**Meeting Notes**

**Date:** May 11th, 2022, 9:00am -11:00am

**Location:** Virtual

**Convener:** Adam Denlinger, General Manager, Seal Rock Water District

**Facilitator:** Alexandria Scott, Partnership Planning Coordinator

**Next Steps**

* **Partnership’s Planning Coordinator submitted the final plan adopted by consensus by the Partnership at the May 11th Partnership meeting to the Water Resource Commission on May 16th.**
* **Partnership’s Planning Coordinator will spend the rest of May finalizing the MOU Template for partners to use to implement specific actions/projects together and creating the presentation for the WRC meeting in June.**
* **If your organization wants to adopt the plan and commit to implementation have the decision-making body of your organization sign the Declaration of Cooperation or Resolution**
* Both documents can be found on the Plan Adoption & Implementation page on our website at <https://www.midcoastwaterpartners.com/plan-adoption-implementation>.
* Sign and email these documents to Adam Denlinger, General Manager of the Seal Rock Water District at [adenlinger@srwd.org](mailto:adenlinger@srwd.org).
* **Partnership Meetings & Events:** Mark your calendar -
* Tune in virtually to the Partnership’s presentation to the Water Resource Commission for official state recognition of the Water Action Plan June 16th from 10:45am-12:00pm, stay tuned for more information!
* **Starting June 1st, the main point of contact for the Partnership will be Adam Denlinger, General Manager of the Seal Rock Water District, Convener & Fiscal Agent for the Partnership email** [**adenlinger@srwd.org**](mailto:adenlinger@srwd.org)

**Discussion Notes**

**Meeting Objectives:** Discuss the processes (State Review Process, 30-day Public Review, Charter Signatory Yellow Cards from 12/15/21 Meeting) that led to the May 2022 version of the Mid-Coast Water Action Plan. Discuss the changes made and finalize the Mid-Coast Water Action Plan. Reach consensus on the Final Plan.

**Welcome & Reminder of Guiding Principles & Meeting Guidelines**

**Alexandria Scott**, **Partnership Planning Coordinator** welcomed all attendees to the Mid-Coast Water Planning Partnership meeting and went over the objectives for the day. For newcomers to the process, she gave a quick overview of what the Partnership is, that it has been a 6-year journey, and that the process was guided by Oregon’s Integrated Water Resources Strategy and the Place-Based Planning Guidelines provided by the Oregon Water Resources Department. She then reminded the group going into the meeting of the Partnership’s guiding principles and meeting guidelines.

**Introductions & Public Comment Opportunity #1**

**Alexandria Scott**, **Partnership Planning Coordinator** asked each person in the meeting to introduce themselves, state their affiliation/organization, if there were an eligible charter signatory and a highlight of the planning process. To watch the meeting recording, attendees and the subsequent meeting materials go to Meetings section of our website under “About Us” at <https://www.midcoastwaterpartners.com/meetings>. The public was given its first 15-minute comment opportunity after the introductions had commenced. There were no public comments stated either via chat box or verbally for this opportunity.

**Required Changes Proposal & Public Comment Opportunity #2**

**Alexandria Scott**, **Partnership Planning Coordinator** reminded the group that the entire partnership (if on email listserv) was sent the required changes proposal 3-weeks in advance of this meeting and that the document had been posted to the Draft Water Action Plan page on the website as well. Eligible charter signatories were given until May 6th at 5pm to submit written alternative proposal for discussion if they absolutely could not live with the wording in a specific solution. There were no submissions.

This document was created in response to 3 processes that took place from December 2021 – late March 2022: the charter signatory yellow cards posed 12-15-21, the 30-day public review process and the inter-agency state review. The results of each of these processes can be found in Appendix J of the Final Plan for anyone looking to do a deeper dive into the results.

The 30-day public review did not result in any changes that were not already taking place through the yellow card solution drafting process. The Partnership’s Planning coordinator met with charter signatories who volunteered to draft solutions to the yellow cards posed on 12-15-21 from January -March 2022. The results of those sessions are reflected in the yellow card solutions table of the required changes proposal and specific text changes be viewed using the track changes function for the 4-20-22 draft plan (can be viewed under the draft plan archives section of our website). The high-level changes to plan the in response to the yellow cards were:

* Acknowledging the wide range of costs associated with implementing specific projects more in depth.
* Working together to understand how the proposed actions align with the local comprehensive plans and land use ordinances is the first step in moving through the regulatory processes locally and at the state level.
* Clarification of instream needs & water rights for Step 3.
* Elaboration on outreach efforts done by the Partnership.

Alexandria Scott then went over the required improvements to the plan from the inter-agency state review process which took place from late-December 2021– mid-March 2022. She reminded the group that this review is part of the Place-Based Planning Process to get a recommendation from the Plan Review team (PRT) for official state recognition by the Water Resource Commission. For this review PRT worked with local field staff, technical staff, and policy staff to determine if the 12-15-21 draft plan demonstrated that the planning process and the plan followed the 2015 Draft Planning Guidelines and principles of Oregon’s IWRS. The PRT consisted of staff from five state agencies: the Water Resources Department, Department of Fish and Wildlife, Department of Environmental Quality, Department of Agriculture, and Watershed Enhancement Board. Feedback was given in three categories: required improvements, plan strengths and considerations for plan implementation (these can be viewed in Appendix J of the May 2022 version of the Plan). For the purposes of this meeting the group only went over the required improvements. The high-level improvements made to the May 2022 version of the plan were:

* Described cultural concerns related to water resources, specifically for the Siletz Tribe.
* Elaborated on instream demands to the extent known.
* Included more detail for current surface water quantity.
* Included more detail on groundwater situation in the basin.
* Included more information about implementation initial costs.
* Included the plan for final review and adoption of the Final Plan.

Alexandria offered to the eligible charter signatories to lead a discussion into these topics, but no one had any topics they wanted to dig into. There were no comments during public comment opportunity #2.

**Consensus Vote on Final Mid-Coast Water Action Plan**

Now that the Partnership had discussed the outcomes of the processes that led to this latest iteration of the plan and finalized it, the group moved on to its final objective for this meeting, reaching consensus on the Final Mid-Coast Water Action Plan.

The criteria for voting eligibility according to the Mid-Coast Water Planning Partnership Charter is:

* Anyone may participate in meetings and deliberations of the Partnership, only persons signing the Charter may participate in Partnership decision making. Partners were asked to re-sign the Charter in late 2020-2021 to commit to plan development & implementation.
* Partnership members (and/or their alternates) must have attended at least two of the last four meetings or partnership events to formally participate in making decisions.

Eligible Charter Signatories were given the following parameters for this consensus vote:

* + *Thumbs Up (either by clicking the thumbs up button on zoom, physically holding a thumbs up to your camera or putting a thumbs up in the chat box) -- indicates agreement with the Partnership adopting the Final Plan.*
  + *Neutral -- indicates some hesitation or caution about the Partnership adopting the Final Plan and a desire to discuss (be specific).*
  + *Thumbs Down -- indicates disagreement with a specific item in the Final Plan moving forward and propose a productive alternative. These need to be things that you absolutely cannot support moving forward in the Final Plan.*

**Alexandria Scott**, **Partnership Planning Coordinator** provided an overview of the eligible Charter Signatories and any votes submitted in support of the Final Plan by charter signatories who were not able to attend the meeting.

Charter Signatories Eligible to Participate in Consensus Based Decision Making:

* Jennifer Beathe, Starker Forests, Inc (Thumbs up)
* Jay Macpherson, Oregon Health Authority
* Paul Robertson, Robertson Environmental LLC
* Leo Williamson & Matt Thomas, Oregon Department of Forestry (Thumbs up)
* Geoffrey Wilkie, Interested Citizen
* Caylin Barter, Wild Salmon Center (Thumbs up)
* Jeanne Anstine, Newport Community Gardens (Thumbs up)
* David Bayus, Johnson Creek Water Services
* Tim Gross, Civil West Engineering Services Inc.
* Alan Fujishin, Gibson Farms (Thumbs up)
* Clare Paul, City of Newport (Thumbs up)
* Billie Jo Smith, Interested Citizen (Thumbs up – prior to meeting)
* Penelope Kaczmarek, Interested Citizen (Thumbs up)
* Mike Broili, MidCoast Watersheds Council
* Don Andre, Oregon Coast Community Forest Association
* Suzanne de Szoeke, GSI Water Solutions, Inc.
* Mark Saelens, Saelwood LLC
* Tyler Clouse, Lincoln Soil and Water Conservation District (Thumbs up)
* Evan Hayduk, MidCoast Watersheds Council (Thumbs up)
* David Waltz, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (Thumbs up)
* Lisa Phipps, Department of Land Conservation and Development (Thumbs up)
* Adam Denlinger, Seal Rock Water District (Thumbs up)
* Bill Montgomery, Interested Citizen (Thumbs up)
* Stan Van De Wetering, Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians (Thumbs up – after meeting)
* Joe Moll, McKenzie River Trust (Thumbs up)
* Jerry Anderson, Manulife Investment Management (Thumbs up)
* Stephanie Reid, City of Lincoln City
* Cyndi Karp, Ecosystem Advocate (Thumbs up – after meeting)
* Steve Parrett, Oregon Water Resources Department (Thumbs up)
* Kim Ogren, Oregon Water Resources Department (Thumbs up)

The Partnership has 30 current Charter Signatories listed above and 19 submitted votes. Out of the 19 participants that voted, 19 voted (100%) in favor of the Partnership adopting the Final Mid-Coast Water Action Plan. After the consensus vote to adopt the Final Plan occurred, the Planning Coordinator opened the floor up to the broader Partnership and public. There were no concerns (neutral or thumbs down votes) regarding the plan being adopted by the broader group. After this was the final public comment opportunity. Judy Casper had a question about where cost was presented in the plan and the Partnership’s Planning Coordinator referred her to the “Initial Estimated Investment” column of the Implementation table. She also reminded the group that clarifying language had been added to the latest version of the plan to highlight that these are estimates and that cost will need to be further specked out at the individual project level during implementation. Rod Cross acknowledged that what we have accomplished should serve as an example to the rest of the state and show that the Mid-Coast despite getting ~70 inches of rainfall annually has complex water issues that need to be addressed.

**Meeting Wrap Up & Conclusions**

The Partnership’s eligible Charter Signatories by majority (either in by attending the meeting or submitting a “Thumbs up” before the meeting) reached consensus on the Final Mid-Coast Water Action Plan on May 11th, 2022. After the consensus vote, the inter-agency plan review team shared with the group that they have reviewed the Final Plan and agree by consensus that the Final Plan DOES sufficiently address all of the required improvements described in the PRT Response to the 12-15-21 Draft Plan. Now that the planning group has reached consensus to adopt the Final Plan, the PRT will recommend state recognition to the Water Resource Commission, since the planning was conducted in accordance with the 2015 Draft Guidelines for Conducting Place-Based Planning and is consistent with the IWRS principles. This recommendation will be made at the June 16th presentation to the Water Resource Commission meeting when the Partnership presents the Final Plan to the Commission. Partners are highly encouraged to tune into this presentation virtually and more detailed information will be sent out through the partnership’s email listserv as it becomes availability.

Partners do not have to wait until the June Commission meeting to have their organizations sign the Declaration of Cooperation or Resolution documents to adopt the Final Plan and commit to its implementation. These documents will need to be signed every two years to sync up will budget/funding cycles and account for partner turnover. The signed documents should be emailed to the Convener of the Partnership, Adam Denlinger, at [adenlinger@srwd.org](mailto:adenlinger@srwd.org) so that they can be filed in the Partnership’s records for the “Regional Plan Adoption” phase of implementation. The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) template will be available on the Partnership’s website under the Plan Adoption & Implementation page by May 31st for partners to use to implement specific projects and actions together. It expected that the first Water Action Team meetings (quarterly meetings) will begin in late August or early September. The Partnership is so grateful to its volunteers who have spent thousands of volunteer hours over the last 6-years working to get to where we are now. We hope that everyone is excited and energized to finally be at the implementation phase and to have a plan that can be used to create a more secure and sustainable water future for the Mid-Coast region of Oregon.