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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>

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) – 6 existing; 14 proposed

INDUSTRIAL (I) – 2 existing; 6 proposed

WATER PROVIDERS (WP) – 1 existing; 5 proposed

AGRICULTURAL USERS/IRRIGATORS (A/I) – 1 existing; 1 proposed

SELF-SUPPLIED USERS (SS) – 5 existing; 6 proposed

BUSINESSES AND URBAN RESIDENTS (B/U) – 8 existing; 9 proposed

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~~ RURAL RESIDENTS (RR) (~~SS~~); BUSINESSES (B); AND URBAN RESIDENTS (U) ~~(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) (consider other partners and common location to have the information) 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 audience-specific water conservation and curtailment messages (~~WP, B/U~~, **A**). 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).  (possible merging of 1 and 5, maintaining mechanisms of info delivery) | 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).  5. ***Promote restoration actions that increase natural storage.*** Might this fit with ecosystem protections?  6. Work with NRCS to develop a Conservation Implementation Strategy to cost-share with irrigators on irrigation system improvements, pursuing incentives and support for irrigators that want to increase efficiencies (I). |
| ***Insufficient*** planning for water conservation and curtailment. | 1. Expand water conservation planning ~~efforts~~ programs and initiatives. | 1. ~~Explore/~~Consider opportunities to desalinate water (move to supply side; defer conversation to later agenda session) in the Mid-Coast region to supplement existing water supplies and provide for emergency water sources (A).**??? does this leave the door open as an option? Think “cultivate a culture of conservation”.** 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. Support existing Water Conservation Consortium by helping municipalities update and implement actions identified in their Water Conservation and Management Plans (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. Create training opportunities and support for water managers (i.e., water workforce development).  5. Evaluate rate structure for water consumption (A). **(+)**  6. Encourage municipalities to become a partner of the WaterSense® program to promote water conservation and leverage resources (A).  7. Use OSU Engineering and Research on desalinization and wave energy to seek alternative water source-conserving streams with anadromous fish runs (A). **(supply side)**  8. Seek federal research funding for desalinization for region (A). **(supply side)** |
| Minimal re-use **(broaden this…conservation and supply)** 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. 3. **Separate category for hospitality etc.** | 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, **A/I**). 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). 7. **Audits related to commercial users (add this)**   **Notes:** Water runoff capture under certain methods and times of year will require permitting through OWRD. Gray water permits are through DEQ. | 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.) by piloting this approach with a county user, seeking funding and technical assistance to implement at a reduced scale initially (A).  7. Adopt a recycled water use ordinance (A).  8. 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).  9. 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).  10. Develop water security/conservation audit/assessments for industrial users (I).  11. Coordinate with NRCS to 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).  12. Pass a Water Efficient Landscaping Ordinance (SS, B/U).  13. Consider [water pricing strategies](https://www.epa.gov/sustainable-water-infrastructure/pricing-and-affordability-water-services) to stimulate conservation and raise revenue (I, WP).  14. Support increased real-time streamflow monitoring/gauging to enable innovative demand-reduction actions during periods of critical ecological need.  15. Explore the regulatory mechanisms associated with drainage through land use and building codes to facilitate use of rain and gray water for property owners.  16. Fund a water efficiency program |