



# Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

## Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

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### MEMORANDUM

February 6, 2018

TO: Tide Gate Outreach Meeting Participants

FR: Meta Loftsgaarden, OWEB Executive Director **on behalf of the Tide Gate Work Group**

RE: Follow-up from Tide Gate Outreach Meetings

Thank you for taking time out of your schedule to participate in December's tide gate outreach meetings. The meetings were very informative for all of the organizations and agencies who had the opportunity to join you.

As was mentioned at the meetings, a tide gate work group was formed in September 2016 to discuss repair and replacement of tide gates and associated infrastructure on the Oregon Coast. Initially formed by the Oregon Farm Bureau, the Oregon Cattlemen's Association, the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, this work group consists of landowners, state and federal agencies, agricultural organizations, counties, and conservation organizations. In January, the Association of Oregon Counties presented a summary report of the outreach meetings to the tide gate work group, including a list of ideas that emerged from these local discussions. That summary report has since been emailed to you as well. The work group found the summary report informative and has identified a series of next steps to address many of the issues and opportunities that you raised, as well as ways that we will communicate with you as we make progress.

The work group intends to develop a set of near-, mid-, and long-term strategies to address the issues identified at the outreach meetings. To assist with this process, the work group agreed to form an implementation and coordination team. Based on your feedback, a number of items rose to the top of the list. These are described below. The work group has also identified ways we will continue to stay in touch with you all to share our progress. If you have questions at any time, I've provided a list of key points of contact below.

Priority near-term items to address:

#### Communications:

- Provide a comprehensive resource list of agencies to contact when repairing or replacing a tide gate. Agencies will also provide specific information about what actions require contact with an agency.

- Establish a web site and other regular forms of update including emails to inform interested individuals on the progress of the tide gate work group efforts.

**Regulatory Clarity, Streamlining and Assurances:**

- Agencies will work toward providing better clarity regarding regulatory compliance and permitting requirements, and information needed to apply for a permit, including improved clarity associated with tide gate designs and other criteria. These steps are needed before we can begin to identify engineering design options and approaches for tide gate replacements.
- Agencies will meet to determine best approaches to streamline tide gate permitting and regulatory compliance.
- Agencies will begin scoping alternative approaches for obtaining regulatory assurances for qualifying landowners.

**Inventory:**

- OWEB will coordinate development of an inventory that brings together the many existing local inventories with other publicly available information to better understand the size and scale of the tide gate repair and replacement needs. This will also help to address issues of ownership that were raised during the outreach meetings. The inventory will only contain general information that is already accessible and publicly available. Individual tide gate information (condition, etc.) will only be received from landowners who voluntarily provide it.

**Pilot Projects:**

- The work group will begin to identify projects that might serve as pilot projects to help identify specific areas for improvement and ways to increase efficiency and effectiveness of the permitting and regulatory processes.

**Funding:**

- The work group will begin to identify the various existing and potential funding sources for tide gate replacements.

In addition to this near term work, the work group will develop mid- and long-term strategies over the coming months associated with the topics above as well as identify engineering options and approaches to tide gate replacements. Updates will be provided by email and a to-be-established website.

As noted above, if you have questions, please contact the following individuals:

- ✓ Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board – Jillian McCarthy ([jillian.mccarthy@oregon.gov](mailto:jillian.mccarthy@oregon.gov) or 503-986-0033)
- ✓ Oregon Association of Counties - Mark Labhart ([marklabhart@gmail.com](mailto:marklabhart@gmail.com) or 503-801-1704)
- ✓ Oregon Farm Bureau Federation – Mary Anne Cooper ([maryannecooper@oregonfb.org](mailto:maryannecooper@oregonfb.org) or 503-399-1701 x306)
- ✓ Oregon Cattlemen’s Association – Jerome Rosa ([jerome.rosa@orcattle.com](mailto:jerome.rosa@orcattle.com) or 503-361-8941 ext: 304)
- ✓ Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife – Greg Apke ([greg.d.apke@state.or.us](mailto:greg.d.apke@state.or.us) or 503-947-6228)