



WISE Project Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

Medford City Hall – Room 340, May 28th, 2008, 9:30 – 11:00 AM
411 W. 8th St., Medford, OR 97501

Attendance: Jim Hill (COM), Dave Nelson (BOR), Carol Bradford (MID), Brian Hampson (RRVID), Jim Pendleton (TID), Bob Hunter (WW), Larry Menteeer (OWRD), Bill Ryan (JCFB), Steve Mason (HDR), Tom Suttle (COM), Phil Van Buskirk (OSU Ext), Marilyn Rice (JSWCD), Eric Dittmer (SOU), Keith Corp (TID), Charlie Boyer (JSWCD)

Authorization Update: The WISE Authorization bill was signed by the President. This means that the BOR is authorized to act as lead agency for the FS/EIS. It also included authorization for BOR to appropriate \$500K to act as lead agency (there were NO appropriations).

Funding for BOR and FSEIS:

- BOR: Nelson reported that the existing MOA between BOR and Medford would need to be amended to show BOR acting as lead agency and to reflect the activities BOR will perform. BOR budgeting in Washington DC is already three years out (they are currently working on the 2011 budget) so a write-in is the method that will need to be used to have congressional funds available. It was agreed to follow the advice of the congressional delegation in determining how best to have the funds made available (all at once or spread out over a couple years). All federal funds will require a match (local or otherwise).
- FSEIS: A write-in is a likely approach to developing funding for the FSEIS. Other sources may include: Farm Bill, EPA, OWRD (http://www.wrd.state.or.us/OWRD/LAW/conservation_reuse_storage_grant.shtml), BOR Water 2025. WISE will approach the local congressional delegation as well as the Governor's Office (starting with Jeff Griffin who is the local representative).

Review and Approval of FSEIS Documents: Review of the documents previously prepared by HDR has been postponed until the next meeting. PAC members will use the time between meetings to provide any comments they



might have. These documents were all reviewed previously by the PAC before the project's recently ended hiatus.

On-Farm EIS work needed: Charlie Boyer asked if the existing EIS work covered on-farm improvements that will occur as a result of WISE implementation. Mason said that he would investigate this with the NEPA expert at HDR. Charlie's assertion is that there may be a requirement for NEPA work for on-farm improvements and that addressing these during the WISE FSEIS phase may make sense.

WISE Coordinator: Medford, by rule, may have to solicit for the WISE coordination position. However, HDR previously proposed and was selected for this work. Jim Hill will determine if the previous selection process can be used. Funding for the coordination position will be through an IGA with the WISE Partners (Medford, MWC, Jackson County, MID, RRVID, and TID) for a total of \$30K for 2008/2009.