let Scott know your vote within the week.

2. **<u>Big Issues Session</u>** *Scott Aycock, Group*
    - Positions and Interests ***Attach C Middle Deschutes Summer Flows Table***

Lisa opened by reviewing what the group did previously, and upon reflection, staff noted that the group needs to deep dive into the tools in Chapter 4. In order to do this, staff are suggesting a bit of a pivot from an issues specific focus to looking at each tool. Before moving in that direction, Lisa asked if there were any edits or additions to the matrix from last time. Alex made notes in the matrix of the discussion.

Action Items for Issues 1 and 2.
Pathway: ad hoc group meet to talk about the pathway and the permanent protection of water.
Piping and On Farm: ad hoc group working on a plan related to this; then PT would sanction planning and strategizing around this. The group wants to connect end landowners to the districts. COID would be a part of this. The Collaborative wouldn't strategically plan on-farm, this would happen outside of the collaborative process, but they would sanction a planning process as a goal of the plan. Staff asked if it would be good to engage with the Soil and Water Conservation Districts. It was also brought up that there used to be an on-farm group to move the on-farm stuff forward. It was suggested to bring the group back together again, and in the meantime, Alex will write a strawman that can be considered as a part of Chapter 5 for feasibility and strategic planning of on-farm.

The group then moved into diving into tools. Alex took notes in the matrix in real time that will be included in the next Planning Team Packet.

Finally, the group also reviewed the Water Bank PowerPoint. It was suggested that the word Pilot be added in front of Water Bank, "Pilot Water Bank Program," to align with what legislation says.

Action Item for Chapter 4. May need to add Pool Fallowing Acres. Take a temp on sideboards and the legislation.

3. **<u>Roundtable Updates and Sharing</u>** *All*
    - Deschutes Water Bank Bill

It was suggested to put the Pilot into the Plan. There were also a few questions about what tax-payers are responsible for versus agriculture.