

**MINUTES**  
***WISE PAC MEETING***

**January 5, 2005 at 9:30 A.M.**  
Medford Irrigation District  
1340 Myers Ln., Medford, OR 97501

**Attendance**

Bob Hunter, WaterWatch	Larry Menteer, OWRD
Lu Anthony, Little Butte Watershed Council	Jim Hill, City of Medford
Bill Ryan, J. C. Farm Bureau	Norma Fascilla, City of Medford
Keith Corp, Corp Ranch	Tom Suttle, City of Medford
Steve Mason, WISE Coordinator	Jeff Eicher, RRVID
Ed Olson, Rogue Valley Sewer Services	Jim Pendleton, Talent Irrigation District
Charlie Boyer, Jackson SWCD	Marilyn Rice, Jackson SWCD
Carol Bradford, Medford Irrigation District	Rose Marie Davis, RBCC
Keith Emerson, Bear Creek Orchards	Harvey Bragg, Jackson County
Bob Jones, Medford Water Commission	Dave Nelson, US Bureau of Reclamation
Stephanie Brearley, Jones & Stokes via telephone	Terry Buchholz, HDR Engineering via telephone

**1) Introductions**

**2) Approval of December 15, 2004 Minutes**

Bill Ryan made a motion to approve the 12/15/04 minutes with the following correction:

CORRECTION: Item 6. ENRON should read NRAC (Natural Resources Advisory Committee)

Bob Jones seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

**3) Outreach Update**

Stephanie Brearley reported that as new PAC members, Rogue Valley Sewer Services (RVS) and Jackson County will be added to outreach materials (website, presentation board, fact sheet, letterhead). Work will continue on the development of the project area maps with the sub-committee and HDR. Also, the website sub-committee will be making some updates to the website such as adding photos and updating some of the text. Stephanie also reported on hits to the website as follows: Oct. 2004 - 2400 hits, Nov. 2004 - 1800 hits, and Dec. 2004 - 2800 hits. Stephanie also reported that the most popular pages on the website are the fact sheet and information regarding the meetings such as meeting notices.

**4) HDR FS/EIS Update**

## **a.) Project Status**

Terry Buchholz reported that she has received comments from approximately half of the PAC members on the pre-scoping activities. There were some very good comments and recommendations regarding the purpose and need statement that she will need to bring to the PAC for discussion. Regarding the study, they have just initiated some of the piping and lining scenarios. HDR is in the process of obtaining various maps from the irrigation districts and plans to meet with the irrigation districts and Leo Busch to discuss the best piping layout and pumping alternatives. Stormwater needs, groundwater studies, and baseline studies will follow.

Steve Mason asked if HDR would be examining a piping scenario for mitigation at the Tyler Creek Wasteway site, which is the bypass for the Green Springs turbine. Terry said they are looking at the areas with known high losses in the system and are coming up with the most economical and feasible solutions for piping and pumping alternatives and will make sure it is captured in one of the alternatives.

Bill Ryan was approached by a committee put together by the City of Jacksonville regarding what to do with their old watershed and the dam. Right now it is full of silt and would need to be cleaned out. The dam might be able to be raised to be used as a new spillway, but it could help give us a way of controlling stormwater. It could also give us an additional source of irrigation water in the Hanley area and additional storage. The City of Jacksonville lost their storage rights but they can apply to get them back. Larry Mentee stated that the Water Resources Dept. model shows no water available because it's tributary to Bear Creek and Bear Creek has been closed for a number of years. The City of Jacksonville has been working with OWRD and has applied for water rights but been denied based on OFW native fish report. Bill stated the City of Jacksonville was working with OFW and they were supportive. Larry responded that even though the model shows no water available, it is possible to mitigate with OFW if they feel it is a benefit to the fish.

**ACTION:** Steve Mason will gather more information from the City of Jacksonville and discuss this further with Bill Ryan and Terry Buchholz, as this will need to be addressed as part of the FS/EIS.

Purpose and Need Statement - Charlie Boyer would like to add to the purpose and need statement so that it reads "Little Butte and Bear Creek suffer from unreliable irrigation and water supplies during drought years and degraded water quantity and quality for native salmonids and humans during low flow periods." In addition, Charlie reiterated that the environmental impact statement is supposed to weigh all of the impacts on the human environment. His concern is that this project will put agriculture out of business in this valley by raising the rates - no one in this valley can afford to pay \$200/acre for water. Charlie added that the quality of life in this valley still stems from our agricultural and rural setting. It's a direct negative impact on the quality of life here if we lose our Ag community. The cost of this project to the Ag community is of strong concern. The Ag community does not really need this system to keep functioning. There are some benefits, but the majority of the benefits are to someone else besides Ag and therefore someone else ought to pay the cost.

Terry Buchholz stated that it's probably not realistic to say there will be improved irrigation and efficiency at no additional cost to irrigation patrons. She doesn't disagree that we don't want to increase the burden to irrigation districts, but by improving both reliability and efficiency there might be a small cost that can be born by the irrigation patrons. Steve Mason added that one of the ways could be for the irrigation districts to assist in the cost of construction for in kind work. Terry Buchholz asked to have a chance to come up with some wording for the next meeting. Also, under the question of no undue cost to patron... This needs to go under the purpose and need statement. The alternatives (fixed, variable, and common) need to meet the purpose and need statement. Jim Pendleton stated that we need to be real sensitive to what the wording is for the patrons. They have already paid for the system once and the irrigation districts have already contributed plenty. Carol Bradford is concerned about the wording "undue" financial burden and exactly what that means to everyone. Bob Jones added that already the districts have had undue financial expense to the tune of \$314,000. But we need to not lose sight of what our goal is and to remember that even though things are going okay now, we need to keep ahead of what may happen in the future so we don't end up in a situation like Klamath. Jim Pendleton commented that the irrigation districts spent the \$314,000 to keep that from happening. Bob replied that it only delayed it. The group agreed that no one sector should absorb the costs, whether it's the irrigation districts, the sewer system, or the treatment plant, etc.

Jim Hill asked the group to please submit their comments in a timely manner, at least a week before the PAC meetings, so that everyone can mull over the language changes and discuss them productively at the meetings.

**ACTION:** WISE PAC to send their comments to Terry Buchholz by next Wednesday She will combine them and send out to everyone for review.

Ed Olson also had several comments for discussion but those will be saved until the next meeting, February 2, 2005.

#### **b.) BOR Lead Agency Authorization**

Steve Mason reported that the sub-committee handling this topic is meeting today at 3:00 PM. Jim Hill stated that when he last spoke with Senate Aid Valerie West, she was checking on whether BOR was already authorized to be the lead agency. Her opinion was that it may well be someone within the BOR that has made that judgment. Dave Nelson reported that all previous interpretations of the 1966 Feasibility Act allowed for authorization, however there is now some dispute over this. Dave Nelson and Bob Hunter felt that the cleanest way to proceed would be to go out and get new authorization. The hang up right now is that the senate is not willing to introduce the legislation unless BOR supports it. Jim Hill added that either way it won't be introduced until February at the soonest.

#### **c.) Funding for Phase II of FS/EIS**

Jim Hill stated that the City of Medford has made it a priority as part of their planning goals to try and secure the 1.9 million needed. Steve Mason added that we have done some preliminary application work thru Senator Smith's office but have not heard anything back yet.

## **5) Other Business**

### **a.) Jackson County Farm Initiative**

Harvey Bragg, Jackson County Administrator, explained that the Jackson County Commissioners share the group's concerns and felt that the WISE may be a good source for gathering resources and information. They would like to find some way to lighten the load for the farmers so they can continue to enjoy the quality of life here in Jackson County. Commissioner Gilmore spearheaded this initiative of rural renewal in part to deal with the changes that have been imposed by measure 37.

### **b.) TMDL Model**

Leslie Stillwater has asked permission to use the TMDL model. Jim Pendleton commented that the model comes with a lot of assumptions. It was reported that the model is a BOR model, which is available to the public. In addition, Terry Buchholz informed the group that DEQ is making other models available to us and recommended we make our model available to other groups.

Larry Menteer informed the group that Jackson County now has several types of monitoring equipment in place which provides real time data. BOR has a need for this data so they have partnered with Jackson County to get this equipment online and also provide training. This project will be beneficial to the WISE project as well.

### **c.) MOU Amendment**

Steve Mason reported that with the addition of two new members to the PAC (RVS and J.C.) the MOU will need to be amended. Steve will work with the executive committee to complete this process.

## **9) Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be February 2, 2005 at 9:30 AM, Medford City Hall, Rm. 340.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Norma Fascilla  
City of Medford-RWRF