

Mid-Coast Water Planning Partnership Early Implementation Work Group Meeting

Date: Tuesday, December 10, 2024, 9:00 am – 10 AM

Location: Virtual (Zoom)

Conveners: Adam Denlinger (Seal Rock Water District) (not in attendance)

Facilitators: Suzanne de Szoeki (GSI Water Solutions, Inc.)

Participants:

Evan Hayduk — MidCoast Watersheds Council

Tyler Clouse – Lincoln Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD)

Alyssa Mucken — Oregon Water Resources Department

Margaret Treadwell — McKenzie River Trust

Steve Parrett — Oregon Department of Environmental Quality

Caylin Barter – Wild Salmon Center

Bill Montgomery — MidCoast Watersheds Council Board Member

Andrea Sumerau — Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians

Billie Jo Smith – Lincoln County Water Systems Alliance

Suzanne de Szoeki – GSI

<p><u>Questions/Comments To Address</u></p> <p>None</p>	<p><u>Decisions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Work Group selected the following projects to include on the project list for the 2025 Water Package: • Data, monitoring, or analysis: Siletz Source Water Monitoring project • Water Supply: 50-year Water Supply Plan for Lincoln County • Outreach and education: Siletz NWQI Water Conservation Outreach • Resilience: Living with Beaver • Water Conservation: Lodging and Major Water Users Conservation Support
<p><u>GSI Action Items</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None directly discussed during the meeting. GSI will be completing the remaining ARPA grant deliverables in December, including finalizing the Early Implementation Work Plan and completing grant reports. 	<p><u>Partnership Action Items</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partners with projects selected for the prioritized project list for the response letter to Representatives Helm and Owens will contribute project information and participate in planning meetings prior to January 15. Alyssa will lead the effort to develop the response letter.

- The Work Group had no comments on the November 12 meeting notes
- Suzanne asked if there were any comments on the agenda and Caylin said she wanted to discuss how to stay coordinated after this meeting as part of the agenda
- The Work Group discussed potential projects to include in the project list for the 2025 Water Package requested by Representatives Helm and Owens
 - Data, monitoring, or analysis
 - Tyler said that the Siletz Source Water Monitoring project is well-developed and that they have a monitoring plan; the Schooner Creek watershed does not have a monitoring plan yet; the monitoring project in the Siletz would be a good one to go with
 - The Work Group agreed that the Siletz Source Water Monitoring project (led by Lincoln Soil and Water Conservation District) should be the project for this category
 - Water Supply
 - The 50-year Water Supply Plan for Lincoln County project (led by Lincoln County Water Systems Alliance) was the only one identified for this category and the Work Group agreed that it should be the project for this category
 - Outreach and education

- Tyler said that he considers the Siletz National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI) Conservation Outreach project the most important project among his group of projects, because funding would kickstart engagement for upcoming NWQI funding for the watershed from NRCS and the Oregon Department of Agriculture; the other outreach projects he listed are less of a priority at the moment
 - Billie Jo added that the Siletz watershed is important
 - The Work Group agreed that the Siletz NWQI Conservation Outreach project (led by Lincoln Soil and Water Conservation District) should be the project for this category
 - Resilience
 - The Work Group discussed a pump station backup generator project from Lincoln City
 - Evan described the project and said that the project was a priority in this category
 - Alyssa said she likes both projects, and also expressed a fondness for the beaver project because of the connection with natural storage and the Integrated Water Resources Strategy and thinks that it's difficult to get funding for natural storage projects at the moment; she thinks other funding is available for backup generators; the backup generator project could be put in an appendix
 - Evan said that he has seen a lot of change related to supporting beaver since the Partnership began, and said that it's harder to get funding because the project has a longer timeframe of results, but momentum seems to be changing and there's science to support beaver
 - Steve likes the backup generator project because it's something quantifiable and tangible that can be done in the short term, but he said he also loves beaver
 - Bill likes the backup generator and added that communication is important, and he wondered if beaver belongs in resilience
 - Suzanne read how the letter states that the project should increase resilience in the face of natural hazards or other emergency conditions; both project types seem to fit
 - Others thought backup generators would be a better project for the region than for a single water provider
 - Billie Jo said that we need to write the description of the beaver project to make clear the beaver projects create more resiliency and provide natural storage that help during droughts and floods
 - The Work Group agreed that the Living with Beaver project (led by MidCoast Watersheds Council) should be the project for this category
 - Water conservation
 - Andrea said that she would like the Mid-Coast Water Conservation (Mid-Coast Water) Project to be broadened to include major water users, such as fish processing facilities, and Caylin agreed
 - Billie Jo asked about what the outreach would involve in Suzanne described outreach materials, such as bathroom hangers and kitchen postings, table tents,

- and welcome packet content encouraging water conservation; bulk purchase of water conservation items could be provided to the lodging businesses
- Caylin emphasized the need to educate the business managers, not just visitors, about water conservation, and encourage outdoor water conservation and water conservation opportunities at fish processing facilities
 - Suzanne said that Mid-Coast Water will rework the description to broaden it to a variety of major water users such as lodging (vacation rentals, hotels, motels) and certain businesses
- Suzanne has not been able to connect with Harmony about the level of detail for the draft response letter with the project list
 - Suzanne provided a recap of the types of project information requested in the letter
 - Alyssa offered to lead the development of the draft letter
 - The Work Group realized that they needed to make a definitive decision about the water conservation project, and then agreed that the Lodging and Major Water Users Conservation Support project (led by Mid-Coast Water) should be the project for the water conservation category
 - Alyssa said she would set up a meeting to discuss the draft letter and can send out information
 - In response to the request to discuss how the group would keep going as part of the agenda, Suzanne said that the Coordinating Committee was thinking to have a full Partnership meeting in June and the Coordinating Committee will be meeting periodically
 - Alyssa said that she would work with Suzanne to transfer information from the ARPA project currently held by GSI to the Partnership