

MORROW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
WORK SESSION AGENDA
Wednesday, February 8, 2023 at 1:30 p.m.
Bartholomew Building Upper Conference Room
110 N. Court St., Heppner, Oregon
See Zoom Meeting Info Below

- 1. Call to Order:** 1:30 p.m.
- 2. Update on Water Coordinator Services from GSI Water Solutions** (Tamra Mabbott, Planning Director; Paul Gray, Emergency Management; Robin Canaday, Public Health Director)
- 3. Adjournment**

Agendas are available every Friday on our website (www.co.morrow.or.us/boc under “Upcoming Events”). Meeting Packets can also be found the following Monday.

The meeting location is accessible to persons with disabilities. A request for an interpreter for the hearing impaired or for other accommodations for persons with disabilities should be made at least 48 hours before the meeting to Roberta Lutchter, 541-676-5613.

Pursuant to ORS 192.640, this agenda includes a list of the principal subjects anticipated to be considered at the meeting; however, the Board may consider additional subjects as well. This meeting is open to the public and interested citizens are invited to attend. If you have any questions about items listed on the agenda, please contact Chair David Sykes at 541-256-0379.

Zoom Meeting Information

<https://zoom.us/j/5416762546>

PASSWORD: 97836

Meeting ID: 541-676-2546

Zoom Call-In Numbers for Audio Only:

- 1-346-248-7799, Meeting ID: 541 676 2546#
- 1-669-900-6833, Meeting ID: 541 676 2546#

Zoom Specific Notes:

- The chat function of Zoom is generally not reviewed by the Board of Commissioners or Staff during the meeting.
- If joining by a browser, use the raise hand icon to indicate you would like to provide public comment, if and when allowed. If using a phone, press *9 to indicate you would like to speak and *6 to unmute when you are called on.
- Morrow County provides the option for Zoom Translated Captions.
 - Instructions: <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/6643133682957-Enabling-and-configuring-translated-captions>
 - If you need further assistance, please contact Justin Nelson at jnelson@co.morrow.or.us



Morrow County Board of Commissioners Work Session
February 8, 2023
1:30-3:30 pm
Bartholomew Building, Heppner, OR

Work Session Topic: Morrow County Water Coordinator Overview and Input

Purpose: Provide the Morrow County Board of Commissioners information on the Water Coordinator contract goals and objectives and scope of work, and discuss how the contract relates to and supports several current programs and activities facing the County and staff.

Agenda:

1. Introductions
2. Morrow County Water Coordinator contract goals and objectives
3. Current and near-term activities under the contract
4. Briefing papers outline overview
5. Intersection with related programs and activities
6. Q&A/Discussion



Preliminary Outline for Briefing Papers - DRAFT

Morrow County Water Coordinator

February 8, 2023

Goal of Briefing Papers:

Use the papers as an “objective” baseline history for communication and education purposes and as framework for development of preliminary strategy and policy recommendations. Briefing papers will be presented in memo format, however, the idea is to have the content be easily usable for presentations (e.g., to the commissioners or at community events) and for outreach materials that the County Public Health Department may develop down the road for residents and domestic well users.

Cross-cutting topics (common to all papers as sections/attachments; or stand-alone reference)

- Background on area (general description of water users, water demands, etc.)
- Hydrogeology overview

A. Water Quantity

1. Background
 - a. CGWA – History of designation
 - b. Groundwater areas/wells also declining in areas not already in CWGA
2. Key issues/impacts to Morrow County
 - a. Economy (agricultural, industrial, development/growth)
 - b. Environment (groundwater-dependent ecosystems, streamflow impacts from groundwater connection)
 - c. Social (domestic well users; exempt wells competing for water; sense of uncertainty; curtailment)
3. Responses to-date (chronology)
 - a. Regulatory responses and management

Preliminary Outline for Briefing Papers - DRAFT

- b. Non-regulatory responses
- 4. Implementation issues (opportunities and constraints)
- 5. Policy and strategies

B. Water Quality

- 1. Background
 - a. LUBGWMA – History of designation (nitrates)
 - b. Areas impacted that are not in LUBGWMA
 - c. Streams and surface water bodies that are impacted
- 2. Key issues/impacts to Morrow County (this may be perceived as having potential for bias)
 - a. Economy (agricultural, industrial, development/growth)
 - b. Environment (groundwater-dependent ecosystems, streamflow impacts from groundwater connection)
 - c. Social (domestic well users; exempt wells competing for water; sense of uncertainty; curtailment)
- 3. Responses to-date (chronology)
 - a. Regulatory responses
 - b. Non-regulatory responses
- 4. Implementation issues (opportunities and constraints)
- 5. Policy and strategies

C. Public Health Implications to Domestic Well Users

- 1. Characterization of domestic well users in the region
- 2. Impacts to domestic well users – what's known of extent
- 3. Responses to-date
 - a. Past actions
 - b. Recent events
 - i. Emergency declaration
 - ii. EPA grant (federal funding through Congressional Directed Spending for well testing and solutions)
- 4. Implementation issues (opportunities and constraints)

D. On-going Activities by Groups

- 1. Groups – Water Quantity
 - a. Columbia River (UBWC, CRUST, NOWA/MCWC)
 - b. Irrigation districts (WEID and neighboring)
 - c. Umatilla County (Depot)
 - d. County Line recharge
 - e. Private AR/ASR projects
 - f. Port of Morrow
 - g. County Development Authority
 - h. Private industries (to support industrial demands)
- 2. Groups – Water Quality
 - a. Oregon Rural Action
- 3. Implementation considerations
 - a. Implementation issues (opportunities and constraints)
 - b. Morrow County role

Morrow County Water Coordinator

Board of County Commissioners
Work Session
February 8, 2023



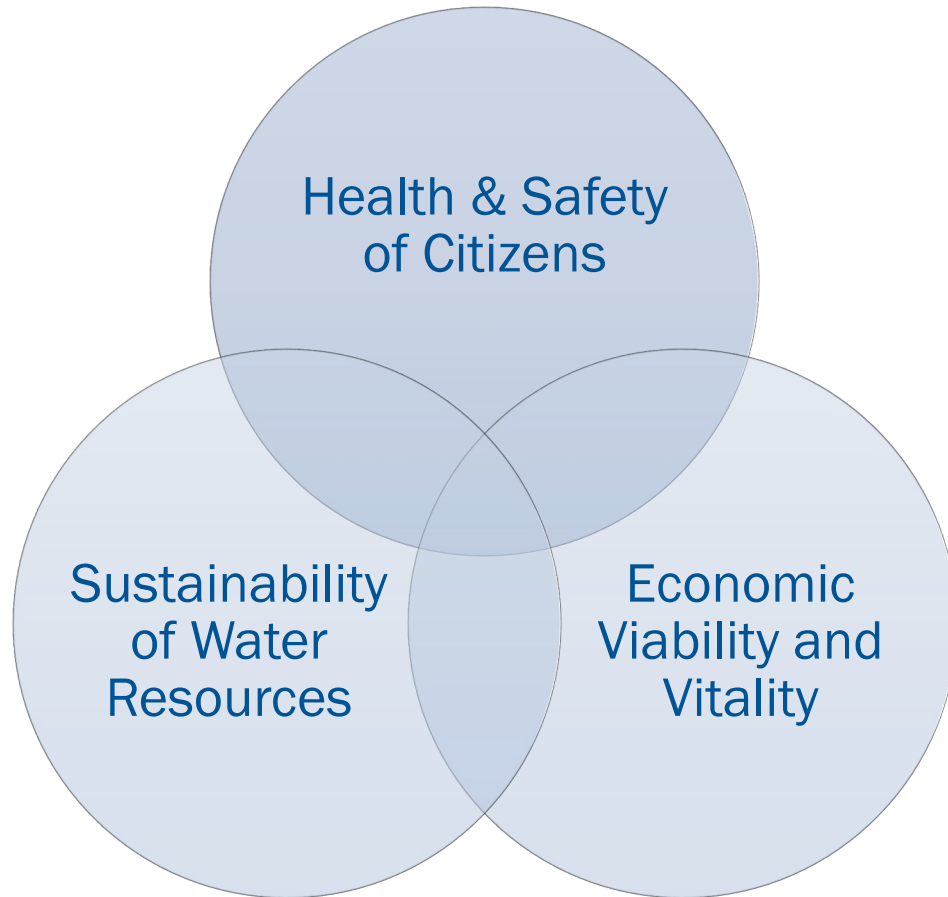
Purpose

- Provide the Morrow County Board of Commissioners information on:
 - Water Coordinator contract goals and objectives and scope of work
 - Discuss how contract relates to and supports several current programs and activities facing the County and staff.

Agenda

1. Introductions
2. Morrow County Water Coordinator contract goals and objectives
3. Current and near-term activities under the contract
4. Briefing papers outline overview
5. Intersection with related programs and activities
 - EPA grant for domestic wells
 - Army Depot
 - Emergency declaration follow-up
 - Public Health Dept. initiatives
 - Others?
6. Q&A/Discussion

Morrow County Goals

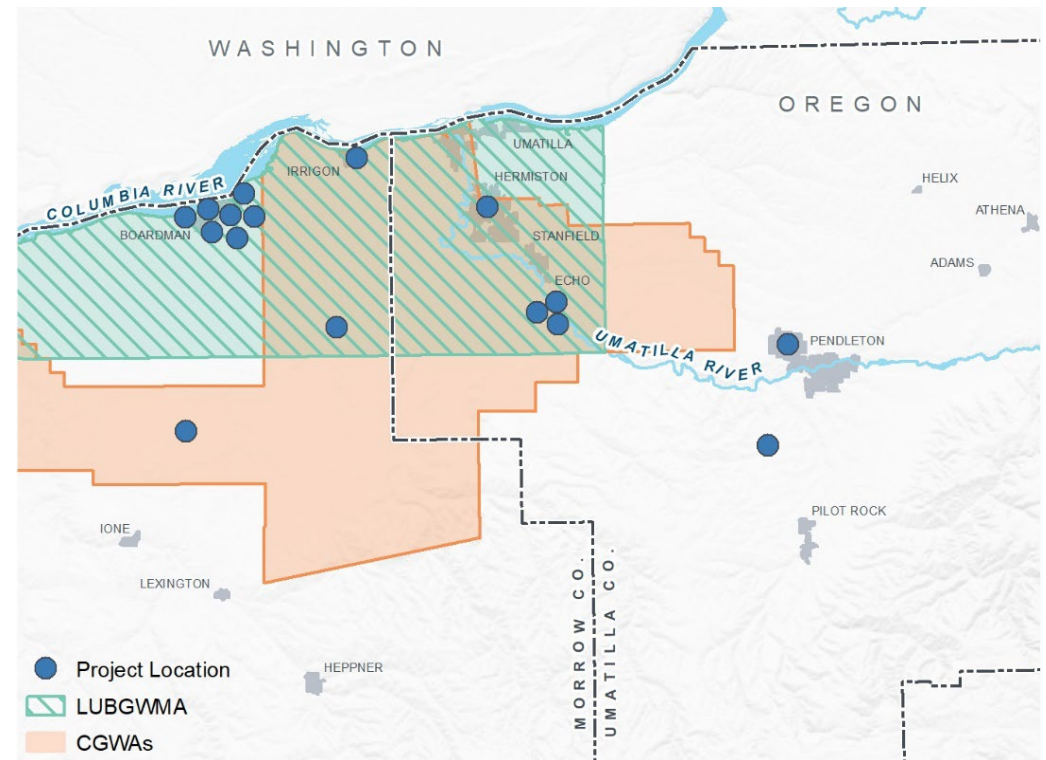


Objectives for Water Coordinator

- Establish County policy and functions to help address the regional water issues and achieve the County's overall water goals

Consolidate and communicate understanding of water issues in the region

- Economy and water demand
- Water quantity/supply
- Water quality/health
- Ecosystems
- Regulatory designations
- Diverse range of projects and stakeholders



Project Team and Committee – Diverse perspectives and expertise

- Morrow County staff
 - Tamra Mabbott, Planning Department
 - Robin Canady, Public Health Department
- Water Coordinating Committee
 - See list
- Consultant team
 - GSI Water Solutions

Policy Area or Industry
County Commissioner
County Staff
Water Advocacy and Projects
Soil Water Conservation
Port of Morrow
DEQ
OWRD
Small municipality
Larger municipality
Food Processing Industry
Irrigated Agriculture
Central County Agriculture
Livestock Operator/Owner
CAFO Operator/Owner
Emergency Management (ex officio)
Public Health (ex officio)

Approach to meet near-term objectives and establish a long-term program

	2023				2024			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
1. Project Startup and Quarterly Meetings	Active							
2. "State of Water" Briefing Papers	Active							
3. Preliminary Strategy and Policy Concepts		Active						
4. Board of Commissioners and Stakeholder Work Sessions			Active					
5. Coordination with County Departments on Outreach	Active							
6. Finalize Strategy and Policy Concepts				Active				
7. Additional Meetings and Communications					Active			
8. Additional Technical Coordination and Analysis					Active			
9. Transition Water Coordinator Functions								Active
10. Project Management	Active							

Features of the Project Approach

- Recognize near-term vs. long-term opportunities
 - Near-term: Develop issue papers and outreach materials, develop policies, convene county water committee.
 - Mid-term: support coordination of established or ongoing activities under the contract
 - Long-term: support developing framework/implementation plan under the contract
- Leverage on-going programs and partnerships
 - NOWA
 - LUBGWMA Committee and Action Plan
 - DEQ Regional Solutions
- Focus on County implementation
 - Water Coordinator “office” within the County (lead vs. support)
 - Programmatic vs. response actions

Briefing Papers

Purpose:

- Objective baseline history for communication and education purposes
- Framework for development of preliminary strategy and policy recommendations.
- Ready content for outreach materials that County Public Health Department may develop down

Four Topics:

1. Water Quantity
2. Water Quality
3. Public Health Implications to Domestic Well Users
4. On-going Activities by Groups
 - *Cross-cutting background (general description of water users, water demands, hydrogeology overview)*

Briefing Papers

Water Quantity

1. Groundwater focus (CGWA designations; areas beyond)
2. Key issues/impacts to Morrow County
 - a. Economy (agricultural, industrial, development/growth)
 - b. Environment (groundwater-dependent ecosystems, streamflow impacts)
 - c. Social (domestic well users; exempt wells competing for water; sense of uncertainty; curtailment)
3. Responses to-date (chronology)
 - a. Regulatory responses and management
 - b. Non-regulatory responses
4. Implementation issues (opportunities and constraints)
5. Policy and strategies

Water Quality

1. Groundwater focus (LUBGWMA designation; areas beyond)
2. Key issues/impacts to Morrow County
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4. Implementation issues (opportunities and constraints)
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Briefing Papers

Public Health Implications to Domestic Well Users

1. Characterization of domestic well users in the region (County)
2. Impacts to domestic well users – what's known of extent
3. Responses to-date
 - a. Past actions
 - b. Recent events
 - i. Emergency declaration
 - ii. EPA Grant (from Senator Merkley/CDS)
4. Implementation issues (opportunities and constraints)

On-going Activities by Groups

1. Groups – Water Quantity

- a. Columbia River (UBWC, CRUST, NOWA/MCWC)
- b. Irrigation districts (WEID and neighboring)
- c. Umatilla County (Depot)
- d. County Line recharge
- e. Private AR/ASR projects
- f. Port of Morrow
- g. County Development Authority
- h. Private industries (to support industrial demands)

2. Groups – Water Quality

- a. Oregon Rural Action

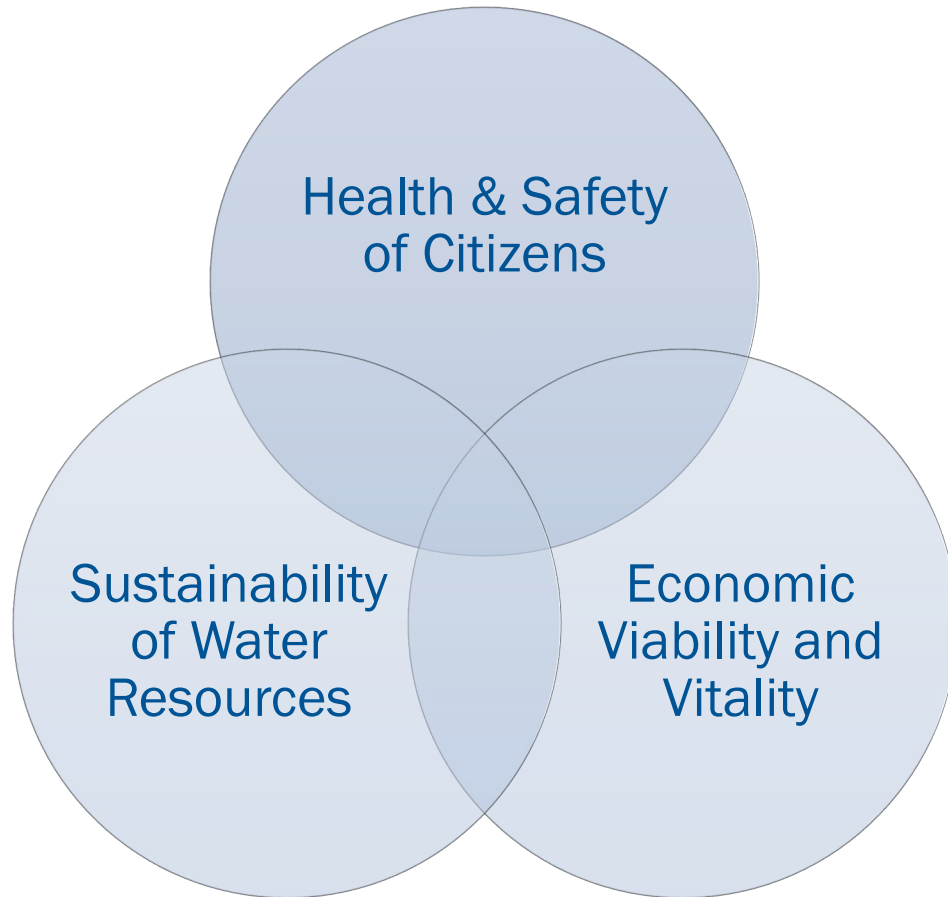
3. Implementation considerations

- a. Implementation issues (opportunities and constraints)
- b. Morrow County role

Intersection with related programs and activities

- EPA grant for domestic wells
- Army Depot
- Emergency declaration follow-up
- Public Health Department initiative

Discussion/Q&A



Objectives for Water Coordinator

- Establish County policy and functions to help address the regional water issues and achieve the County's overall water goals

Thank you!

Tamra Mabbott

Ronan Igloria, PE

