

MINUTES
WISE PAC MEETING

August 4, 2004 at 9:30 A.M.
Medford City Hall, Rm. 340
411 W. 8th St., Medford, OR 97501

Attendance

Jim Pendleton, Talent Irrigation District	Marilyn Rice, JSWCD/Landowner
Norma Fascilla, City of Medford	Rose Marie Davis, RBCC
Lu Anthony, Little Butte Watershed Council	Bob Jones, Medford Water Commission
Dave Nelson, USBR	Charlie Boyer, Jackson SWCD
Jim Hill, City of Medford	Brice Perkins, City of Medford
Bill Ryan, J. C. Farm Bureau	Jeff Eicher, RRVID
Keith Emerson, Bear Creek Orchards	Larry Menteer, OWRD
John Holroyd, HDR	Alan Solbert, Jones & Stokes
Jeffrey Blank, HDR	Bonnie Hays, Jones & Stokes
Terry Buchholz, HDR	Craig Tuss, USFWS – Roseburg
Ken Phippen, NOAA Fisheries – Roseburg	

1) Introductions

2) Approval of July 7, 2004 minutes

Jim Pendleton made a motion to accept the July 7, 2004 minutes as written. Bill Ryan seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

3) Jones & Stokes Outreach Update

Bonnie Hays reported that the conservation meeting held on July 8, 2004, which was held to brief a number of conservation groups. There were approximately 20 people in attendance in addition to a handful of WISE PAC members. Bob Hunter provided the following three additional suggestions to reach out to the conservation community: 1) Audubon Society, 2) Fly Fisherman's Association, and 3) Sierra Club. Steve Mason would make the presentations. Jones & Stokes would simply confirm the meetings.

Additional items coming up:

Aug. 15, 2004 – Cattlemen's Picnic
Sept. 18, 2004 – OSU Celebrate the Harvest (**A volunteer is needed to spearhead this event**).
Sept. 25, 2004 – The Harvest Festival (Craig Harper has volunteered to head this up).
Oct. 2, 2004 – RVCOG Public TV with John Morrison
Oct. 12, 2004 – NPDES Meeting thru the Urban Subcommittee
Oct. 25, 2004- Presentation to Audubon

The Little Butte/Bear Creek Watershed 10th Anniversary event held on July 28, 2004 was a success. There were 20-30 people in attendance.

Jackson County Fair – Members reported that Steve Parrett did an excellent job and appreciated all his efforts. Some suggestions for next year included pushing the table back so the volunteers would be closer to patrons walking by. Additional fans should be brought in for next year. The turnout and reviews were mixed. However, Bonnie reported that the number of hits on the WISE website after the Ashland 4th of July Parade and the Jackson Co. Fair were greatly increased. Between the weeks of June 27 - July 5, 2004 there were 495 website hits. The previous week, there were 91. Clearly, the parade participation drove people to the website. The week of July 11– July 18, 2004 there were 709 hits on the website. July 18, 2004 – July 25, 2004 (J. Co. Fair week) there were 399 website hits.

September 8, 2004 Site Tour – Bonnie distributed a preliminary Site Tour Outline. The schedule is tentatively set for 8:30 AM – 2:30 PM. The proposed invite list is comprised of approximately 60 participants. Addition participants were suggested for the invite list as well. Larry Menteer also suggested that Jim Hill or Steve Mason make a WISE presentation to the Corp. of Engineers. Jim Pendleton made a motion for the WISE PAC to proceed with the September 8, 2004 Site Tour. Larry Menteer seconded the motion. All voted aye by voice vote and the motion carried unanimously. Bonnie would like invites to go out within the next 3-4 business days.

Promotion/Press for WISE Open Houses - A full page write up on WISE will be in the next Medford Water Commission Newsletter, which reaches 25,000 customers. A write up will also be in the RVCOG Newsletter.

Additional comment was made that the SW Oregon Provincial Advisory Committee (representing timber industries, etc) is interested in having WISE make a presentation to their organization on November 16, 2004.

4) HDR Work Session

Terry Buchholz reviewed the purpose and need statement of the WISE Project:

“The Wise Project is being proposed to address the problems of unreliable irrigation water supplies and degraded water quantity and quality for native and anadromous salmonids in Bear Creek and Little Butte Creek watersheds by improving irrigation reliability and aquatic habitat in an economically and environmentally feasible manner.”

Terry asked the WISE PAC members to prioritize their goals and consider what this project needs to achieve to be considered successful. Top goals and priorities were as follows:

1. Irrigation Efficiency (70% efficiency)
2. Water Supply Reliability (Full season of irrigation)
3. 3-way tie between: Environmental, Effluent Reuse, Water Quality

Alan Solbert then asked the group to identify their minimum threshold for each of their prioritized goals. For instance: Seventy percent efficiency for on-farm irrigation.

Bill Ryan commented that in regards to cost allocation, it will be hard for most of the farmers to increase their operation and maintenance costs and still make a go of it. Bill Ryan felt that any O & M costs will need to be absorbed by someone other than the farmers. Bob Jones asked what kind of O & M costs there would be to the farmers. Charlie Boyer commented that in the beginning of this project, it was stated that there would be no additional fees from the irrigation districts to the end users of this project. Bob Jones clarified that it said there would be “no undue financial burden”. Keith Emerson stated that if we are looking for a measured success then we can say there won’t be more than a 10% increase in the charge per acre. If we see the cost spiraling beyond that, then it’s no longer considered successful. Jim Pendleton stated that the farmers and the landowners have already paid for this system once. It’s basically their water rights that are being used. They’ve already bought the reservoirs and canal systems. They are already committing a lot to the project.

Terry Buchholz then asked the group to come up with various project elements (alternatives). For example, one element is to replace the canals with a pipe system. Terry asked the group to add components that haven’t already been listed from the previous exercise. The input will be compiled and fact sheets will be created.

5) Other Business

Bob Jones stated that Steve Mason’s position as the WISE coordinator no longer has funding. Up until now, the RBCC grant paid for the coordinator’s position, but funding has run out. Unless the WISE PAC comes up with funding, Bob questioned how far this project can move forward. Bob added that the Medford Water Commission has looked at funding a portion of the coordinator position, but it won’t happen unless other parties also contribute. The cost is \$60,000 a year. Jim Hill stated that originally the three irrigation districts, the City of Medford, Medford Water Commission, and Jackson County were each going to contribute \$10,000. Jim Hill added however, that at this point, the irrigation districts have stated that they are not going to contribute any money. Jim Hill stated that there is a possibility that the City of Medford could fund the entire amount, but the coordinator would then be working for the City of Medford. Bob asked that this item be put on the next meeting’s agenda.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:23 AM.

The next meeting will be September 1, 2004 at 9:30 AM – Medford City Hall, Rm. 340.

Respectfully submitted,

Norma Fascilla
City of Medford-RWRF