



WATERWORKS

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2017 Legislative Session Update



As we enter the middle of June, Oregon’s Legislators see the light at the end of the tunnel and have begun negotiations on the budget (including revenue raising measures), transportation package, and PERS reform. For all other policy bills, one of the final significant milestones for the 2017 Legislative Session occurred on Friday, June 2nd, the deadline for measures to be have a work session in a committee in the second chamber or the bill is effectively dead. That deadline does not apply to bills

in either the Senate or House Committee on Rules, Revenue or Joint Ways and Means. The target “Sine Die” (adjournment date) is June 23rd and the constitutional sine die date is July 10th, and at this point it seems unlikely the legislature will conclude their business any earlier than the first week of July. There continues to be a lot of discussion around a “gross receipts” tax bill and it remains to be seen whether a deal will be negotiated in order to get the votes needed to pass any revenue raising legislation before adjournment. If they cannot reach an agreement prior to July 10th, it is extremely likely the legislature will be called back in for a special session in late September or early October. OWRC will continue to monitor the session as it wraps up and will present a complete and in depth legislative session report as part of the OWRC Water Law Seminar on October 5th at Eagle Crest Resort in Redmond, Oregon.

District Plat Review – SB 865 A



OWRC focused a lot of our time and efforts this legislative session on our District Plat Review Bill, SB 865. SB 865 ensures that there is a consistent process for districts to provide information to cities and counties prior to the approval of a tentative plan of a proposed subdivision or plat so that development can occur without unintended consequences or unnecessary delays. Ultimately, SB 865 will help increase coordination between public entities, reduce delays to development, and prevent adverse impacts to irrigated agriculture and Oregon’s water resources. The bill started in the Senate Chamber, and was sponsored by Senators Hansell and Roblan. After working with interested stakeholders and amending the original bill, SB 865 passed out of the Senate, moved through the House and on June 15th, Governor Brown signed SB 865 into law, and it will go into effect on January 1, 2018. District plat review, and the opportunity to notice and comment on development has been a priority issue for OWRC for many legislative sessions. OWRC appreciates the participation and information provided by our State Legislative Committee and specifically would like to thank those District Managers who came to Salem to testify, submitted written testimony and those who engaged with their local legislators. Without your help, OWRC would not have been successful in finally passing this important legislation. We look forward to working with our Districts as we move forward implementing the new statute.

For more information on SB 865 and the bills legislative history, please visit:
<https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2017R1/Measures/Overview/SB865>

Representative Helm Water Legislation and Work Group



Rep. Helm, D-Washington County, sponsored a package of water bills and convened a water work group (which OWRC was a part of) to tackle the issues addressed in his water legislation. The package of bills included: HB 2705, Water Measurement and Reporting; HB 2706, Annual Water Rights Management Fee, and HB 2707, Funding for Groundwater Studies. The water work group met weekly to engage in discussion and idea sharing to tackle the issues the legislation was attempting to address. The group quickly agreed that, if money was available, the state should fund more Groundwater Studies, and the legislation, HB 2707, moved into Ways and Means. The remaining bills, HB 2705 and HB 2706, are in Rules and Ways and Means respectively. Most of the discussion in the water work group focused on potential amendments to HB 2705, the water measurement and reporting concept. However, Rep. Helm has made the decision to not move forward with either HB 2705 or HB 2706 during the 2017 Legislative Session. Rather, he would like to continue the discussion with the water work group in the interim, with the hope that with more time and engagement with stakeholders we can develop potential solutions that could be addressed through future legislation. OWRC appreciates all the time and effort Rep. Helm has put in to engaging with all stakeholders and will be an active participant in the workgroup moving forward.

2017 Office Staff Workshop



This valuable biennial training will provide district office staff with an overview of various office related procedures as well as an opportunity to network with and learn from other district office staff. Agenda includes roundtable discussions as well as speakers from the Oregon Water Resources Department, Special Districts Association of Oregon, and Stoel Rives LLP. Download Draft Agenda: [2017 Office Staff Workshop Agenda](#)

Workshop starts at 10:30 AM on Monday, July 24th and will conclude Tuesday, July 25th by 12:00 PM. Registration fee includes lunch on Monday, refreshments on both days, and workshop materials. There will be an informal dinner Monday night; cost is not included in registration fee.

The Workshop will be held at the North Redmond Conference Event Center located at: 1857 N. Hwy 97, Redmond, Oregon 97756. We have a room block set up at the Sleep Inn & Suites which is adjacent to the meeting facility: Sleep Inn & Suites, 1847 N. Hwy 97, Redmond, Oregon 97756. To make a reservation call the hotel at (541) 504-1500 and ask for the OWRC room block. Please call before **July 1st** to secure a room.

Download Registration Form: [2017 Office Staff Workshop Registration](#) or register online at: http://owrc.org/event/2017-office-staff-workshop?instance_id=149

This is an educational event in partnership with:



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