

# Oregon Water Resources Congress

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## WATERWORKS



2008

ISSUE #22

The mission of the Oregon Water Resources Congress is to promote the protection and use of water rights and the wise stewardship of water resources.

### A Note from President Trosi

It seems like it slows down a little this time of year for irrigation districts as crops are being harvested and fields are being worked again to be ready for a fall planting. The district's water use has slowed and we are reducing flows into the system. Overall our water use in the Santiam Water Control District was down this year due to the types of crops grown. It's a strange deal but I think we have had the fewest amount of water calls or problems with water delivery that I can remember.

It's also interesting that, at least in this area, water use is down with other entities too. I was talking recently with a supervisor for large municipal system in the Willamette Valley and he was telling me that they are not "selling" much water this summer. Water use for their city is down 15% to 17%, which really baffles them. Their research has shown that in times of economic downturns or hardships that people stay home and spend more time gardening and watering lawns and their water use increases. However, in the Willamette Valley we had 23 straight days of sunshine and warm days in July and yet water use has declined. They are now starting to worry that their budget for the next biennium will be affected. The same budgetary problems are beginning to appear for other things also, such as road maintenance. Because of the price of gas, fewer miles have been driven and road maintenance budgets that depend on the sale of gasoline for repairs are being impacted.

As I have mentioned in previous articles, OWRC is also facing a potential budgetary problem for next year. In the coming months, the OWRC board will be reviewing some proposals for long term funding for the organization as well as reviewing our 2009 legislative agenda. Different organizations that have worked closely with, and have supported OWRC for many years, have expressed concerns and issues with the results of the recent Supreme Court decision on the Ft. Vannoy Irrigation District case. OWRC will work with those organizations to address any long-term impact they feel the court decision may have on the protection and management of the water rights.

- Larry Trosi,  
OWRC President

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### WELCOME WAGON

Please extend a warm welcome to our newest affiliate members who have joined since the last newsletter edition:

- **TruePoint Solutions,**  
Loomis, California  
TruePoint is a software  
and services company  
focused on Water  
Management Solutions.



## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

We hope that you enjoy reading about the various issues and activities that we report on in our quarterly newsletter. We are taking a slightly different focus than previous editions by highlighting some of the various topics and meetings that OWRC tracks and participates in on behalf of our member districts. Thanks to April Snell, the newsletter editor, for tackling this new approach. As always, we appreciate your feedback and your suggestions for things you would like to see in future editions of the newsletter.

It is hard to believe, but OWRC is deeply involved in legislative concepts for the 2009 Legislative Session. Our Legislative Committee is evaluating over a dozen proposals from our members including ideas related to water management, water rights transfers, and district management. I will be meeting with OWRD staff for their input on these concepts as part of the Legislative Committee's work to develop a program to recommend to the Board of Directors. The Committee also reviewed OWRD's proposed concepts and provided feedback to the Department that resulted in some revisions to their proposed agenda.

I can't talk about 2009 legislative concepts without addressing the Governor's Headwaters to Ocean (H2O) proposal. The Governor has included water supply as one of his three legacy issues for the 2009 session. Distribution of the H2O proposal was followed by a series of stakeholder meetings and then a time for written comments. I did submit comments on behalf of OWRC that expressed our concern about the level of funding committed to purchasing water rights for instream use, the appearance that this proposal would add a great number of staff to state agencies without addressing the underlying costs for increasing Oregon's water supply or improving water quality and other concerns. The Governor's staff is revising the proposal based on the feedback they received with the intent to have that revision in circulation by October. OWRC will make that revised proposal available on our website when it is released.

In light of the article by Kristina McNitt on developing grassroots, I want to give you an example of a district's outreach that has reaped great benefits. Larry Trosi hosted Brenda Bateman, Senior Policy Advisor at OWRD, and me for a tour of the Santiam Water Control District. This was Brenda's first exposure to agriculture irrigation and district operations. As we drove back to Salem, she expressed her appreciation that Larry took the full day to spend with her and talked about how much she learned. This is just another lesson of the value of our members reaching out to people to teach them about district operations.

OWRC will also be submitting comments on behalf of our members on the Department of State Lands' (DSL) proposed revised rules for its removal-fill program and its easement rules. As is frequently the case, filing these comments happens only with the help that district managers and our Affiliates so willingly provide.

The Federal Affairs Committee has been focusing on funding for infrastructure repairs and improvements for our members. The Committee will shortly release a white paper on our members' needs for infrastructure funding – another collaborative effort of district managers, staff and our lobbyist. I was asked to serve on a panel for Congressman Blumenauer's Salem meeting to talk about infrastructure needs as he develops federal legislation. Others in OWRC have been asked to serve on panels elsewhere in the state.

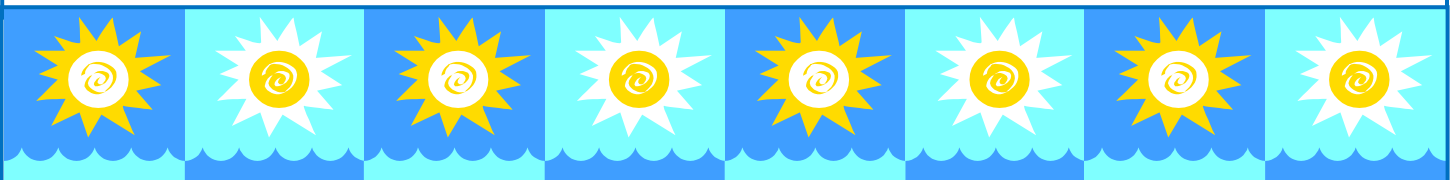
The Annual Conference Planning Committee has begun work on the agenda for the 2008 Conference. The hard part of this Committee's work is whittling down the long list of ideas for speakers and topics to fit the time available during the conference. We are trying a slightly different approach that will hopefully result in a conference that is just as packed with information but will feel less hurried.

You should already have information about the Technology Seminar and the Small Hydropower Workshop in October, which are also mentioned later in this newsletter. These are new adventures for OWRC and again, would not happen without the help of Affiliates and district staff. We hope we are meeting a need for you and that we will have great attendance at the workshop.

And finally, we are entering the third year of the OWRC-Reclamation Pilot Training Project. This year North Unit Irrigation District is hosting the program in Oregon and it is expanding to Idaho where the Boise Board of Control is the host. I have been told that two other Reclamation regions are developing a program based on our pilot program.

***I look forward to seeing you in October, and if not then, see you at the Annual Conference in December.***

***– Anita Winkler, OWRC Executive Director***



## LEGAL NEWS

### VICTORY IN THE FT. VANNOY LITIGATION!

On Thursday, July 10, 2008, the Oregon Supreme Court issued its decision in Ft. Vannoy Irrigation District v. Water Resources Commission (Oregon Supreme Court Case No. S055356). The court upheld the Court of Appeals' decision and remanded the case back to the Oregon Water Resources Commission for further proceedings consistent with the opinion. The decision is available at: <http://www.publications.ojd.state.or.us/S055356.htm> or on the OWRC website.

The Ft. Vannoy case raised the question as to whether an irrigation district or a district patron has the statutory right to apply for a water right transfer to change the point of diversion on water right certificates issued to the irrigation district. Stated another way, the question before the court was whether the district or the patron is the "holder of a water use subject to transfer." OWRC filed an amicus brief in support of FVID's position that an irrigation district holds the exclusive right to seek or approve such a transfer. Moreover, the amicus brief urged the court to recognize an irrigation district's role as trustee over the district's assets, including water rights. We are pleased to report that the court adopted a good deal of our argument as the basis for its decision.

The court found that the term "holder of a water use subject to transfer," as used in transfer statute (ORS 540.510), refers to a party with an ownership interest in the certificated water right. It further found that where an irrigation district initiates and completes the statutory steps to appropriate and certificate a water right, the district holds the ownership interest in right to use water evidenced by the certificate, and therefore, is the holder of the water use subject to transfer. The court further clarified this ownership interest by stating that water rights acquired by an irrigation district pursuant to ORS 545.239 (authorizing a district to acquire property--including water rights), are trust property. Thus, the district holds legal title to the certificated water rights as the trustee, and the patrons hold equitable title as the beneficiaries. As trustee, the District has the obligation to manage the trust property, including the exclusive right to apply for a change in point of diversion.

The Supreme Court incorporated a key argument from OWRC's amicus brief regarding district management responsibility. We stated that districts

as trustees must have the ability to manage trust property for the sake of all the beneficiaries. This was picked up by the court and incorporated into the opinion. As such, the court held that deeming Ken-Wal to be the holder of the water right would "run afoul of the trust relationship by permitting a beneficiary to manage trust property." This will have important and useful future implications to OWRC's members.



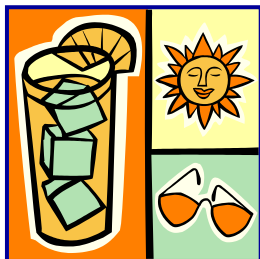
In addition to finding in favor of FVID and adopting the OWRC's trust arguments, the court specifically rejected two key contentions by Ken-Wal Farms and the Oregon Water Resources Commission. First, the court rejected the notion that the landowner who places water to beneficial use is the "holder" of the water right. Instead, the court found that the landowner, as the beneficial user, simply acts as the district's agent by helping to complete the initial appropriation and then maintaining the right through continued use. Second, and perhaps most importantly, the court rejected the argument that Ken-Wal is the "holder" of the water rights because it owns a portion of the land to which the water rights are appurtenant. This has been the underlying assertion by individual landowners who have long sought the unimpeded right to modify, transfer, or sell the district-supplied water appurtenant to their lands. In this opinion, the Oregon Supreme Court has unequivocally stated that ownership of irrigated land does not equate with ownership of the appurtenant certificated water rights.

While the opinion is narrowly crafted to specifically address the factual situation posed by the two certificates at issue in the Ft. Vannoy case, it also contains findings that are sufficiently broad to help protect districts' rights to manage water in other contexts. In this regard, it is an outstanding victory not only for the Fort Vannoy Irrigation District, but also OWRC members as a whole. We appreciate the opportunity to have been able to work with the OWRC on this project.

– **Steve Shropshire**, Jordan Schrader Ramis, PC  
&  
**Doug MacDougal**, Schwabe, Williamson & Wyatt,  
LLP

## COMMITTEE UPDATES

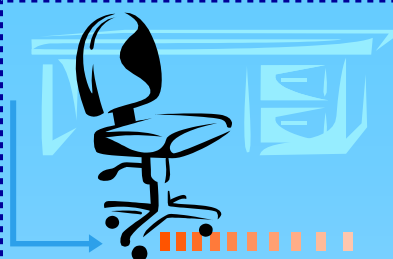
### MEMBERSHIP SERVICES



The Membership Services Committee has developed marketing packets about the benefits of OWRC membership. These packets include short descriptions and recent examples of various member benefits, including Information, Training and Networking, State Program, and Federal Program. The benefit descriptions are packaged in a professional looking folder along with a membership application, OWRC brochure, and recent newsletter. These materials will be available for current members to show their boards and to give to prospective members in your region.

– **April Snell**

*OWRC Assistant Director*



### HAPPENINGS FROM LEA'S DESK

As OWRC District members are aware, I recently sent out the 2008 District Management Survey for districts to complete. Thanks to those who have responded thus far. And while Anita and April have said I've already received more than what we had by this time last year, I am hoping to receive many more soon. As the surveys are returned, I'm consolidating the information into what will ultimately be the final compilation summary.

This summary will be sent out to the districts that completed and returned their surveys. The survey has several parts and covers a range of topics including district management and operations, funding needs, suggestions for OWRC training events, and more. Compiling this information can be a bit of a task due to the diversity of our district members' interests, issues, concerns and needs, but the information is quite useful to both OWRC and our district members.

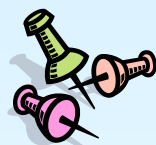
In other news, on June 24<sup>th</sup>, OWRC conducted an Office Manager's meeting, hosted by the Central Oregon Irrigation District in Redmond. I was very pleased with the turnout, with 16 participants and representatives from OWRC regions 1, 2, 4, 5, and 6. There was incredible discussion amongst the various district staff on a number of subjects including: the development and maintenance of district employee manuals, job descriptions, procedures manuals, etc.; IRS rules and fringe benefits; district services and charges, such as system/demand charges, general administrative fees, customer fees, etc. Lien and foreclosure procedures and laws were also discussed and a lot of great information was shared. We also discussed what educational materials the various districts use to educate their patrons, patron handbooks, and district participation in and use of the Otto the Otter program or other canal safety program.

For future meetings, the Office Managers would like to have a specific project or topic to work on with the goal of having a product at the end of each meeting. One of our first priorities, based on participant discussion, is to create a template that could be used to update district employee/policy manuals. Some districts' existing manuals are quite outdated and the Office Managers felt it would be a task that would result in a product that could be utilized by each district, yet specifically tailored for each district. Other areas of interest would be to have a representative from the IRS to provide training on rules and audit preparation; grant writing and building procedures; and development fees, charges and other issues. As our meeting agendas are based on feedback from participants, which reflect the diverse needs of district office staff, there are many topics to choose from—but never enough time to cover it all. We greatly appreciate district participation in the recent Office Managers meeting and look forward to conducting more in the future.

***Thanks for Your Continued Support of OWRC!***

– **Lea Rasura**

***OWRC Office Administrator***





## EVENT UPDATES

### 2008 TECHNOLOGY SEMINAR AND HYDRO WORKSHOP

Registration for the 2008 Technology Seminar is now available online on the OWRC website. Information will also be mailed to all district and affiliate members. The three day event will be held at Sunriver Resort in Central Oregon this fall with a one-day Technology Seminar on October 23; a one-day workshop on small hydroelectric systems, co-sponsored by the Northwest Hydroelectric Association (NWA), on October 24, and the OWRC Golf Tournament and 19<sup>th</sup> Hole Party on October 22.

Oregon Water Resources Congress



The Technology Seminar is designed to provide district staff with on-the-ground solutions and strategies to meet the variety of challenges faced by districts. Seminar presentations will include the following topics:

- ◆ Water Conservation Through Canal Piping
- ◆ Using Fish Screens to Meet Screening Criteria and Manage Sediment and Debris Effectively and Efficiently
- ◆ District Management Responses to Present and Future Operations Issues
- ◆ Automation Tools for Field Staff
- ◆ Recycled Water Use in Irrigation Districts
- ◆ Sensor Integration and Web-based GIS
- ◆ Advantages of High Density Polyethylene Piping
- ◆ Splitter Wall Outlet Modifications
- ◆ Plus other topics and vendor exhibits too!

We will also have a dinner program featuring Farmers Irrigation District and Swalley Irrigation District and their perspectives on successfully using technology to improve infrastructure and conserve water. There are also one-day exhibit opportunities available for the Technology Seminar. Exhibit applications are available on the OWRC website and will be mailed to Affiliate members. Space is limited so send in your application as soon as possible.

The Small Hydroelectric Workshop, co-sponsored by OWRC and the Northwest Hydroelectric Association (NWA), will provide training on how to set-up a small hydroelectric system, from feasibility analysis to funding and implementation. A step-by-step guidebook on how to navigate the hydroelectric permitting process, developed by NWA, will be provided to workshop participants. The workshop will feature various speakers, including representatives from the following state agencies and organizations that are involved in the hydropower permitting process:

- ◆ Oregon Department of Energy
- ◆ Oregon Water Resources Department
- ◆ Oregon Economic Development Department
- ◆ Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (*invited*)
- ◆ Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) (*invited*)
- ◆ Energy Trust of Oregon
- ◆ Public Utilities Commission
- ◆ Plus utility representatives, engineers and consultants, and irrigation districts with hydro experience

We also hope that you will join us for some pre-event fun at the 2008 OWRC Golf Tournament and 19<sup>th</sup> Hole Party on Wednesday, October 22. This year golfers will have the opportunity to play on Sunriver's Crosswater Course, rated by Golf Digest as "#28 of America's top 100 Greatest Golf Courses." Following the golf tournament, golfers and non-golfers alike can relax at the 19<sup>th</sup> Hole Party in Sunriver's Owl's Nest Lounge and will feature delicious snack food, beverages, and of course—good company. There are also many other activities available at the Resort to fill your time in between OWRC events, whether you're looking to relax with a massage at the Sage Springs Club Spa or ride around on a rental bicycle from the Bike Barn.

For registration or other more information about these events, click on the OWRC event link at: [www.owrc.org/OWRCevents.htm](http://www.owrc.org/OWRCevents.htm). **See you at Sunriver this Fall!!!**

– April Snell  
OWRC Assistant Director

## USCID CONFERENCE AND HOOD RIVER POST-CONFERENCE TOUR

USCID, the U.S. society for irrigation and drainage professionals, is hosting a conference September 17-20, 2008, in Portland, co-sponsored in part by the Oregon Water Resources Congress. This year's theme is "Managing Water in a Climate Changing World: Implications for Irrigation, Drainage and Flood Control." As part of the conference, OWRC is coordinating and co-sponsoring a post-conference tour of Hood River and East Fork, Farmer's, and Middle Fork Irrigation Districts. The tour will include a presentation about the impacts of climate change on water resources in the Pacific Northwest by OSU Professor Anne Nolin; a viewing of "A Torrential Time: 2006 Mt. Hood Glacial Debris Flow," video footage of the November 2006 water and debris flow off of Mt. Hood, by Middle Fork District Manager Dave Compton; a tour of Farmer's horizontal fish screen and East Fork's sand trap and headworks; and a presentation by the Port of Hood River. For more information about the USCID Conference or post-conference tour, visit: <http://www.uscid.org/08gcc.html>

## STATE PROGRAM

### GRASSROOTS CULTIVATION



In the business of politics, there is a popular saying that "perception is reality." Unfortunately, it's popular because it's true – and sometimes the real facts of a matter don't mean as much as the perceived situation, especially if a boogey man can be fingered. Irrigation districts can easily become the boogey man. After all, what are irrigation districts? While that is an easy question for us, the answer is not obvious for others, especially to legislators getting an earful from constituents emphatic about being able to do whatever they want with their water rights.

Take the recent Oregon Supreme Court decision on the Fort Vannoy case. Are irrigation districts claiming ownership of water rights? Will districts be transferring water rights without landowner permission? Has the issue of appurtenance been severed from water rights ownership?

Heck no! But see how potentially easy it is to make irrigation districts the boogey man? The hard part is telling the rest of the story. It's not a sound bite about property rights. It's neither simple nor sensational, and it requires thoughtful dialog. Most importantly, it requires relationships. In the last newsletter I wrote about grassroots and the importance of developing relationships. These relationships are not hard to build, but do require small, regular investments of your time.

If your relationship account already has a balance in it, conversations about potentially sensational issues like the Fort Vannoy case can be very rewarding. Imagine the day when your legislator calls you to get more information about confusing claims being made by other water users. Or, that "ah ha" moment when the pieces fall in place and a legislator fully sees what you mean when you talk about the responsibility to manage the water in trust for all patrons... and how moving a point of diversion would harm other users.

However, don't psych yourself out. Do you have to know official sound bites and messaging on issues? No – that comes. You don't have to know all the answers before you build relationships. The only requirement is you pick up the phone and introduce yourself over a cup of coffee. Get started – open your account. Then keep making your investments in that relationship. Consider a lawn sign, a field sign, writing a letter to the editor, making a contribution and hosting a coffee with your neighbors. Investing your time in these activities will earn long term dividends that will serve you, your district and your legislators well.

– **Kristina McNitt, KLM Consulting,**  
*OWRC Oregon lobbyist*



### FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENT:

#### WATER CONSERVATION, REUSE, AND STORAGE GRANT PROGRAM

The Oregon Water Resources Department's Water Conservation, Reuse and Storage Grant Program, established by SB 1069, is currently accepting grant applications (from **July 15 - September 2, 2008**). The program is designed to fund the qualifying costs of planning studies that evaluate the feasibility of developing water conservation, reuse or storage projects. There is \$1.6 million available for grants, with a maximum award of up to **\$500,000** for each project. For more information and a grant application form, go to: [www.wrd.state.or.us/OWRD/LAW/conservation\\_reuse\\_storage\\_grant.shtml](http://www.wrd.state.or.us/OWRD/LAW/conservation_reuse_storage_grant.shtml)

## FEDERAL AFFAIRS

### SUMMER NEWS FROM WASHINGTON DC



**“I know they’re doing something...and what was that again?”**

Just as it appeared that Congress was on a roll, the process appears to have quickly run out of gas. Blame it on the

convergence of the perfect storms of high gasoline prices, the mortgage crises and the election year vices. Does it always have to come down to money?

The Appropriation process for FY09 has ground to a halt on the House side as politics has entered the game of how to address high gasoline prices. Drill our way out or conserve our way out? With Republicans proposing amendments on unrelated Appropriation bills to address the issue, markup schedules being on and off, and the ever present threat of a Presidential veto, it was not going to be an easy process from the start. Most were surprised the process had made its way this far since and expected that many of these bills wouldn’t be dealt with until a new Congress and Administration in 2009.

By contrast, the Senate will have all of their bills out of Committee by the August recess. For OWRC members, the good news is at least the Energy and Water Appropriations bill cleared both the House and Senate Appropriation Committees’ so it will be positioned to be acted upon at the earliest opportunity.

This is the Appropriation bill that funds the Bureau of Reclamation and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers programs. The House Committee provided the Bureau’s Water and Related Resources (construction) program with \$888 million, about \$110 million above the Administration’s request, and the Senate Appropriations Committee provided the program with \$927 million.

On the authorization front, Congress continues the “packing” approach to moving bills out of the authorizing Committee’s for Western issues. In the last newsletter we discussed S. 2739, which has since passed and became Public Law 110-229. The latest effort is S. 3213 the Omnibus Public Land management Act of 2008.

**Why do we care?** S. 3213 contains the FRIMA reauthorization, the authorization for the Tumalo Irrigation District, along with the Mt. Hood Wilderness, the Copper Salmon Wilderness and the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument legislation to mention a few items that directly affect Oregon. However, it will take more than good fortune to have this and the rest of the items in the legislation make their way into law, particularly with Senator Coburn from Oklahoma, also known as “Dr. No,” blocking most bills, even those that are non-controversial.

Congress did end up bringing the Farm bill into reality, with an “oops” along the way from a paperwork error that left out part of the bill. After fixing the error, Congress overrode the President’s veto for a second time and it became Public Law 110-246. Of particular interest to OWRC members is the Conservation title of the law. The Agricultural Water Enhancement Program will be an important new tool under the Environmental Quality Incentives Program. As with most items that come out of Washington, D.C. the devil is in the details. It is important to follow the development of the rules and implementation guidance by the Department of Agriculture for these types of programs. For many, the passage of the legislation is the easy part. Getting it implemented and funded is more difficult.

The same is also true for the implementation of the Water Resources Development Act for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. You can visit OWRC’s website, under the Federal Program tab, to read comments developed by the organization regarding new Principles and Guidelines for use in the Corps program as called for in WRDA 2007. For those policy wonks in the organization, the Corps WRDA 2007 Implementation Guidance can be found at [www.usace.army.mil/cw/cecw-p/leg\\_manage/wrda2007](http://www.usace.army.mil/cw/cecw-p/leg_manage/wrda2007).

So despite the heat and humidity of Washington, D.C. there is excitement in the air as the respective Party Convention’s take their turn in the political barrel. “And the nominee for Vice-President is.....”

Thank you again for your continued interest and involvement in OWRC’s Federal Affairs Program.

– **Peter Carlson, Will and Carlson,**  
OWRC Washington DC lobbyist

## OREGON WATER NEWS TIDBITS

### OREGON GLOBAL WARMING COMMISSION – NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE



The Oregon Global Warming Commission, authorized by the 2007 Legislature, has begun meeting and organizing into committees and subcommittees to address the issue of global warming. I have been attending the Natural Resources Committee of the Commission, which now has four subcommittees on water, agriculture, fish and wildlife, and forestry. These subcommittees will host presentations on each of the topics and provide recommendations to the Natural Resources Committee, which in turn will make recommendations to the Commission.

The Committee held its first session on water at the June 2 meeting, which focused primarily on the Governor's draft Headwaters to Ocean Strategy (H2O). The water subcommittee held a meeting on July 16 in Portland and heard about the impacts of climate change on water. Dr. Michael Campana, from OSU's Institute for Water and Watersheds, provided an overview of the current state of Oregon's freshwater resources, and Dr. Alan Hamlet, from University of Washington's Climate Change Impacts Group, provided a thorough overview of the hydrologic implications for the Pacific Northwest and Columbia River Basin. There was also a series presentations about the impacts of global warming on agriculture on July 17<sup>th</sup>, a fish and wildlife subcommittee meeting on August 5<sup>th</sup>, and a water subcommittee presentation on August 8<sup>th</sup> that featured presentations on "Efficiency in the Face of Climate Change: Agricultural and Municipal Perspectives." The next regular meeting of the full Global Warming Commission is tentatively scheduled for September 16<sup>th</sup> in Bend.

To find out more about the Natural Resources Committee or the Global Warming Commission, visit: <http://www.oregon.gov/ENERGY/GBLWRM/GWC/index.shtml>

– **April Snell**  
OWRC Assistant Director

### OREGON FISH AND SHELLFISH CONSUMPTION RATE WORKSHOP



The Oregon Fish and Shellfish Consumption Rate Project hosted a workshop on the implementation strategies and fiscal impacts of proposed changes to the fish consumption rate used in developing Oregon's human health criteria for water quality standards on June 27 in Portland. The workshop was designed to inform and engage interested stakeholders about the initial recommendations of the Fiscal Impacts and Implementation Advisory Committee (FIIAC), a nine member committee of diverse stakeholders appointed by the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) that has been working in partnership with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Confederated Tribes of Umatilla (CTUIR) since 2008. DEQ is responsible for

establishing the level of human health protection for Oregonians who consume fish and shellfish from state waters, which is used with other factors such as chemical toxicity to develop human health water quality criteria, or the fish consumption rate.

The workshop presentations and discussion included an overview of the process so far, potential benefits, an analysis of implementation costs by the EPA-funded contractor, a differing cost analysis funded by the Northwest Pulp and Paper Association, and the perspectives of industry and municipalities. Discussion focused on the numerous uncertainties related to the costs of implementing a higher fish consumption rate statewide, challenges of various strategies, and the need to have a timetable for compliance that balances industry and municipal cost constraints with environmental health. Recommendations will be presented to the Environmental Quality Commission in October 2008 with a range of options that might lead to an increase in the fish consumption rate. OWRC has been monitoring this project as a stakeholder and will continue to keep you informed about this issue and its impacts to districts. For more information about the Oregon Fish and Shellfish Consumption Rate, visit: <http://www.deq.state.or.us/wq/standards/toxics.htm>

– **April Snell**  
OWRC Assistant Director



## UPDATE: OREGON WATER SUPPLY AND CONSERVATION INITIATIVE



The most recent stakeholder meeting related to the Oregon Water Supply and Conservation Initiative (OWSCI) was held on May 6<sup>th</sup> at the Water Resources Department in Salem. This meeting was designed as a check-in point for the project team (WRD and consultants from HDR Engineering) to report on the status of the surveys collected from water users, and provide a summary of the number, type, and regional location of survey respondents. Updates on the Initiative were also provided at related House and Senate Interim Committee hearings in June and July.

As of June, the contractors had received 100 survey responses on the existing and future water demands component, and 30 responses for the inventory of conservation opportunities. The survey responses will be combined with existing projects, reports, and other available datasets that will inform a water demand forecast for municipal/residential, agricultural, self-supplied industrial, and instream needs such as hydropower and fish flows. The data collection efforts will conclude by the end of 2008 and WRD plans to have the information available online, including a county-level interactive map, by January 2009.

We will continue to provide updates on these the Oregon Water Supply and Conservation Initiative as they develop. The next stakeholder meeting is scheduled for August 25 at the Water Resources Department in Salem. For more information about the Oregon Water Supply and Conservation Initiative visit:

<http://egov.oregon.gov/OWRD/LAW/owsci.shtml>

– **April Snell**  
OWRC Assistant Director



### AWARDS

#### Bureau of Reclamation Grants Awarded to OWRC District Members

Congratulations to **Talent Irrigation** and **West Extension Irrigation Districts** who recently were awarded funding under the Bureau of Reclamation's Water 2025 "System Optimization Review" grant program assist water districts and other water management entities by providing a broad look at their water delivery system operations.

- ◆ **Talent Irrigation District** will use the funding to investigate and evaluate elements of the Rogue River Basin to promote future water conservation through seepage reduction, re-regulating basins, reservoir storage adjustments and a water budget. The total project cost is \$123,024, including a Water 2025 contribution of \$61,512.
- ◆ **West Extension Irrigation District** will use the funding to identify water management problems and potential for water savings through enclosing open laterals, prioritizing projects and prepare a planning report to incorporate into the District's Water Management and Conservation Plan. The total project cost is \$53,564, including a Water 2025 contribution of \$22,000. For more information on Water 2025, visit [www.usbr.gov/water2025](http://www.usbr.gov/water2025).

#### 2008 Ag Progress Awards Received by District Water Users

Congratulations to **Barlow Farms** of Nyssa and **Earl Brown & Sons** of Milton-Freewater who recently received the 2008 Ag Progress Award. Both farms are water users in OWRC member districts; Owyhee Irrigation District in the Malheur Basin, and Walla Walla Irrigation District in the Walla Walla Basin, respectively.

*Do you know a district or district water user who recently received an award?  
Let us know and we'll note it in our next newsletter!*

# Oregon Water Resources Congress

## 2008 BOARD ROSTER

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

**USCID Conference**  
*September 17-20, 2008*  
*Portland, Oregon*

**OWRC 2008 Golf Tournament**  
*October 22, 2008*  
*Crosswater Course at Sunriver Resort,*  
*Sunriver, Oregon*

**OWRC Technology Seminar**  
*October 23, 2008*  
*Sunriver Resort,*  
*Sunriver, Oregon*

**OWRC & NWA**  
**Small Hydro Workshop**  
*October 24, 2008*  
*Sunriver Resort,*  
*Sunriver, Oregon*

**Oregon Water Law Conference**  
*November 6-7, 2008*  
*Red Lion Hotel/Convention Center*  
*Portland, Oregon*

**NWRA Annual Conference**  
*Nov 19 – 21*  
*Hotel del Coronado*  
*San Diego, California*

**OWRC Annual Conference**  
*December 2-5, 2008*  
*Best Western Hood River Inn,*  
*Hood River, Oregon*

*For more information about these events,*  
*visit [www.owrc.org](http://www.owrc.org)*

