

# Rules Advisory Committee: Place-Based Water Planning Fund

## Pertinent Workgroup Recommendations and Independent Evaluation Lessons

### Grant Types (690-602-0004 Grant Eligibility)

**Related [HB 5006 Workgroup Recommendations](#)** (The workgroup included a diverse membership representing conservation groups, agricultural water users, municipal and local governments, special districts, environmental justice organizations, tribal interests, state agencies, and regional perspectives and employed a consensus-based process.)

**Recommendation M:** The Place-Based Planning grant program should be accessible to basins with different levels of capacity and resources and be structured to provide onramps for groups through different tiers of support. Examples of these tiers include:

- **Small Capacity Grants** to help groups, especially those in underserved areas, prepare and assess their readiness to engage in the Place-Based Planning process.
- **Planning Grants** to help support groups in following the Place-Based Planning guidelines to develop a plan and achieve state recognition.
- **Implementation Coordination Grants** to help support continued engagement of planning groups as they move a state-recognized plan into action.

*Consensus Vote: (20 support/neutral; 4 serious concerns; 0 actively block)*

**Recommendation P:** At a minimum, the Place-Based Planning grant program should enable:

- (1) Support for meaningful community engagement, at the outset and ongoing. This would include resources for broad outreach, education, multiple channels for engagement and capacity building throughout the process.
- (2) Capacity support specifically to tribal and other under-represented or marginalized communities for meaningful engagement in place-based planning.
- (3) Support for capacity and/or funding for professionals to help prepare for and execute planning according to the Place-Based Planning Guidelines. Examples include capacity for project management, creation of governance agreements, DEJ trainings, technical plan writing, and foundational expertise in water science, ecology and biology, climate science, and water law.
- (4) Support for professional independent third-party facilitation with subject matter expertise.
- (5) Support for continued engagement of planning groups to move a state-recognized plan into implementation. This would provide capacity to planning groups to:
  - Refine plan actions and strategies,
  - Identify, prepare, and apply to funding opportunities to implement plan actions and strategies,
  - Coordinate with the interagency support team as needed,
  - Ensure that the pursuit of strategies and actions continue to represent a balanced representation of instream and out-of-stream water interests, and
  - Complete biennial reports to the Water Resources Commission on the status of implementation.
- (6) Support for planning groups to update plans when significant changes in local conditions, data availability, or climate change information indicate the need for a plan update.

*Consensus Vote: (24 support/neutral; 0 serious concerns; 0 actively block)*

**Related PBP Independent Evaluation Key Lessons Learned** (OWRD contracted with the National Policy Consensus Center at Portland State University and Oregon State University's Cooperative Extension Program to conduct a joint independent [participatory evaluation](#) of the pilot place-based planning program.)

**Key Lesson #1:** The state's place-based integrated water planning model can be a useful tool for water resources management in some places, but the state's guiding framework requires adjustment.

**Key Lesson #4:** A situational assessment of prospective place-based planning areas needs to be done to scope out the prospective planning area's water situation as well as its collaborative and technical capacity.