

Okanogan CD Drought Preparedness Plan – December Planning Meeting
March 9th, 2026 | 1:00pm – 3:00 pm

SUMMARY NOTES

Meeting started at 1:03 pm

Attendees:

Jordana Ellis (Okanogan CD)
Rosalie Powell (Okanogan CD)
Emmy Engle (Okanogan CD)
Cindy Fabbri (WSU, WRC)
Elianna Rosenthal (DFW)
Sandra Streiby (MWC)
Rita Stewart (MWC)
Mike Bastian (MWC)
Tessa Reeder (WWT)
Jon Yoder (WSU, WRC)
Stuart Crane (YN)
Sarah Lane (MWC)
Michelle Martin (OLT)
Karin Bumbaco (UW, WASCO)

Additional Agenda Items:

None.

Survey:

Agenda Intent: Review of the number of responses. Review preliminary data analysis.

Discussion:

Cindy provided a document with the preliminary survey results. In the report are preliminary statistics regarding responses. Some interesting findings so far indicate that at least 29% of respondents have experienced water insecurity, and approximately 74% reported being aware of water right status. JO provided update from recent tabling events one in Methow and one in the Okanogan area with participants from the Columbia Basin area.

- Respondents to the English survey: 230 (as of 3/6/2026)

Have we filled the gaps that were previously identified? Cindy noted that those are still our gaps and can still be addressed.

Decision/Outcome

Keeping survey live for now. Consider cut-off for data that informs the risk assessment by July.

Community Profile:

Agenda Intent: Review progress & assign responsibility

Discussion: It was suggested to add into the community profile, a map that overlays the overburdened communities and disparities or environmental justice layers. How can we use the “Washington Tracking Network A Source for Environmental Public Health Data” (<https://fortress.wa.gov/doh/wtnibl/WTNIBL/>) or the “EJScreen” (<https://pedp-ejscreen.azurewebsites.net/>) to create a layer or layers that show the overburdened communities? What spatial data do we need for the community profiles? Further discussion is needed and we will add spatial analysis as the group sees fit. This addition is on the teams’ radar and will be included in analysis. Tessa offered to begin looking into creating spatial data from the Qualtrics responses. Jack shared his preliminary narrative on community profile data. Asked for group to review in the google drive and make comments.

Sandra will draft community profiles for Methow sub-regions. Jack asked to have a template that all are following. Sandra will work with Jack on creating a template. – Based on the Ecology guidance the community profile area should be rather concise. Sandra asked if the profile should be about half a page. Jordana stated that a half a page would be a good goal and may be hard to stick to and still tell the story of the area.

Question about where we got irrigated acres. JO stated we got it from WSDA land use.

JO invited team members from the Colville Tribe to provide input in community profile narrative. Cultural use and impacts to those uses or users.

Decision/Outcome

MWC will complete profiles for Methow sub-regions.

MWC and Ok-CD will collaborate on template for profiles.

Colville Tribe will collaborate with Ok-CD to complete the profile for the Reservation.

Risk Assessment:

Agenda Intent: Review status of Risk assessment. Timeline for completion. Decide on timeframe for the focus of this risk assessment.

Discussion: Sandra had a question about whether the risk assessment information will be ready for the summer project meetings. Cindy stated that at some point we will want to cut off the input for the risk assessment to be able to finalize the analysis. JY stated that it is reasonable to use a dated “draft” in the meetings and clearly state that these are draft information and that we have enough to see patterns. We will need to limit the number of times that we update the document. Proposes only one more time. JO proposed a July 1st cut off for risk assessment input from survey.

Sandra wanted to clarify that the risk assessment will be a compilation of survey and literature review and asked if this combined assessment draft will be available by July. WSU indicated it will be.

Mike, asking about the information being available to the public. Don’t want to present something to public and then turn around and have a different product/paper. JY correct; we need to be careful to present accurate information, and the meetings are a valuable place to present and gather information. We need to clarify what we are doing at this meeting. The only time this data will be “complete” is when we turn off the survey. Tradeoffs of presenting DRAFTs to the public: we can get feedback and additional perspectives; however we run the risk of confusing people if our messaging shifts.

For this round of community meetings: the idea is to present the preliminary risk assessment findings and ask for information on project ideas. Present preliminary results, and input from community will shape and finalize the plan/process.

Mike, the most often comment from individuals is that they propose mitigation. General discussion about potential projects. Prepare for conversations focused on problem solving.

Climate projections will change depending on timeframe you are looking at. Terms are near term or long term. Suggestions on what timeframe to focus on. Whether to focus on one timeframe (2030-2059) or to pick two timeframes (2020-2049) & (2040-2069). Sandra

noted that the planning association notes that plans need to have plans looking out past the near future and include an outlook with a minimum of 20yrs and preferably 50 yrs.

Decision/Outcome

Group decision to focus on one timeframe and to use the 2030-2059 timeframe.

Literature review

Agenda Intent: Any feedback of the Literature reviews? Any data gaps? General update

Discussion: Question posed to the group was if to add other literature that is not water centric and that can provide input to this project? There is also a long list of partners to reach out to in this plan. Sandra uploaded “Perceptions of Drought” and will do the review for this.

Decision/Outcome

MWC will perform review for “Perceptions of Drought” and upload to Google drive as well as email to Cindy.

Project ID:

Agenda Intent: Partner input from stakeholder list update. Which stakeholders are left to reach? Get feedback on draft project “filter”. Glossary update. Should we include the CWPP forestry projects?

Discussion: Jack shared a project filter tool for the project scoping phase. Sandra stated that the initial screen may require a lot of work. Group discussed that there does need to be some kind of filter to lessen the workload of scoping all projects that come to the group. What projects are being funded by various groups/ agencies? What are the costs of those projects? What is the working range to help determine feasibility.

ER – stated that one project can have very different cost based on the resources the landowner may have access to in regard to engineering and materials or labor. Having a note about that in the filter would be helpful.

Stakeholder list – who reaches out to each of those? JO will add a column to the list. MWC & Ok-CD will collaborate on messaging and split up the list.

Draft Glossary is in the Google Drive where others can add to it.

Should we include the CWPP forestry projects? Good starting place and as we go forward can determine if they fit within this project/plan.

Sandra asked if the partners in the CWPP are in our partner list? That needs to be confirmed and probably update our contact list.

Decision/Outcome

All members visit the Google drive and edit or comment on the project filter.

Ok-CD and MWC will reach out to stakeholders for project ID.

Ok-CD will cross reference LDPP partner/stakeholder list with the CWPP partner/stakeholder list and identify potential opportunities to include more partners.

Public meeting round 2

Agenda Intent: How can we improve attendance? Mention food? Can we offer childcare services? Decide on desired time/date/location for the three community meetings, (July)

Discussion: Let's tentatively schedule community meeting dates. July, the week after the holiday mid-week. Planning session on 13th, anytime after that. Holding three meetings. MWC discussed internally. Pateros was not very productive last time. Is there another spot in the Methow that would work? We could do one remote meeting to either add to or in-place of one of the meetings. In-person meetings could be Winthrop and Tonasket. Mass email – doodle poll for finding significant dates?

Let's try a doodle poll to determine best date for online and for now select 15th, 22nd, and 29th. Do the doodle poll for later meetings (online) to fit to the most people available.

Methow Valley (Winthrop or Twisp) 15th – Grange?

Tonasket 22nd – Community Center

Online – doodle poll

Decision/Outcome

Okanogan CD and MWC will investigate availability of venues in Twisp, Winthrop, and Tonasket for July 15th, 22nd, and a doodle poll for the week of the July 27th through the first two weeks of August.

Next meeting discuss messaging of the meeting.

Action Items:

1. Okanogan CD to Send QR code or power point slide to OLT & DFW & OHA.
2. Okanogan CD to meet with MWC to update stakeholder list with CWPP contacts and confirm messaging for project solicitation outreach.
3. Okanogan CD to create mailing list update.
4. Group will review and add comments to project filter.
5. Group will review and add comments to Community profile draft.
6. Jack will create Colville Reservation community profile draft and share with Rowena.
7. Ok-CD will cross reference LDPP partner/stakeholder list with the CWPP partner/stakeholder list and identify potential opportunities to include more partners.
8. Okanogan CD and MWC will investigate availability of venues in Twisp, Winthrop, and Tonasket for July 15th, 22nd, and a doodle poll for the week of the July 27th through the first two weeks of August.
9. WWT will begin compiling information for a draft “overburdened communities map”.

Meeting Adjourned at 2:58 pm.