

CURRY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AGENDA ITEM ROUTING SLIP (ARS)
PART I – SUBMITTING DEPARTMENT: RETURN TO BOC_OFFICE@CO.CURRY.OR.US

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: [BOARD OF COMMISSIONER – CURRY COUNTY WORKSHOP – WATER NEEDS-PLANNING - COMMISSIONER BOICE](#)

TIMELY FILED Yes No **Curry County Board of Commissioners**

AGENDA DATE: September 7, 2022, **DEPARTMENT:**

Curry County Strategic Plan -

1. Financial Stability 2. Economic Development 3. Quality of Life
4. Public Trust 5. Infrastructure

TIME NEEDED: 20 Minutes

RECOMMENDED AGENDA CATEGORY **ACTION ITEM** - 2:00 Workshop

MEMO ATTACHED Yes No

CONTACT PERSON: [COMMISSIONER BOICE](#) **TODAY'S DATE:** September 5, 2022

BRIEF BACKGROUND

This is the third meeting of this year and time is a factor. The long-term planning required to organize all Curry Water interests is quite a task. It will also take funding. Kindly review if possible – my previous work with the CCC Board attempting to prioritize this local process. Thanks. Court Boice

CURRY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AGENDA ITEM ROUTING SLIP (ARS)

PART I – SUBMITTING DEPARTMENT: RETURN TO BOC_OFFICE@CO.CURRY.OR.US

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: [CURRY COUNTY – PRESENTATION – ANDY SMITH – COUNTY SOLUTIONS - ASSOCIATION OF OREGON COUNTIES – WATER NEEDS FORUMS – COMMISSIONER BOICE](#)

TIMELY FILED Yes No

AGENDA DATE: January 5, 2022, **DEPARTMENT:**

Curry County Oregon Board of Commissioners

RECOMMENDED AGENDA CATEGORY PRESENTATION - DISCUSSION

MEMO ATTACHED Yes No

CONTACT PERSON: [COMMISSIONER BOICE](#) TODAY'S DATE: December 30, 2021

BRIEF BACKGROUND:

Andy Smith from AOC and Harmony Burrigh will present to the Board on the topic of Water Needs Forums. Harmony Burrigh is a current AOC contractor and a former state agency staff from Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD). Harmony helped design and implement place-based, 5-year water planning efforts in four areas of the state (Harney, Union, Gilliam & Lincoln counties). Harmony's resume is attached. She is currently staffing Water Needs Forums efforts in Clatsop, Columbia, and Tillamook Counties.

Why Should Counties Take Leadership on Water?

County Commissioners and County Planners need support and assistance to navigate the increasingly complex world of water, facilitate conversations among diverse interests in their communities to build a common understanding of the full range of interests and values, build capacity and momentum to tackle water challenges collaboratively, and make sure that community-level interests and values are considered and incorporated into regional and state level conversations. Counties have the responsibility to the state and to their citizens to develop local public facility plans and comprehensive land use plans that include water.

Why Now?

Oregon's counties can use ARPA discretionary dollars to help begin planning to meet local community water needs for the years and decades ahead. Many if not most of our county local plans are out of date. A very different set of assumptions for water needs exist now than were present forty years ago at the beginning of the land use program such as population growth, economic and environmental needs. Our current fragmented management of water between local, state, and federal actors can make it difficult to pursue integrated solutions. Water Needs Forums are a critical first step that local governments can take to identify and better understand comprehensive water needs that exist at the community level.

What are the Goals of the Water Needs Forums?

1. Engage **all** stakeholders in identifying their respective water needs
2. Provide a neutral forum for mutual stakeholder education and trust building about water needs; these forums will not in any way consist of priority setting or policy setting
3. Provide a foundation for future local and regional water planning efforts
4. Develop a broad base of support for passage of a comprehensive, significant water package in the 2023 Legislative Session.

2022 Community Water Needs Forums

Why Water?

Water is critical to sustaining a healthy environment, maintaining quality of life, and ensuring economic opportunity. Communities lack access to the

information and resources they need to effectively respond to current water challenges, like seasonal drought, water quality and water affordability. We need to prepare for future water challenges resulting from increased demands on increasingly limited supplies. In addition, we are just beginning to understand how the long-term effects of climate change will affect our state in general, and our water resources in particular.

Why Counties?

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Process & Timelines for 2022 Water Needs Forums (DRAFT)

January-February (Ongoing): Virtual Open House – Each community will

have a virtual open house where people can learn more about the Water Needs Forums process and how to participate.

February-March (Ongoing): Water Stories – All participants will be able to share their water stories via an online platform.

March: Small Group Discussions – All participants will be able to participate in small group discussions.

April: Community Building Team – Individuals will either self-select or be nominated by their small groups to join a team to learn from each other, put the finishing touches on Community Water Forums presentations and help with outreach & facilitation.

May: Community Water Forums – These forums will be the capstone of the engagement process, bringing everyone together to learn from one another, build trust, and to share their specific water challenges and opportunities among all participants.

Water Forums will address at a minimum, the following:

- Water needs both in stream and out of stream
- Water use and conservation needs
- Water needs for fish, farms, and families
- Natural infrastructure
- Quantity of water
- Quality of water
- Water affordability
- Water needs related to climate change
- Data needs
- Planning needs
- Municipal needs
- Potable water

July 16, 2021

Attn: Chairs, Commissioners, and Judges

Subject: Opportunity for Investment of County ARPA Funds

Dear Chairs, Commissioners, and Judges:

As you know, the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) was the third major round of federal government fiscal stimulus of the COVID-19 era. ARPA provides \$1.86 trillion in relief to our nation's individuals, businesses, and governments. Oregon will receive

\$4.3 billion, including \$818 million that will flow to Oregon's Counties and \$680 million will flow to Oregon's Cities and local units of government. The first half of these dollars arrived in May 2021 and the second half will arrive in May 2022. All ARPA funds must be spent by the end of 2024.

Overall Opportunity Statement: In coming months and years, how can Oregon's counties use \$830 million of ARPA discretionary dollars to make critical progress on long standing, critically important problems faced by communities across our State?

While many issues are important and need investment, there are a subset of issues that impact both the immediate and future well-being and prosperity of all of our Counties. These issues are uniquely timely for immediate leadership and problem-solving efforts, initiated by county commissioners. These areas of opportunity include:

- Water
- Housing

Community Water Needs Forum

Context: Oregon has not yet laid the foundation at the local level for communities to address the emerging and future water challenges across the state. These Water Needs Forums are essential to: better understand our diverse water needs and challenges; to develop mutual understanding of the multiple stakeholders and water issues that exist within specific communities; to build the relationships and trust needed to solve complex water challenges over the years to come; to fuel a community based, county agenda to seek a commitment from the state to develop comprehensive water planning and investments for counties as part of the upcoming 2023 Legislative Session and beyond, and to be prepared for any upcoming federal investments that may be passed by Congress.

Opportunity: Counties can help lead this initial, foundational, community-based water approach. If counties do not act, a top down, statewide/regional model will likely be imposed upon counties and communities' water decisions will be made for them instead of with them.

These Water Needs Forums are a first step in identifying your county's water needs. They also can help provide mutual education about local water needs and help build basic levels of trust in advance of the 2023 Legislative Session and beyond. These Forums are meant to provide an understanding of the scope and variety of water needs that exist in your county.

Description and Goals:

- Community Water Needs Forums will be conducted around the state at the county level or regional/basin level if desired. These forums will be convened or co-convened by local county commissioners.
- The purpose of these Water Needs Forums is to identify economic, environmental and

social water needs in communities around the State by bringing all stakeholders together and creating an inventory of local water needs.

- These Forums will provide for mutual education and learning about water needs at the county level.

- These forums will solely focus on creating inventories and descriptions of water needs;

these forums will not in any way consist of priority setting, policy setting or discussions

regarding changes to existing Oregon water law or prior appropriation.

- These will be neutral forums for the sharing of water needs that are fully inclusive,

representative and welcoming to any/all individuals, groups, associations, communities,

stakeholders, organizations, and others who may have water needs.

- Commissioners may team with other elected officials representing governments in the county or may team with others in co-convening these forums.

- These Water Needs Forums will provide a critical foundation of community engagement and a shared commitment to a comprehensive water planning package for the 2023 Legislative Session and beyond.

Investment and Services Provided

- \$25,000 contribution per county.

- Three separate Water Needs Forums will be held within each participating county.

- Specific training for commissioners to serve as convenors or co-convenors for Water Forums.

- The Water Forums will not conflict, supersede, or interfere with any of the multi-year

place-based water pilot planning processes currently underway in Harney, Union, Lincoln and North Central counties.

- AOC County Solutions would oversee a dedicated, full time contract staff person(s) to

implement completion of all Water Forums by November 2023.

- AOC County Solutions would help select, support, and manage facilitators in providing a neutral forum engagement of all community members.

- The Water Forums will produce a comprehensive, final, detailed report that inventories

and details all of the water needs identified within each county.

Housing Context: Housing is arguably Oregon's most pressing problem. Housing prices continue to rise in many markets, and housing production is not keeping up with demand. ECONorthwest has reported that Oregon has underproduced housing by more than 110,000 units. Addressing this structural deficit will require thoughtful investments and strategies.

Homelessness has been a persistent problem in many Oregon communities for decades. A lack of affordable housing has resulted in a disproportionate share of Oregon's residents living in emergency shelters, vehicles, or on the streets. In 2020, Oregon had 1.3 percent of the U.S. population, 2.5 percent of the nation's homeless population, and 3.9 percent of its unsheltered population.

Opportunity: There is a clear opportunity for counties to use ARPA funds to help address housing challenges at the local level.

Description and Goals: An AOC Local Housing Program Technical Assistance program would provide participating counties with contracted services in the four main categories listed below.

Some of these efforts could involve a local convening role for commissioners with staff support, as desired by each county. Each county will specify their desired scope of work.

Technical assistance categories that counties can choose from:

- Eviction Prevention/Mediation
- Workforce Housing Creation (Public-Private partnerships)
- Local Capacity & Project Development (grant writing, financing expertise, code updates, best practices to better serve BIPOC & underserved communities).

Investment and Services Provided

- \$25,000 per county per year, depending on scope of work to be arranged between AOC and each County
- AOC would contract with specialized, third-party staff to perform a specific scope of work as selected by a County or region of Counties
- Contracted services could be sustained until 2024 (ARPA spending deadline) if desired.

Next Steps

Water Needs Forums: If your county is interested in learning more about the opportunity to convene Water Needs Forums in the coming year, please contact AOC County Solutions Director, Andy Smith at 971-322-8512. In addition, AOC will be sharing more information on this opportunity at the AOC Legislative Retreat in Hermiston on Wednesday, August 18th.

Housing Technical Assistance: If your County is interested in discussing how a specific scope of work can be developed to meet your local housing needs, please contact AOC County Solutions Director, Andy Smith at 971-322-8512. AOC County Solutions staff will be conducting a preliminary needs assessment with participating counties based on 1-on-1 interviews with commissioners (and key county staff if requested).

Thank you for your interest in these exciting opportunities.

Sincerely,

Melissa Cribbins

President, Association of Oregon Counties

mcribbins@co.coos.or.us

Court Boice, Curry County Oregon Commissioner



Press Release

March 4, 2021

Gold Beach, Oregon

Commissioner Boice is pursuing Curry County Future Water needs and planning. “Water demands for our Communities, Agriculture, Firefighting, Property Development, Housing needs, fisheries and protecting our Rivers are quite a contrasting list, but all very important. We need to start the planning now”, stated Court Boice, Curry County Commissioner. “There are just a few counties that have completed work and they tell me that it is difficult and time consuming, but critical. We have a responsibility to convene all stakeholders which will build relationships and begin the work of implementing good policy. I learned many years ago at my Rogue River Lodge that water management could never be overlooked”.

Harbor, Brookings, Gold Beach, Nesika, Port Orford and Langlois Water Departments all need help for the long term which is common throughout our State. The Oregon Dept. of Agriculture, Oregon Dept. of Fish & Wildlife, Oregon Water Resources Dept., Tribes, Water Watch and Local Governments all have a say and must form alliances to begin the process. Bringing everyone, all interests together can start that important awareness and planning. That can help eventually generate funding.

Boice’s work with the Association of Oregon Counties offers help under the County Solutions program. Most Oregon counties are behind and when you look at the newly developed 100-Year Oregon Water Plan; it has understandably made a lot of people and users nervous. Of course we need to do our part and look ahead.

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Court Boice, Curry County Oregon Commissioner

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