

MINUTES
WISE PAC MEETING

October 6, 2004 at 9:30 A.M.

Medford City Hall, Rm. 340
411 W. 8th St., Medford, OR 97501

Attendance

Carol Bradford, Medford Irrigation District	Marilyn Rice, JSWCD/Landowner
Craig Harper, RVCOG	Eric Dittmer, SOU/HDR
Lu Anthony, Little Butte Watershed Council	Norma Fascilla, City of Medford
Bill Ryan, J. C. Farm Bureau	Terry Buchholz, HDR Engineering
Jim Hill, City of Medford	Brice Perkins, City of Medford
Steve Mason, WISE Coordinator	Jeff Eicher, RRVID
Bob Jones, Medford Water Comm.	Dave Nelson, US Bureau of Reclamation
Matt Lambert, Sabroso Co.	Jim Pendleton, Talent Irrigation District
Larry Menteer, OWRD	Alan Solbert, Jones & Stokes via telephone
Carol Snead, HDR via telephone	Janet Barbieri, Jones & Stokes via telephone
Steve Parrett, OWT via telephone	Stephanie Brearley, Jones & Stokes via telephone

1) Introductions

2) Approval of August 4, 2004 and Sept. 1, 2004 Minutes

- Bob Jones made a motion to approve the 8/4/04 minutes as written. Lu Anthony seconded the motion. All voted aye by voice vote and the motion passed unanimously.
- Larry Menteer made a motion to approve the 9/1/04 minutes as written. Craig Harper seconded the motion. All voted aye by voice vote and the motion passed unanimously.

3) HDR Update

a) Review element fact sheets

Terry Buchholz reviewed the NEPA process and alternative development as follows:

1. Identify the purpose and need statement. The effects of the NEPA process.
2. Problem definition
3. Conceptual alternatives that will meet the success criteria.
4. Identify reasonable alternatives
5. Characterize affected environment (baseline)
6. Assess benefits/impacts of the reasonable alternatives
7. Identify preferred alternatives
8. Issue record of decision
9. Technical and financial means for implementation.

Terry added that going thru these elements and the NEPA process now eliminates having to go thru the environmental impacts again later on.

A comment was made regarding on-farm irrigation efficiency – Dave Nelson stated that BOR is more concerned with delivery system efficiencies. BOR would encourage on-farm efficiency, but not fund it. Jim Pendleton added that the biggest obstacle regarding on-farm efficiency is irrigators saying they can't afford the upgraded system.

Terry went on to explain the various elements of the project as follows:

- Common Elements –
 - Fixed Elements (elements in every alternative)
 - Tiered Elements (wide range of potential implementation)
- Variant Project Elements
(Included in one or more alternatives and implemented in various ways)

Bill Ryan mentioned that the state is looking at water quality trading and the WISE PAC agreed that it should be added as a project element.

Common Elements

Fixed: Piping entire irrigation system (Debate on if this is really a **fixed** element)

- Utilize reclaimed effluent
- Acquire, transfer or bank water rights
- Encourage on-farm irrigation improvements
- Enhance riparian stream buffers
- Implement conservation methods
- Irrigation improvements

Tiered: Change irrigation system monitoring and control

- Acquire, transfer or bank water rights
- Piping irrigation system
- Lining irrigation system
- Increasing existing reservoir storage
- Optimize water distribution within basins

Variant

- New Storage
- Transfer water from other basins
- Realign water conveyance system
- Micro Hydro – replacing pressure reducing valves
- Effluent Trading

Steve Parrett and Bill Ryan voiced concern that riparian stream buffers may not be a fixed element of the WISE project. Jim Hill commented that a riparian buffer may mean more water.

Comments regarding the element fact sheets should be emailed or faxed to Terry Buchholz at HDR by next Friday, Oct. 15, 2004. Her fax number is 503-423-3737.

b) Next Steps

Terry Buchholz stated that at the November PAC meeting, we will look at the alternatives and what it will take to make this project successful; what areas we are meeting, not meeting, or exceeding the success criteria. Also, which areas have the greatest losses.

4) Outreach

Site Tour – Stephanie Brearley of Jones & Stokes reported that two news stories (on channel 5 and channel 10) covered the site tour. Open houses were then held on September 15 and 16. Upcoming presentations will be made to the Sierra Club and the Audubon Society. Jim Hill suggested conserving our dollars now and having open houses later on when the project is further along.

5) Old Business

a) Coordinator Funding

Bob Jones reported that the Medford Water Commission will be contributing toward the funding of the WISE Coordinator position. Talent Irrigation District's Board has approved funding a portion of the coordinator position. City of Medford will be granting approval of partial funding as well. Funding should be in place by the end of the month.

b) BOR Authorization Legislation

Dave Nelson reported that Bill H.R.3210 can be viewed at the following website www.thomas.loc.gov where it states the following:

There are 2 versions of Bill Number H.R.3210 for the 108th Congress:

- (1) To authorize the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Bureau of Reclamation, to conduct a water resource feasibility study for the Little Butte/Bear Creek Subbasins in Oregon. (Introduced in House)[\[H.R.3210.IH\]](#)
- (2) To authorize the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Bureau of Reclamation, to conduct a water resource feasibility study for the Little Butte/Bear Creek Subbasins in Oregon. (Engrossed as Agreed to or Passed by House)[\[H.R.3210.EH\]](#)

6) New Business

a) New Site Tour

A site tour is being planned for Jackson County officials and Rep. Greg Walden's Aide, John Snyder.

b) Earmark Funding for FS/EIS Phase II

Steve Parrett will be submitting a grant proposal to fund OWT's time and involvement in the WISE project. Steve Parrett asked for a letter of support from the WISE PAC for this.

c) Use of Old WISE Logo

Steve Mason has become incorporated and requested the use of the original WISE logo with the plow on it. There were no objections by the WISE PAC.

d) Presentation by SOU Student

Eric Dittmer requested that one of his students be able to make a presentation to the WISE PAC regarding his findings on this project.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:35 AM.

The next meeting will be November 10, 2004 at 9:30 AM – Medford City Hall, Rm. 340. The following meeting will be December 15, 2004.

Respectfully submitted,

Norma Fascilla
City of Medford-RWRF