Mid-Coast Water Planning Partnership
Coordinating Committee
Meeting Minutes

May 12th, 2022, 10:00am – 11:10am

**Guest Attendance:**

**Alyssa Mucken** – Oregon Water Resources Department

**Coordinating Committee Meeting Attendance:**

**Adam Denlinger** - Seal Rock Water District

**David Rupp** - Oregon State University

**Alan Fujishin** - Gibson Farms

**Steve Parrett** - Oregon Water Resources Department

**Clare Paul** - City of Newport

**Penelope Kaczmarek** - Interested Citizen

**Stan van de Wetering** - Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians

**Alexandria Scott** - MCWPP Local Planning Coordinator

**Welcome & Review of Agenda**

Alexandria called the meeting to order at 10:05am. There were no additions to the agenda by the Committee.

**Alyssa Mucken Introduction to Planning Group**

Alexandria invited Alyssa Mucken to attend this meeting to introduce herself to the partners in her new role as the NW Region Coordinator for the Oregon Water Resources Department. Although the role will mainly focus on the Willamette Basin some of her time will also be allocated to assisting and supporting the planning group with plan implementation. Steve will continue to support the planning group through the state recognition process and preparing for the presentation to the Water Resource Commission. Alyssa asked the group about some of the needs for implementation.

**Presentation to the WRC**

At yesterday’s Partnership meeting, the collaborative reached consensus on the final plan and was notified by the Plan Review Team that the final plan does sufficiently address all of the required improvements and they will recommend state recognition, since the planning was conducted in accordance with the 2015 Draft Guidelines for Conducting Place-Based Planning and is consistent with the IWRS principles. Alexandria went through the draft presentation for the June 16th commission presentation with the Committee to get some initial feedback. Steve’s advice was to try to make a connection between the strategies and the state’s IWRS. He also suggested adding a slide that includes the imperatives and a slide that showed the participants in the end of the process. The Partnership will have 75 minutes total so the presentation should be between 30-40 minutes. Written testimony is optional but if you feel the planning group has more to say than the time allotted it is a good idea. Alexandria will continue to work on the presentation over the next couple weeks and then will hand it over to Alan and Adam for them to make any changes they see fit as the presenters.

**Draft MOU**

In preparation of this meeting, Alexandria sent the draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) template to the committee for review. She is giving them until May 23rd to submit any written feedback on template because it is posted to the Partnership website and shared with the larger Partnership. This is the document for partners to use to implement specific projects and strategies together and will be crucial for tracking plan implementation.

**Operations in the Absence of a Planning Coordinator**

Starting June 1st, the Partnership will be operating in the absence of a planning coordinator due to lack of funding/resources. The Partnership is looking to receive some ARPA funding from OWRD in mid-August and will hopefully be awarded a $20,000 grant from OCF in late August as well. These two funding sources will help the Partnership bring on the expertise it will need to coordinate and support the partners during implementation. In the meantime, Alexandria said summer is the busy season and we usually don’t get much participation from the partners during that time. Many of the partners only meet with their boards or city councils once a month so getting them to regionally adopt the plan and commit to its implementation may take until July or August depending on how full their meeting agendas are. Alexandria has already prepared and given the partners the regional plan adoption documents; it is now up to them to take these documents to their organizations. Once the MOU template is complete, they will have a document to use to implement specific projects and actions together. The Partnership will have the tools it needs to begin implementation without a planning coordinator. Alexandria recommends that the Partnership consider taking an inventory of its resources (people, talents, roles) before hiring someone new this fall. Adam Denlinger will serve as the main point of contact for the Partnership until someone new is brought on board.

**No Partner Updates**

**Actions Items**

* Tune into the Partnership’s presentation to the Water Resource Commission June 16th from 10:45am-12pm. More information for how to watch virtually coming soon.
* Bring the plan adoption document (either Declaration of Cooperation or Resolution) along with the Final Plan to your organizations so that they can formally adopt the plan and commit to its implantation. If signed before May 30th, email to Alexandria at alexandria@midcoastwaterpartners.com. After May 30th, please email signed documents to Adam Denlinger at adenlinger@srwd.org.