

*A Flow Path for the Future of Oregon's Water Resources*  
Statewide Water Roundtables

# **Oregon Water Roundtables**

**Michael E. Campana**

**Institute for Water and Watersheds, OSU**

**<http://water.oregonstate.edu>**

**Senate Environment and Natural  
Resources Committee**

**20 January 2009**

**Salem, OR**



**<http://water.oregonstate.edu/roundtables/docs.htm>**

# What Were The Roundtables and Why Were They Held?

The ***Statewide Water Roundtables*** were five meetings held across the state during Fall 2008 to receive input and advice from Oregonians to develop information to inform efforts to identify and communicate a vision describing where Oregon is, where Oregon is going, and where Oregon wants to be with respect to adaptive, integrated, equitable, and sustainable water management.

***In brief:*** listen to and report Oregonians' water concerns.



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## Oregonians foresee future water shortages

by Michael Milstein, The Oregonian  
 Tuesday December 30, 2008, 9:07 PM



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12/31/2008 8:07:00 AM

### Confidence in Oregon's water supplies evaporates

MITCH LIES  
 Capital Press

Despite Oregon's abundant rainfall, Oregonians don't believe the state and definitely not in the future.

A recently released report from five water roundtables held last fall in 300 participants are wary about the state's ability to meet its current

Confidence in Oregon's ability to meet its future needs is even lower. years, the quantity of water in Oregon won't be adequate to supply C

The water roundtables were held last fall in Salem, Bend, Newport, C

"This was an effort to simply find out what was on Oregonians' minds," Campana, director of the Institute for Water and Watersheds at Ore not optimistic about future water supplies, and that there are a lot of

OSU's institute has compiled findings from surveys taken at the four

Among key findings, according to the report, Oregon needs integrate basin level; Oregon should integrate its water and land-use planning; management.

Oregonians also, according to the report, believe the state should do more to restore wetlands, floodplains and in-stream flows and develop a long-range water management plan.

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#### Media Release

#### Oregonians Worried About Adequate Water Supply

CORVALLIS, Ore. – A majority of Oregonians who recently



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## Water supply concerns Oregonians

By the Gazette-Times

In a state that's known for abundant water — at least the kind that falls from the sky — a number of Oregon residents nevertheless worry about whether the state has enough water to meet future needs.

That pessimistic outlook was one of the findings of a series of water "roundtables" organized around the state by Oregon State University's Institute for Water and Watersheds.

But there was good news to emerge from the five sessions, according to Michael Campana, director of the institute: Many of the participants in the sessions obviously had thought deeply about water issues, and were focused on searching for common solutions.

"People were very interested in seeking those local and regional solutions," Campana said.

The institute recently released a summary of the roundtable discussions, held last year in five locations: Salem, Bend, Newport, Ontario and Medford. More than 300 people attended the sessions, although Campana noted that some people attended more than one session.

Campana said the idea for the roundtables came from Oregon state Rep. Jackie Dingfelder, D-Portland, who approached the institute about a year ago. The institute went to work raising the estimated \$20,000 required for the effort, and tried to schedule the five sessions with the widest possible geographical distribution.

"We were very careful to tell people the purpose was not to create a water plan," Campana said. "We were listening to what they were saying. The report just was what we heard."

And one of the overwhelming sentiments was that Oregon would not have adequate water to support its needs by 2028. In all, some 80 percent of the participants believed that, Campana said, although he notes that the attendees at the forum were self-selected, and that the roundtables likely tended to attract people concerned about the issue.

Despite that pessimism, Campana said he was consistently impressed by how many of the participants were searching for solutions — and were emphasizing the importance of crafting local and regional answers, instead of a one-size-fits approach mandated by the state or federal government.

"I came away more optimistic about water resources in Oregon than when I went into this," he said.



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## Editorial: Good water news was submerged in report (Jan. 6)

There was good news about Oregon water issues last week, but you might have missed it because it was easier to focus on the bad news.

Both the bad news and the good news came from the same source: A report from Oregon State University's Institute for Water and Watersheds on a series of roundtable meetings the institute held last year around the state.

The bad news is that most of the participants in the five sessions believed that the state would have problems ensuring adequate supplies of water in 20 years' time. That gloomy assessment is even more sobering, considering that the roundtable meetings tended to attract people who already had been thinking long and hard about water issues in the state.

But the good news is worth considering as well: The same people worried about Oregon's water supply also have been pondering potential solutions. And it gets better: The ideas being tossed around in the roundtables were heavy on local and regional solutions. In fact, according to Michael Campana, the director of the OSU Institute for Water and Watersheds, participants were leery of one-size-fits-all solutions being imposed by state and federal authorities.

basin level, Oregon should integrate its water and land-use planning, one-size-fits-all approach mandated by the state or federal government.

Oregonians also, according to the report, believe the state should do more to restore wetlands, floodplains and in-stream flows and develop a long-range water management plan.

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# Locations, Dates, and Number of Participants

- Central Oregon (Bend; 9/25/08) - **65**
- Coastal Oregon (Newport; 9/30/08) - **55**
- Eastern Oregon (Ontario; 10/7/08) - **50**
- Southern Oregon (Medford; 10/14/08) - **56**
- Willamette Valley (Salem; 10/21/08) - **75**

Total Participants - **301**



# Roundtable Background

- Idea: introduced by then-Rep. Jackie Dingfelder, discussed at IWW Advisory Board meeting in April 2008, then refined
- Purpose: listen to Oregonians' water concerns
- Implemented by IWW, Institute for Natural Resources, Oregon Sea Grant Extension
- Raised money to fund RTs
- Selected five locations, identified experts to speak on local water issues
- Participants generally self-selected
- Report what we heard in time for 2009 Legislature, Governor's Office, OWRC, agencies, citizens

# Roundtable Financial Sponsors

- **Central Oregon Cities Organization**
- League of Oregon Cities
- **Oregon Trout**
- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
- **Oregon Water Utilities Council**
- Schwabe, Williamson & Wyatt
- **Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation**
- David Evans and Associates, Inc.
- **Davis Wright Tremaine LLP**
- Intel Foundation
- **Michael E. Campana**
- Newton Consultants, Inc.
- **Stoel Rives LLP**
- ICF Jones & Stokes
- **Todd Jarvis**
- The Nature Conservancy

# Roundtable Format

- Six hours: noon – 6 PM
- Lunch provided
- Introductory comments
- Large group facilitation: issue identification
- Expert presentations – provided background on local water issues
- Second facilitation: break-out groups identified more issues, prioritized them, listed desired outcomes, proposed solutions, players, provided examples, etc.
- Break-out groups reported to entire group
- Concluding remarks

# Roundtable Facilitators

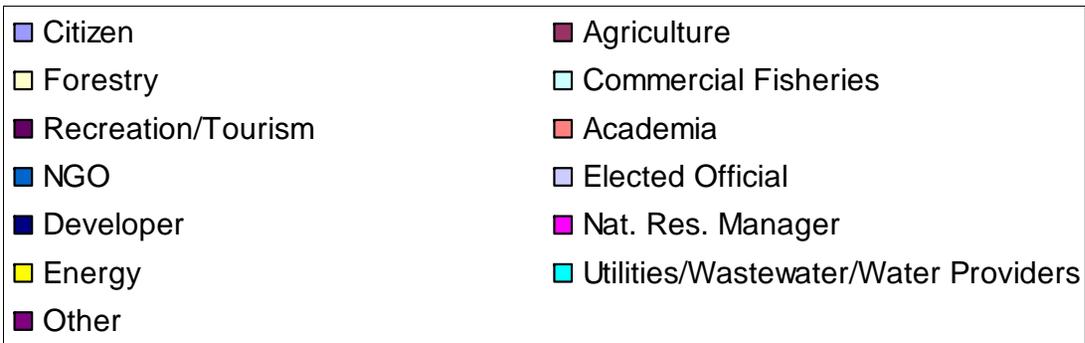
- **Terry Buchholz (David Evans & Assoc.)**
- **Megan Kleibacker (OSGE)**
- **Todd Jarvis (IWW)**
- **Michael E. Campana (IWW)**
- **Rep. (now Senator) Jackie Dingfelder**
- **Gwenn Kubeck (OSGE)**
- **Brenda O. Bateman (OWRD)**
- **Gail Achterman (INR)**
- **Jane Bacchieri (Governor's Office)**
- **Samuel Chan (OSGE)**

# Participant Profile

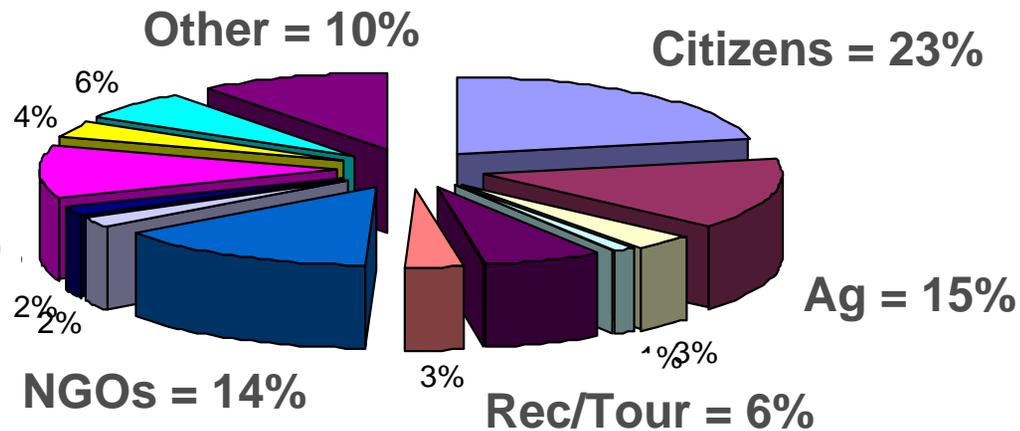
- **Broad range of water users**
- **Knowledgeable**
- **Broad range of concerns about water**
- **Not optimistic about current or future water supplies**

# Participants' Interests

## PARTICIPANT INTEREST

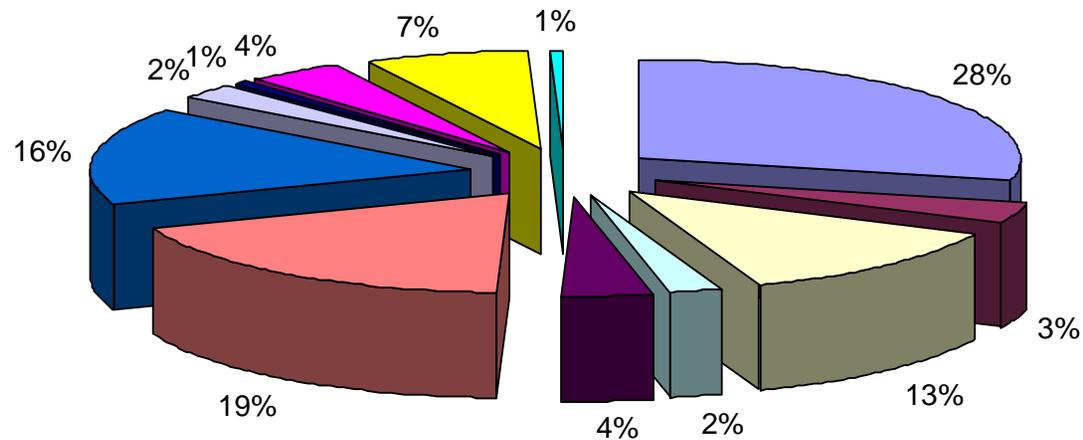
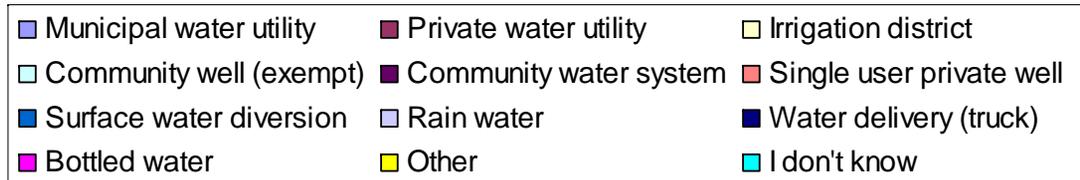


Resource  
Managers = 11%



# Participants' Primary Supply Sources

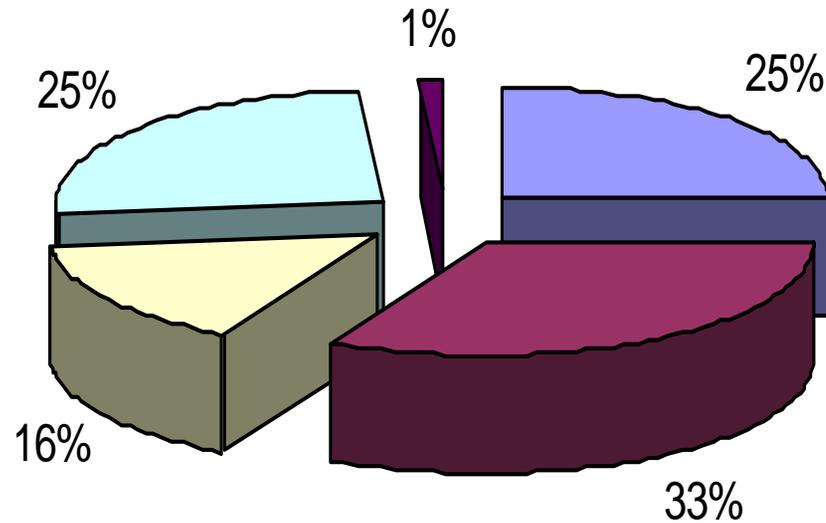
## PRIMARY SUPPLY SOURCE



# Participants Cared Most About...

## FACTORS PARTICIPANTS CARED MOST ABOUT

■ A. Water Quality ■ B. Water Quantity ■ C. Economics ■ D. Ecological ■ E. Social



# Expert Presentations

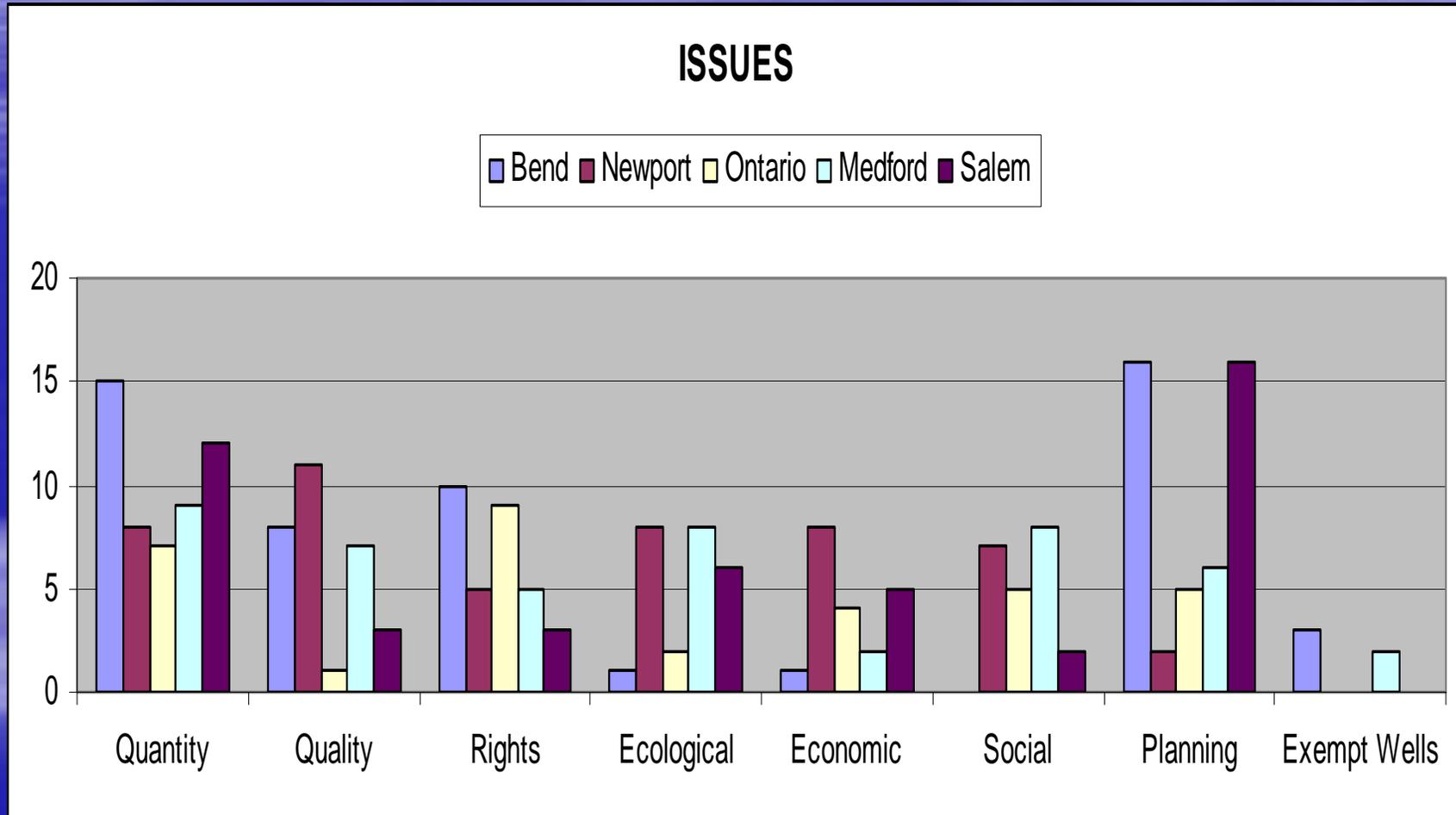
- Water Resources Department
- Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Department of Environmental Quality
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- Irrigation District Managers
- City Water/Wastewater Managers
- Tribal Representatives
- NGOs
- Academics

**Special thanks to Directors Phillip C. Ward (OWRD), Roy Elicker (ODFW), Dick Pedersen (ODEQ), and the Governor's Office for their support and help.**

# Representative Issues

- Funding for water and wastewater infrastructure and management
- Regional integrated water planning with state framework
- Protection of existing water rights and uses
- Water quality, especially non-point, micro-contaminants and impacts of urbanization
- Water-land use planning integration
- Climate change impacts
- Wetland, floodplain, and instream flow restoration
- Interstate water allocation/management

# Issues of Interest by Location



# Key Messages

- **Need for integrated water management planning and implementation**
- **One size does not fit all—regional solutions are needed to meet regional needs**
- **Protection of existing water rights, uses**
- **Public information and education about water and water management are needed**
- **More support for State agencies involved with water**

# Quote From Ontario

*“We need to do it ourselves. We need to start local and include those impacted physically and economically by water use, including peripheral industries linked to water use. Growth should pay its own way so we own a benefit down the road. We need to demonstrate an economic and ecological benefit to investors in the future through planning.”*

# Potential Solutions

- Maximize available funds through agency coordination and streamlining of funding sources
- Water conservation tax credits, like energy tax credits
- Water reuse and recycling
- Water markets, pricing, and incentives
- Water storage and conservation
- Measuring water flows and uses systematically
- Local integrated water planning
- Interstate compact(s)

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# **M. Campana's Impressions...**

- **Locals: “ahead” of state government and want more community-based or regionally-based solutions, with support, not interference, from government**
- **Water rights, exempt wells concerns**
- **Despite disagreements, stakeholders with disparate views generally got along well**
- **Reason for optimism on my part**

# Aquifer Storage and Recovery and Artificial Recharge in Oregon

A One-Day Symposium | 28 February 2008 | OSU LaSells Stewart Center, Corvallis

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## Time for Oregon to cash in Columbia water?

Either the Northwest sells or the thirsty Southwest starts moving here; so now what?  
Sunday, August 10, 2008  
MICHAEL MILSTEIN  
The Oregonian Staff



**Exempt Groundwater Well Policy Consensus Work Group (0C08-005)**  
January 2008 - present  
Region: Statewide

### [Meeting Information](#)

#### **Background**

The Exempt Groundwater Well Policy Consensus Work Group will seek stakeholder consensus about whether changes should be made to Oregon's policy on exempt groundwater wells, and make recommendations to the Oregon legislature, the



## Headwaters to Ocean (H2O)

A STRATEGY FOR MEETING OREGON'S WATER NEEDS IN THE FACE OF CLIMATE CHANGE

Governor's Natural Resources Office

## Conference Report

*NGWA International Conference on Nonrenewable Ground Water Resources*

The Sociotechnological Aspects of Nonrenewable Ground Water Resources:  
Half-empty, Half-full, Top-down, Bottom-up,  
and Some Paths Forward

13-14 October 2008  
Portland, OR

# Comments, Questions?

- All documents – agendas, presentations, Power Points, synthesis report, and appendices - are available at:

[water.oregonstate.edu/roundtables/docs.html](http://water.oregonstate.edu/roundtables/docs.html)

- Want a presentation or have questions, comments? Contact M. Campana at [aquadoc@oregonstate.edu](mailto:aquadoc@oregonstate.edu), 541-737-2413