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AGENDA

Mid-Coast Water Planning Partnership Strategy Development

Session #1: Water Conservation and Efficient Use  
January 6, 2021 11:30am–1:00pm

**Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.**  
[**https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/756758117**](https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/756758117)

**Objective:** Develop draft strategies that address the [key issues](https://www.midcoastwaterpartners.com/key-water-issues) associated with Water Conservation and Efficient Use in the Mid-Coast region of Oregon.

**Definition:** Water conservation is the beneficial reduction in water loss, waste or use, and results in people changing behavior and thus using less water. Water efficiency minimizes the amount of water used to accomplish a function, task, or result, and relies on well-engineering products and fixtures (Source: Water Footprint Calculator: <https://www.watercalculator.org/>).

**Water Conservation**

* The Mid-Coast needs a coordinated water conservation initiative/strategy that focuses on reducing water use, educating stakeholders, promoting incentives, and effectively using limited water supplies, especially in times of water shortage.
* Rural residents and businesses need improved access to information, incentives, funding, and resources to help them implement water conservation measures.

11:30am–11:40am Welcome, introductions, and process overview

11:40am–11:45am Review of key objectives, definition, and key issues from Step 3 of the Planning Process

11:45am–12:45pm Review/affirm/edit draft strategies/actions discussed by partners to date, and consider other potential actions.

11:45am–12:00pm Objective 1

12:00pm–12:15pm Objective 2

12:15pm–12:30pm Objective 3

12:30pm–12:45pm Objective 4

12:45pm–12:55pm Consider additional objectives and strategies to address Water Conservation and Efficient Use goals.

12:55pm–1:00pm Summarize, discuss goals for next week, and adjourn

General comments made by charter signatories in advance of the meeting:

**Harmony Burright:**

Due to limited water availability for new out-of-stream uses across the Mid-Coast region as well as the need to restore and protect instream values, water conservation may be one of the most cost-effective ways to meet future water needs of the region while increasing water security and resiliency for all users.

Categorize strategies:

ALL USERS (A)

INDUSTRIAL (I)

WATER PROVIDERS (WP)

AGRICULTURAL USERS/IRRIGATORS (A/I)

SELF-SUPPLIED USERS (SS)

BUSINESSES AND URBAN RESIDENTS (B/U)

**Geoff Wilke comment:**

Conservation and efficient use will be more critical, and personal, after Cascadia or failure of a Newport dam. Better to communicate disaster-level and life-saving actions now, while we can still distribute advice conveniently. What have we learned from Fukushima and similar disasters that the individual water user would most appreciate during and immediately after the event?

  ALL USERS (A); INDUSTRIAL (I); WATER PROVIDERS (WP); AGRICULTURAL USERS/IRRIGATORS (A/I), SELF-SUPPLIED USERS (SS); BUSINESSES AND URBAN RESIDENTS (B/U)

| **T**able 1. States, objectives, and actions to address key water issues in the Mid-Coast region of Oregon. | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **States** | **Objectives** | **Actions Discussed by Partnership To Date** | **Potential Actions to Consider/Incorporate** |
| Lack of information and outreach on water conservation. | 1. Promote tools and information for water conservation. | 1. Promote water conservation at local events, and incorporate water conservation messaging in the Partnership website, in news articles, in water bills, and via social media (A) 2. Develop a water-wise landscaping guide for the Mid-Coast (SS, B/U). 3. Inform property owners about self-assessment tools and information to monitor water use and reduce water usage (OHA/OWRD/DEQ/OSU/EnergyStar/ OWEB/SWCDs/watershed councils) (A/I, SS, B/U). 4. Develop drought declaration and water curtailment messages (WP, B/U). 5. Inform stakeholders and visitors to the region about the need for water conservation practices, water rights and their management, the water cycle in the coastal region, how water moves through Mid-Coast watersheds, and how water is used (A). | 1. School education programs (K-12) (SS, B/U)  2. Conservation kit give-aways (SS, B/U)  3. Seminars, trainings, classes, and demonstrations in coordination with Oregon Coast Community College Community Education and Small Business Development Center (A)  4. Develop a Water Conservation Public Awareness Program, or social marketing campaign, aimed at changing behaviors of highest priority water users (A)   1. Promote restoration actions that increase natural storage. |
| Insufficient planning for water conservation and curtailment. | 1. Expand water conservation planning efforts. | 1. Explore opportunities to desalinate water in the Mid-Coast region to supplement existing water supplies and provide for emergency water sources (A). 2. Develop and update water conservation plans for Mid-Coast regional industrial direct water systems (I). 3. Coordinate water curtailment plans for Mid-Coast water providers (A). 4. Develop water conservation programs for businesses, rental management companies, the lodging industry, and other businesses throughout the region (B/U). | 1. Appoint Water Efficiency Coordinators to research, design, and implement a water efficiency program (A).  2. Conduct annual, and if possible, monthly water audits to assess input-output efficiency of municipal systems (WP).  3. Implement advanced metering infrastructure to accurately assess supply source water and enable faster identification of leaks (A).  4. Evaluate rate structure for water consumption (A).  5. Encourage municipalities to become a partner of the WaterSense® program to promote water conservation and leverage resources (A).  6. Utilize OSU Engineering and Research on desalinization and wave energy to seek alternative water source-conserving streams with anadromous fish runs (A).  7. Seek federal research funding for desalinization for region (A). |
| Minimal re-use of gray water, rainwater harvesting, and in-home/out-of-home efforts to reduce water use. | 1. Effectively use limited water supplies, especially during times of water shortage. 2. Reduce water use. | 1. Reuse light gray water (from bathroom sinks, showers, tubs, and clothes washing machines) using tier one or two systems and dark gray water (from non-laundry utility sinks, kitchen sinks, and dishwashers) using safe and approved treatments (SS, B/U). 2. Employ methods of harvesting and storing rainwater by capturing surface runoff and rooftop runoff (SS, B/U). 3. Obtain commitments from the hospitality industry in the Mid-Coast to not serve water at restaurants unless people ask, and to give lodging guests the option to not supply fresh linens daily (B/U). 4. Implement shut-offs for water hoses on fishing docks and at fish processing plants (I). 5. Develop voluntary incentives for water conservation (A). 6. Locate grant sources for low-flow toilets, landscaping, and other strategies landowners can use to conserve water at the home (SS, B/U). | 1. Install water efficient devices in municipal buildings (WP, B/U).  2. Reduce water use in landscapes by installing xeriscapes and smart landscape irrigation (Mid-Coast Smartscapes) (SS, B/U).  3. Use recycled and gray water to irrigate landscapes (SS, B/U).   4. Install dual plumbing in new facilities (WP, B/U).   5. Irrigate during off-peak times to avoid evaporation losses (A/I, SS, B/U).   6. Explore innovative techniques and/or research to recycle and reuse water for processing (e.g., seafood, wood products, etc.) (A)   7. Adopt a recycled water use ordinance (A).   1. Contact WaterReuse|Promoting Sustainable Water Sources (<https://watereuse.org/>) and Clean Water Services in Tualatin/Tigard (<https://www.cleanwaterservices.org/>) for developed methods of reusing treated sewage plant water for potable and industrial uses (I, WP, B/U) 2. 5. Pursue incentives/cost-share/education opportunities that address multiple challenges facing highest water users while increasing water conservation, such as 1) upgrading pumps to increase energy and water use efficiency, and 2) upgrading technology or modifying processing practices to use less water (A, I, WP) 3. Create a fund and initiate water conservation incentives – offering rebates for cisterns and rain gutter improvements, toilet replacements, smart controllers, xeric landscaping, more efficient sprinkler systems (See “[It Pays to Save](https://utahwatersavers.com/).”) (A). 4. Pass a Water Efficient Landscaping Ordinance (SS, B/U). 5. Consider [water pricing strategies](https://www.epa.gov/sustainable-water-infrastructure/pricing-and-affordability-water-services) to stimulate conservation and raise revenue (I, WP). 6. Support increased real-time streamflow monitoring/gauging to enable innovative demand-reduction actions during periods of critical ecological need. |