

Okanogan CD Drought Preparedness Plan – August Planning Meeting

September 8th, 2025 | 1:00pm – 3:00 pm

SUMMARY NOTES

Meeting started at 1:02 pm

Introductions: Attendees introduce themselves & Affiliation

Attendees:

Jordana Ellis (Okanogan CD)
Jack Owen (Okanogan CD)
Rosalie Powell (Okanogan CD)
Sandra Streiby (Methow Watershed Council)
Emmy Engle (Okanogan CD)
Cindy Fabbri (WSU)
Rita Stewart (Methow Watershed Council)
Karin Bumbaco (UW/WA State Climate Office))
Michelle Martin (Okanogan Land Trust)
Kraig Mott (YN/Foghorn Ditch)
Linda McLean (WSU Nespelem Extension)
Jon Yoder (WSU)
Jon Culp (SCC)
Elianna Rosenthal (WDFW)
Stuart Crane (YN)
Rowena St. Pierre (CTCR)

Survey Development:

- Update on process:
 - The survey is currently in IRB review. Cindy has created the survey in the Qualtrics platform.
 - No publication date currently. IRB requested minor modifications to data management plan, those adjustments have been made and the survey resubmitted.
 - Okanogan CD is currently working on getting the survey translated by CAFÉ Wenatchee. That work will begin as soon as possible.

- Methods of distribution once published...
 - Contact list, social media (with push), Newsletters (OCD, MWC, request for all partners to include in their newsletter), Staff/ Partners attend meetings like Farm Bureau – Cattleman’s Association – Fly Fisher’s Club - Horticulture Association – Irrigator’s Forums etc., Farmer’s Markets, Newspaper and radio ads, Community events.
- The question was asked if the data from survey needed to be pulled at a certain deadline? The survey should be out for a month or two at minimum. The process of examining data can begin before the collection process is over. The cut off of data intake informing the risk assessment can be flexible due to the method of data gathering and analysis that is going to be used.

Outreach: Community Meetings Debrief:

- Re-cap of Meetings:
 - Fairly good attendance in the Methow, not as well attended in the Okanogan, Reservation, or Columbia Basin. All meetings provided good feedback. Some of the takeaways are a general sense that there is a need for better education and “water literacy”, and a general concern for loss of water resources and the immediate and trickle-down impacts. There are various points of view from individuals with contrasting experience and knowledge of water availability.
- Responses and Feedback:
 - The group had no feedback for the public meetings.
- Feedback from planning team for report format:
 - What is the best way we can organize or format this information for use in the Risk Assessment?
 - It’s difficult to know how best to summarize this info in advance. Jon and Cindy from WRC-WSU will discuss and offer suggestions on how to present that data.

Risk Assessment:

- Review timeline:
 - The group reviewed timeline in Google Drive.
 - Timeline adjusted and updated survey and risk assessment component dates. Available in the Google Drive for review in the Partner folder.

- Literature Reviews: This will be part of the Risk Assessment. We still need to compile reviews. Who will be able to assist with this? What is the due date?
 - The sooner the better for a due date, our goal is to be finished by the end of October. Cindy would like them to roll in as they are done, google drive is fine to keep them, email Cindy and Jordana when changes are made on the drive.
 - There was a question of whether the risk assessment was only funded for the 2025 calendar year? The survey was supposed to be a major part of this, will that require an amendment or be a problem if these activities are not done in 2025?
 - The rough draft of the risk assessment was estimated to be completed in 2025. We are still funded for our contracted amount, we are just behind schedule, which can be communicated to the grant manager. The delay will not impact funding as long as we can complete the project by the final due date.
 - Jordana asked the MWC if they could take on Methow focused literature for review. She also asked the group to add any relevant documents. She asked if it was ok to use old documents, WSU said yes because historic documents can still be useful, it is important to add disclaimer that the literature is referencing a historical condition. If a new plan is in draft form, but not yet available, note that in the review for inclusion in the final plan.
 - The question was asked what data inputs are needed that could be missing from our task list that would be helpful to inform the risk assessment. Cindy stated that it is difficult to know until we see gaps in the data. One need is local expertise pointing us to relevant resources so that they aren't overlooked. (Reports, historical info, maps, etc.) This may be something that needs to be said to the larger planning group.

- Community Profiles:
 - What else should be included to inform the risk assessment besides the minimum that is required in the grant agreement?
 - Cindy will look at grant agreement and get back to us on this question.
 - The question was asked if the plan would focus on the overburdened communities and how we would prioritize them. The methodology for determining if a community is overburdened.
 - The RCW has definitions of what an overburdened community is. Much of this justification was documented during the application for the grant using the definition from RCW 70A.02.010 and RCW

19.405.020, as well as the online mapping tools EJScreen and Washington State Health Disparities Map. This information will be used again for the community profiles using the tools still available to the public.

- Next steps:
 - Release survey
 - Literature Reviews due Nov 1st
 - Community Profiles

Meeting Adjourned at 2:03 pm