

MINUTES
WISE PAC MEETING

November 10, 2004 at 9:30 A.M.

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

Attendance

Craig Harper, RVCOG	Larry Menteer, OWRD
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	Tom Suttle, City of Medford
Steve Mason, WISE Coordinator	Jeff Eicher, RRVID
Chuck Root, Rogue Valley Sewer Services	Jim Pendleton, Talent Irrigation District
Charlie Boyer, Jackson SWCD	Janet Barbieri, Jones & Stokes via telephone
Steve Parrett, OWT	Rose Marie Davis, RBCC
Keith Emerson, Bear Creek Orchards	

1) Approval of October 6, 2004 Minutes

Bill Ryan made a motion to approve the 10/6/04 minutes as written. Lu Anthony seconded the motion. All voted aye by voice vote and the motion passed unanimously.

2) FS/EIS Update

Review preliminary list of reasonable alternatives

Terry Buchholz reviewed the preliminary list of reasonable alternatives. Each alternative consists of several elements. The elements are characterized as either fixed common project elements, variable common project elements, or distinguishing project elements. The project team will evaluate the conceptual alternatives using the success criteria and priorities established by the WISE PAC. Terry stated that with this range of alternatives we are actually at a point to proceed with public scoping. Terry explained that thru the formal scoping (public workshops), the public will be asked to comment on the following four areas: the project purpose and need, problem definition itself, the success criteria, and alternatives. Jim Hill added that we cannot go to public scoping until the BOR has been given authorization. Within the next two weeks, Terry Buchholz will send out CD's containing the updated fact sheets.

3) Outreach

Steve Mason reported that last month he made two presentations - one to the Sierra Club and one to the Audubon Society. Steve commented that there were a lot of questions regarding how water flows through the Little Butte and Bear Creek watersheds.

Janet Barbieri will be making some changes to enhance the website. Also, Jones & Stokes will be coordinating with HDR Engineering regarding reaching specific groups for outreach.

4) Updates

a) Authorization

Steve Mason and Jim Hill reported that they had spoken with Ron Eggers, BOR Area Manager, regarding BOR Authorization. Eggers suggested the MOU language be changed, citing that it may be too confusing for people. However, Eggers is the one that had suggested the language initially. Apparently, the confusion lies somewhere between the Portland office and Washington DC. Jim Hill stated that Senator Gordon Smith's office seems happy with the language. Steve Mason feels it may not be the language, but personalities involved. Jim Hill commented that we should continue working with our Congressional Delegation to get approval. The bill would give Congress authorization to appropriate \$500,000 for BOR, but they haven't appropriated the \$500,000. We will know more by mid-December. Keith Emerson suggested if there are any stumbling blocks up north, we should inform BOR Commissioner John Keyes.

b) Funding FS/EIS

Steve Mason reported that the paperwork we submitted thru Senator Smith's office for obtaining the \$1.7 million in funding for the feasibility study/environmental impact study (FS/EIS) is still on hold. The local office has been somewhat closed so we don't know exactly where that stands, but we've been trying to get that taken care of.

5) Other Business

Jim Hill is still working with the six entities to sign the inter-governmental agreement: City of Medford, Medford Water Commission, Jackson County, Talent Irrigation District, Medford Irrigation District, and Rogue River Irrigation District. Jim reported that Medford Irrigation has made some significant changes to the agreement and the City of Medford has agreed to some of those changes. Jim would like to have something in place soon since Steve Mason's position as WISE Coordinator is not currently being funded. Each entity is contributing \$5,000 - \$10,000. Talent Irrigation District has approved \$10,000. Medford Irrigation District has approved \$5,000. Jim Hill is open to suggestions on how to get all the entities together on this. Medford Water Commission is willing to fund \$10,000 but Jim hasn't heard back from them regarding the language. Jackson County is concerned with the language and is now considering making more changes to the agreement.

Steve Parrett distributed a draft document for some of the WISE PAC members to review. It pertains to the Water Rights Management Plan and protecting water rights in-stream.

6) Next Meeting

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:00 AM.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Norma Fascilla
City of Medford-RWRF