



Lake Abert & Chewaucan Meeting #1

Friday, April 21, 2023 via Zoom

DRAFT Meeting Summary

Participants present: Olney Patt, Brad Houslet, Barry Shullanberger, Greg Green, Chandra Ferrari, Clarence Henthorne, Craig Foster, Ed Contreras, Harmony Burrigh, Jake Johnstone, Jon Lamarche, Autumn Muir, Lisa Brown, Matthew Anderson, Patrick Flanagan, Philip Milburn, Mark Owens, Ryan Houston, Sara Slater, Colleen Withers, Marty St. Louis, Tammy Barnes, Tess Baker, Todd Forbes, Trish Carroll, Teresa Wicks, John Muir, Justin Miles.

Oregon State University Team Members present: Aaron Wolf, Henry Pitts, Hannah Steele, Adrianna Nicolay

Oregon Consensus Facilitation Team present: Jennah Kiefer, Bobby Cochran

Action Items

Action Items	Who	When
RSVP for June 12-14 Paisley Meeting	All	By May 3
Schedule Charter subgroup	Jennah (with Ted, Ed, Ryan, Tess, Trish/Theo)	By May 5
Add JP Pratt and Greg Green to distribution list	Bobby	Complete
Convene Planning Team to Craft June Agenda	Bobby	May 5
Confirm OSU's Source Submission Process	Henry	May 1

Upcoming Meetings

June 12-14 in person, Paisley, Oregon

June 26 via Zoom from 2-330pm

Welcome and Introductions

Representative Mark Owens opened the meeting, welcomed the group, and referenced the significant time input coming over the next few years. He set the scene for a collaborative process, emphasizing the highs and lows that are an inherent part of the process. He offered himself and his office as a resource, and wished the group luck as they kick-off the process. The rest of the group then introduced themselves, starting with the Oregon Consensus (OC) and Oregon State University (OSU) team members, followed by the participants in the collaborative process.



Attendees were asked to include why the lake or area was important to them as a part of the introduction. This garnered a diverse set of responses, highlighting the multiple interests and uses across the basin.

House Bill 3099 Update

Harmony Burrigh, a staff member with Rep. Owen's office, provided a brief overview of progress on [House Bill 3099](#). The bill was introduced as a Committee Bill in the House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources, and was initially a placeholder bill. A small team helped Harmony draft a Dash 1 Amendment to provide the context and specific asks within the placeholder bill. There was a public hearing last month, after which additional edits were made and the bill passed out of committee unanimously. The bill now sits with the Joint Ways and Means Committee, who largely control budget allocations. There was a letter of general support that participants were encouraged to sign on to by the 21st of April, though participants were still encouraged to reach out to Harmony to indicate their support as a signatory after the deadline. If funded, the bill would provide funding for 2 years to OC and OSU to support the process through facilitation and joint fact finding. OWRD and ODFW technical support efforts are also funded. No decisions will be made until after May 17th, which is the date of the next economic and revenue forecast. Representative Owens has also had meetings with Geoff Huntington, the Governor's Senior Natural Resources Advisor, to emphasize their desire for Governor Kotek to weigh in favorably on the process. There could potentially be another public hearing opportunity in late May. If HB 3099 does not pass, the project could still be funded at the end of the session as a reconciliation line item in the 'Christmas Tree Bill.' Finally, HB 3099 is also called out in the Bipartisan Drought Relief Bill. Harmony and Rep. Owens encouraged participants to engage in advocacy efforts in the Capitol building, and offered their support and resources in that regard .

General Protocols

Jannah Kiefer, Oregon Consensus, then provided the group with a list of general protocols as guidelines for meetings moving forward. These included: leave your video on if you can, keep the chat relevant and focused, stay muted, and be aware of Zoom fatigue and take self-care if needed. There was also an emphasis on the understanding that life can pose logistical difficulties to keeping one's camera on, which Jannah stated should be understood by the group at large. The discussion ended with the suggestion that other group agreements could and will be set for in-person meetings, or when the conversations get more difficult.

Shared Goals & Vision of Success

This section began with a brief overview of statements included in the initial Assessment Report produced by OC, as well as HB 3099, that could offer a roadmap or common starting place to build shared visions of success for the group. The conversation then shifted to questions about the separate nomenclature that specifies Lake Abert as a focus within the Chewaucan Basin given that the lake is part of the basin. Responses from other participants clarified that the terminology was not about keeping them separate, but rather to explicitly include Lake Abert.



This was primarily because the drying of Lake Abert was a key catalyst (of several) that encouraged a wide array of stakeholders to get involved. The conversation concluded with a discussion around the potential to identify and include other priority areas.

An OWRD representative then offered agency support in providing additional information. OWRD currently has a draft of a white paper on the basin that includes a summary of a previous USGS water budget, a breakdown of existing water rights, as well as a summary of groundwater resources. It should be completed within the week following the meeting, and would represent the majority of the technical capacity that OWRD can provide until the passage of HB 3099. They also offered support to facilitators or the greater group by providing resources from their Place Based Planning Initiative.

Group Charter

Participants agreed to keep the Planning Team in place, with current participation from Tess Baker, Ryan Houston, Diane Teeman, Colleen Withers, and Theo Dreher, though conversations emphasized that membership on the Planning Team could rotate in the future. A number of participants volunteered to help draft a charter for the group. These volunteers currently include Tess Baker, Ed Conteras, Ryan Houston, Brad Houslet, and a member from the Oregon Lakes Association (Theo or Trish). Please let Jennah or Bobby know ASAP if you want to join this small team. This Charter Team agreed to meet in May to draft key questions for the group for consideration at the ahead of the June meeting. These questions will be circulated prior to the meeting for review. Several participants also offered examples from previous collaborative efforts they have been engaged in. These include Harney Basin Wetlands Collaborative and the Tri-Corners Community Collaborative Operating Principles .

Joint Fact Finding

The OSU Team introduced themselves. Aaron provided a brief overview of the key task the team is currently working towards, which will be integrating traditional ecological knowledge, lived experiences, and scientific literature and data into a cohesive framework that can help participants develop a deeper understanding of the basin as a whole. It is important to note that this process will not entail OSU team members assessing sources' veracity, nor will they be deciding what's true. This process will help synthesize a first pass into a cohesive structure, not determine what is true. The outcomes from this synthesis will inform conversations aimed at marking and mapping out areas of agreement between participants. Henry provided an overview of the Box submission process, which is still pending support from OSU's IT department. This Box will be used to solicit both private and public sources of data. More information will be provided when this process is finalized on the OSU end, including instructions on how to submit, as well as processes for handling sensitive information. These submissions can include any data you think is relevant or could provide deeper insight, including audio clips, family pictures, anecdotes, etc. We encourage you to submit if you think it could be useful in any way. Each of the OSU



graduate students also identified themselves with a key track: traditional ecological knowledge (Adrianna), lived experiences (Henry), and scientific data or literature (Hannah). This will serve as a parallel process to the charter.

Open Floor

There was a suggestion to consider a strategic action plan that is stakeholder driven and developed by participants within this collaborative. This could take the form of a document or report noting the participants, key insights produced by OSU, agreed upon shared truths, and a prioritization scheme for any recommended actions. This could serve as a long-term benefit for the basin as participants and locals engage in restoration work, funding, project planning, etc. These recommendations could be organized along a set of best management practices producers and other users could utilize. There was also general agreement that the group needs to come to consensus on what we don't know to help inform questions to answer for scientists/agencies down the road. Another suggestion was to consider sequencing group charter with joint-fact finding. These would occur prior to developing objectives and a strategic action plan.