Ideas for PAG to Discuss 2019

Follow-up from Strategic Planning discussions in 2017
What was the 2017 Strategic Planning session?

• Held December 2017
• Reviewed statutory direction for CR Water Supply Development program
• Reviewed past policy questions that have been reviewed by PAG
• Developed list of broad goals and potential specific actions for PAG
Broad Goals

• Establish long term funding for current and future water supply projects
• Continue progress on Odessa and Yakima Basin Integrated Plan, so that these projects can be brought to fruition
• Improve dialogue and collaboration with tribal governments, legislators, and other stakeholders
• Further develop water for instream and out-of-stream uses (including storage and conservation, as directed by the statute)
Specific potential tasks

- Stay current on Columbia River Treaty re-negotiations and opportunities to meet in- and out-of-stream demand through Treaty and non-Treaty Canadian storage.
- Identify data gaps to understand the array of potential impacts of climate change and associated avenues for adaptation.
- Begin including groundwater integration and mitigation actions.
- Continue advising Ecology on legal and technical water supply solutions.
Other ideas raised during discussion

• Initiate outreach efforts with western WA stakeholders [the Hirst legislation adopted by Legislature in January includes this]

• Focus more on groundwater and groundwater decline – tied to water availability

• Seek to expand the approach of an integrated water resource management plan to other river basins, as has been done in the Icicle Creek and the Walla Walla River Basins – look to a creative, “big picture” approach

• Priority of finding stable long-term funding – OCR is discussing with Ecology’s budget office what another long-term bonding approach would look like
Thoughts from PAG Member

• Columbia River Treaty potential (or non-treaty side agreements?)
• Tributary projects like Walla Walla
• How to help address temp and well as flow probs in tribs and mainstem
Thoughts from Exec Comm

• How to use groundwater in conjunction with surface water (e.g. ASR work has been useful)

• Basin approach may be difficult; successful efforts have come out of difficult issues in specific areas
  • A laudable goal but difficult

• PAG should not go beyond original scope of enabling legislation

• Continuing to look at the Columbia River Treaty and related issues makes sense
Thoughts from Executive Committee (cont)

- PAG is an advisory group for OCR and should primarily respond to requests from OCR
  - Based upon OCR’s vision of its future for Short Term and Long Term, the CRPAG can respond with input for OCR consideration