

Private-Public Partnerships in Oregon Water Resources Planning

Michael Campana, Todd Jarvis, Gail Achterman, and Michelle Girts (CH2M HILL)

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

Concept

- Introduced by 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 Roundtables.
- 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.



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

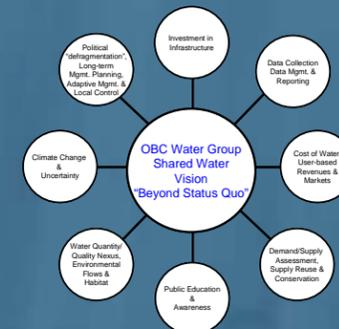
Overview

As we prepare to celebrate the 100-year anniversary of Oregon's water code in 2009, many different parties, including the Governor's Office, the Oregon Legislature, the Oregon Water Resources Commission, Oregon businesses, local governments, environmental organizations, agricultural interests, and the Oregon University System are involved in crafting a vision for Oregon's water resources. Achieving that vision will require, among other things, developing policy, regulatory, infrastructure investment, community empowerment, and funding mechanisms.



Vision for Water Stewardship

- Oregon provides safe and sustainable water supplies for people, communities, businesses, energy production, food and crop production, manufactured goods, aquatic ecosystems and other environmental services.
- Oregon's water is viewed as a valuable and critical asset by all Oregonians, and is managed accordingly.
- Oregon's water infrastructure (built, modified, and natural) consistently provides these services.



Michael Campana and Todd Jarvis of IWW, in concert with Gail Achterman of INR, were part of the Water Working Group coordinated by Michelle Girts of CH2M HILL, along with leaders in Oregon's business community. The Issues Map was derived from collaborative "mind-mapping".

"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."

Stakeholder Recommendations

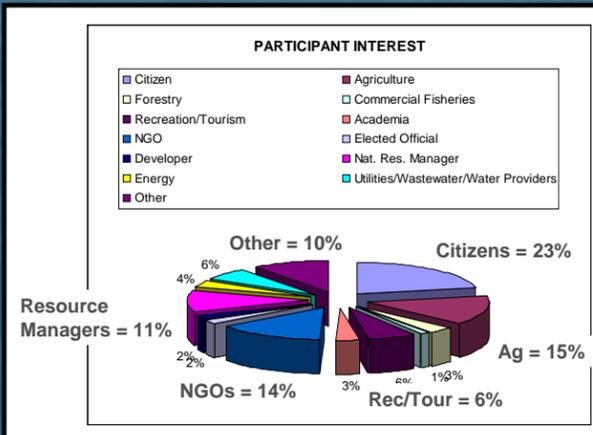
- Maximize available funds through agency coordination and streamlining of funding sources.
- Water conservation tax credits, like energy tax credits.
- Water reuse and recycling.
- Water markets, pricing, and incentives.
- Water storage and conservation.
- Measuring water flows and uses systematically.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

Water Working Group Principles

- Implementation of adaptive, integrated, and sustainable water management systems consistent with values of Oregonians and legal frameworks.
- Assurance of ecosystem health while maintaining a sound economy.
- Emphasis on policies, systems and projects that realize multiple benefits.
- Adoption of best management practices to assure efficient, environmentally sound services.
- Infrastructure investment made on the basis of least cost planning (highest benefit gain for investment), with demand management, conservation, and reuse of high priority.
- Collaboration among all involved to respond nimbly to changing demands and opportunities.
- Productive and efficient water use, assured by rational application of technology, best practices, adaptive management, data analysis, and market pricing.

Key Drivers: Recognized Issues & Timelines

- Issues**
 - Population increases
 - Aging infrastructure
 - Fragmented management
 - Lack of adequate and accessible data
 - Challenges of coordinated planning
 - Over-allocation
 - Loss of aquatic species and communities
 - Climate change
 - Under-developed water market
- Timelines**
 - 2014 - Decision deadline to start Canada/US Columbia River Treaty
 - 2014 - Sunset date for funding of the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds



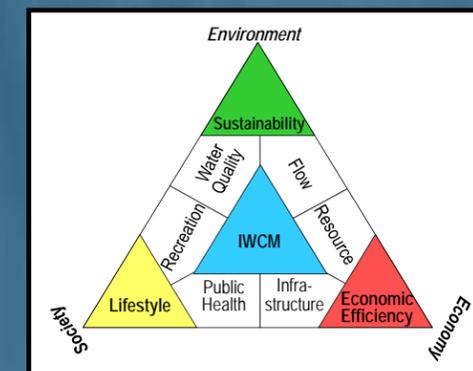
All documents – agendas, presentations, Power Points, synthesis report, and appendices - are available at: water.oregonstate.edu/roundtables/docs.html

What We Heard

- 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.



Oregon University System Research Institutes and Extension were involved in both the Statewide Water Roundtables and the Water Initiative compiled by the Water Working Group of the Oregon Business Plan.



The Future?

The "Triple Bottom Line" Performance is an approach used in Australia.