

Mid-Coast Water Planning Partnership Coordinating Committee Meeting Notes

Date: Wednesday, June 26, 2024, 9:00-10:30 AM

Location: Zoom

Coordinating Committee Meeting Attendees

Coordinating Committee Members Present:

Adam Denlinger – Seal Rock Water District

Steve Parrett – Oregon Department of Environmental Quality

Billie Jo Smith – Lincoln County Water Systems Alliance

Henry Pitts – Oregon State University student

David Rupp – Oregon State University

Coordinating Committee Members Absent:

Alyssa Mucken – Oregon Water Resources Department

Alan Fujishin – Gibson Farms

Mike Broili – MidCoast Watersheds Council

Facilitators:

Suzanne de Szoeko – GSI Water Solutions, Inc.

Leah Cogan – GSI Water Solutions, Inc.

Meeting Agenda

- Partnership meeting and tour feedback
- Charter update next steps
- Financial report
- Partnership capacity funding and Funding Committee
- Partnership fiscal agent search
- July 9 Work Group meeting agenda

Summary of Major Points of Discussion

- The committee provided feedback on the May 29 Partnership meeting and tour
 - Committee members agreed that the meeting went well overall, and the meeting space and food were good
 - The agenda items were good and well-timed, and the consensus decision on the prioritization went well
 - Steve noted that there was a reasonably good turnout, although it would still be good to do more outreach ahead of the next meeting
 - Billie Jo noted that it was positive that participants felt comfortable bringing up their concerns, and that the discussions were still respectful and positive
- The committee provided initial thoughts on the fall Partnership meeting

- Suzanne described that GSI could present on the implementation materials developed (ARPA grant deliverables) and the Partnership can make a decision to approve the materials
- Billie Jo suggested having the Charter update consensus decision first, so that other decisions follow the new Charter guidelines
- The meeting date has not been set yet but will be in October or November; Suzanne is working on scheduling the tour of sites near Lincoln City
- Committee members recommended aiming for October and having a daytime meeting because of the time of year (dark early and potential storms)
- Billie Jo mentioned that OSU plans to work with the Lincoln County Water Systems Alliance on a water planning project in the context of climate change, and may want to present at the meeting to get feedback (should hear soon if they receive funding)
- Part of the meeting should focus on future plans for the Partnership, such as post-ARPA implementation of work plans, transition to a new fiscal agent, and a report out from the Funding Committee
- Steve mentioned that rulemaking for place-based planning is anticipated to start this summer, so there could be a short presentation giving an overview of progress
- Steve mentioned that DEQ's water reuse assessment is due to the legislature in the fall, and there could be an update on the findings and how they relate to the water reuse actions in the Water Action Plan
- The committee discussed the next steps for the Charter updates
 - Suzanne noted that no further feedback has been submitted via email since the Partnership meeting
 - Committee members were pleased with the productive discussion at the meeting and the changes that were proposed
 - Next steps will be to send out the revised version in advance of the fall Partnership meeting and make a consensus decision at that meeting
- GSI shared the financial report for the ARPA grant
 - The remaining grant balance is about \$50k
 - Need to budget for regular meetings (Coordinating Committee and Work Group), full Partnership meeting, and grant deliverables
 - Several Partners plan to submit participation support reimbursement requests, likely total under \$10k
 - Grant deliverables include the prioritization process documentation and early implementation support tools and work plans
 - It is possible to carry over ARPA funding beyond December but seems unlikely that there will be remaining funds
- The committee discussed potential funding sources for continued Partnership capacity and a Partnership Coordinator
 - **Decision:** a Funding Committee will be established to focus on sustaining the Partnership and supporting implementation of the Water Action Plan
 - Several people have expressed willingness to help on the Funding Committee

- WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program grant looks like a good fit and has an upcoming deadline of September 3
- OWEB Partnership Capacity grant is also a good fit but next application period is not until spring, which would leave a longer gap in funding after ARPA
- Source Water Protection (DEQ/OHA) grants or forgivable loans may be another option to explore
- Oregon Community Foundation may be another possibility
- Identifying a new fiscal agent for the Partnership is a critical need before applying for any grant
- Billie Jo and Adam expressed support for having the County take a larger role in the Partnership, but they have capacity concerns around being a fiscal agent
- Steve will develop a list of bullet points describing the Funding Committee (time commitment, focus, etc.) to help establish the committee
- Henry will help with logistics and calendar invitations for the Funding Committee
- The committee discussed the agenda for the next Work Group meeting on July 9
 - Agenda topics include Smartsheet project management tool updates, early implementation support activities, Partnership capacity funding, new fiscal agent search, and fall Partnership meeting ideas
 - Billie Jo suggested inviting a representative of the Puget Sound Partnership to talk to the group about their structure as a potential implementation model
 - **Action Item:** Leah will reach out to the Puget Sound Partnership about availability and interest
 - Future Work Group meetings are planned to be virtual to ensure there is sufficient budget for grant deliverables and remaining meetings and activities