

Mid-Coast Water Planning Partnership Coordinating Committee Meeting Notes

Date: Thursday, October 31, 2024, 9:30 AM-10:30 AM

Location: Zoom

Coordinating Committee Meeting Attendees

Coordinating Committee Members Present:

Steve Parrett – Oregon Department of Environmental Quality

Adam Denlinger – Seal Rock Water District

Alyssa Mucken – Oregon Water Resources Department

Billie Jo Smith – Lincoln County Water Systems Alliance

Alan Fujishin – Gibson Farms

Coordinating Committee Members Absent:

Mike Broili – MidCoast Watersheds Council

Henry Pitts – Oregon State University student

David Rupp – Oregon State University

Facilitators:

Suzanne de Szoeko – GSI Water Solutions, Inc.

Meeting Agenda

- Financial report and planned activities
- 2025 Water Package Request
- Coordinating Committee activities in 2025

Summary of Major Points of Discussion

- No comments on the last meeting notes
- Suzanne provided an update on finances, explaining that GSI has utilized its allocated budget, but is committed to completing remaining tasks in November and December; she outlined the remaining tasks: Coordinating Committee meetings and notes, two Early Implementation Work Group meetings and notes, Early Implementation Work Plan wrap up, website updating, grant reporting, and communications
- Alyssa added that final tasks should also include providing access to key files and to the Partnership Smartsheet tool
- Suzanne asked the Coordinating Committee if any unused Partner reimbursement funding could be moved from that budget line item to the “Subcontractors” line item in the Coordinating Committee said yes.
- **Decision:** The Coordinating Committee decided to move any unused Partner reimbursement funding from the “Other” budget line item to the “Subcontractors” line item budget allocation.

- Seal Rock Water District also has approximately \$6500 of funding for consulting services related to Partnership support (remaining funding preceding ARPA funding) that GSI can utilize to help complete remaining tasks
- The Coordinating Committee discussed how to approach identifying projects for the 2025 Water Package project solicitation from Representatives Helm and Owens
- Alyssa suggested that criteria for selecting a project should include its prioritization (e.g., Priority Group A) and that it's entered into the Smartsheet Project List
- The Coordinating Committee discussed how financial security is needed to retain a coordinator
- Adam said he likes working with consultants
- Billie Jo said that using consultants has been successful for the group and that the Partnership could say that they are contracting a coordinator in the 2025 Water Package response letter
- Alan said that a coordinator could be hired once consistent funding is available
- Alyssa estimated that any funds distributed from the legislative session would be available at the earliest on July 1, 2025 and would last two years
- Billie Jo said that the Partnership should still apply for other funding
- Suzanne asked who they would want to develop the 2025 Water Package letter; the Coordinating Committee thought GSI was in the best position and they discussed how some of the approximately \$6500 (described above) could also support letter development
- Alan added that being able to use the Smartsheet Project List can help improve the efficiency of identifying projects
- The Coordinating Committee asked Suzanne if she thought that was enough funding to support the letter development and she thought that probably was
- Alyssa suggested having a consensus decision about the projects to include in the 2025 Water Package response letter
- The Coordinating Committee again discussed ideas for criteria for selecting projects: the project can be completed within two years, the project was prioritized into Priority Group A, a diversity of project partners with lead the projects (trying for an average of one partner for project), and stream and outer stream projects are included, and the projects need funding
- The Coordinating Committee suggested looking at bundle work plans to help with project selection
- The Coordinating Committee decided to hold its next meeting on November 21 at 9:30 AM