

**ASHLAND CITY COUNCIL
STUDY SESSION MINUTES
November 20, 2023**

Mayor Graham called the meeting to order 5:30 p.m.

Mayor Graham, Councilor Hyatt, Dahle, Kaplan, DuQuenne and Hansen were present.
Councilor Dylan Bloom was not present.

1. Public Input

Mark Brouillard/Ashland/Spoke on being homeless in the past, outreach, agency facilities, and explained involuntarily homelessness and being in the system.

Debbie Neisewander/Ashland/Spoke regarding the revised camping ordinance, reviewed shelter goals, and commented on the dusk to dawn camping area.

2. Water Management and Conservation Plan Update

Public Works Director Scott Fleury introduced Tim Henkle and Adam Sussman from GIS Water Solutions. Henkle provided a presentation (see attached) that included:

- **Water Management and Conservation Plan Update**
- **Today's Topics**
- **Project Background and Purposes**
- **Water Management and Conservation Plan Overview**
- **Public Involvement in WMCP Development**
- **Annual Water Demand**

Henkle confirmed increases in watering demand over time due to higher temperatures was a factor.

- **Average & Maximum Day Demands**
- **2022 Water Service Connections & Consumption**
- **Monthly Water Consumption**

Henkle clarified classification is irrigation meters. Fleury explained Ashland's irrigation was not from the TID. It was a potable water service that went to a residence.

- **Water Loss**

Henkle explained leaking lines, reservoir overflow, and meter inaccuracies contributed to water loss.

- **Conservation Program**
- **Select Conservation Measures**
- **Water Curtailment Plan**
- **Supply Element**

- **Climate Impacts Analysis**
- **Climate Change Impacts on Demand**

Removing outdoor irrigation would be flat with little impact on demand. Summer peaks occurred 2 to 3 times during the summer.

- **Demand Projections**
- **Supply Analysis**

There was plenty of water in summer due to the reservoir. TAP blended into the total capacity for the water systems. There was more of a concern in September and October when temperatures were warmer. The regulatory requirement of having the Reeder reservoir at 60% will be discussed in the future.

- **Supply Analysis (continued)**

Fleury responded to a question whether housing and TAP opposed each other. Supply and demand accounted for the full build out and included the UGB based on anticipated zoning, not the EFU status.

Henkle responded to population differences. The study looked at single family units, apartments, smaller spaces as opposed to multifamily. Fleury spoke about planning code requirements for landscaping and open space needs for multifamily versus commercial. Looking at landscape requirements going forward could help reduce outdoor water use.

Fleury spoke to certifying the city's 1,000 acre-feet water right to Lost Creek. Staff projected certifying 450-acre feet based on demand projections.

- **Climate Change Analysis: Summary of Results**
- **Supply analysis**
- **Next Steps**

Council discussed adding city staff to support the conservation element of the plan and treating water supply regionally. Staff spoke about storing water and explained the difference between treated and raw water storage. The cost was astronomical. The plan was expanding TAP instead.

Public Input

Larry Cooper/Ashland/Did not speak but submitted a document into the record (see attached).

Kate Jackson/Ashland/Was a member of MAC and provided background on the conservation program.

3. Water Utility Rates Overview

Council moved the item to a future study session.

4. City Manager Process & Next Steps

Interim City Manager Sabrina Cotta and Human Resource Director Molly Taylor spoke to the item. The position would start February 2, 2024. January 16, 2024 was the only meeting council could make an appointment in time to start February 1, 2024.

Council agreed to have the item come back January with an agenda item to discuss the pro tem city manager appointment during December.

5. Adjournment of Study Session

Councilor Bloom/DuQuenne m/s to adjourn the meeting at 7:09 p.m. Voice Vote: ALL AYES.

Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 7:09 p.m.


City Recorder Alissa Kolodzinski

Attest:


Mayor Tonya Graham

Water Management and Conservation Plan Update

November 20, 2023

City of Ashland Council Study Session



Today's Topics

1. Overview of Water Management and Conservation Plan (WMCP)
2. Summary of major elements of Ashland's WMCP and public involvement process
3. Q & A
4. Next steps

Project Background and Purposes

- Oregon Administrative Rules 690-086
- WMCPs updated every 10 years
- Previous WMCP approved by Oregon Water Resources Department in 2013
- WMCP pertains to use of stored water in Lost Creek Reservoir: Permit S-54337
- Opportunity to re-evaluate conservation program, obtain public input, and consider climate change impacts on water resources

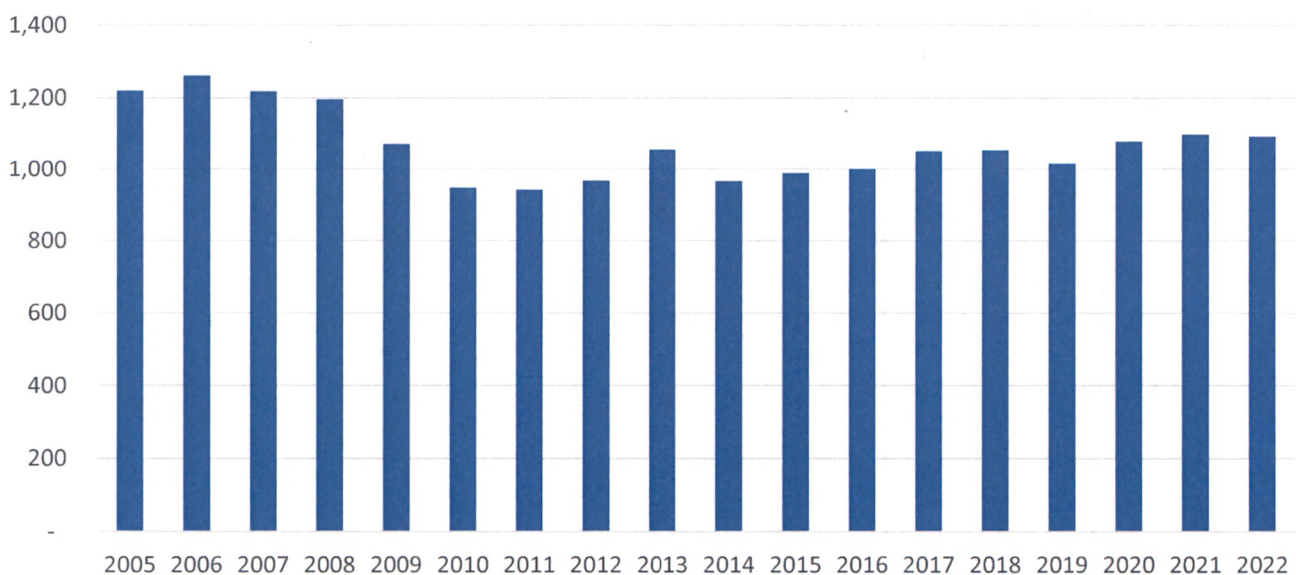
Water Management and Conservation Plan Overview

- Descriptions of:
 - Historical water supply/water use
 - Water management and conservation measures and benchmarks
 - Water curtailment plan
 - Water demand projections and supply analysis

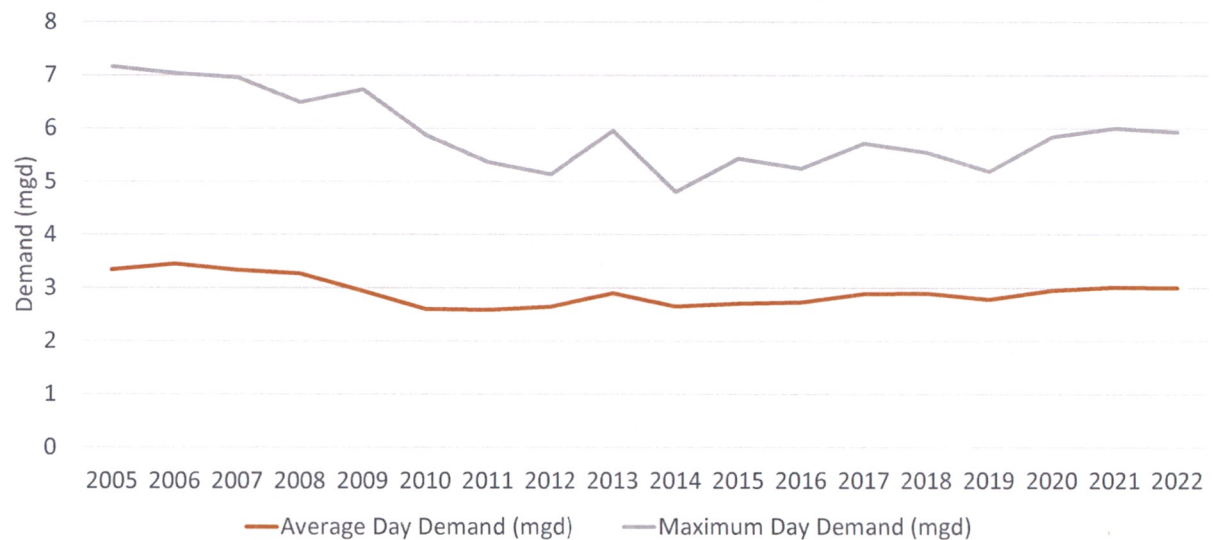
Public Involvement in WMCP Development

- 6-member Management Advisory Committee
 - 4 meetings and collaboration
 - Helped define future conservation programming
 - Provided input on curtailment planning
 - Reviewed climate change study/water supply analysis
 - Reviewed draft WMCP and provided input
- Draft WMCP reviewed by Climate and Environmental Policy Advisory Committee
- Draft WMCP posted on City website for public input

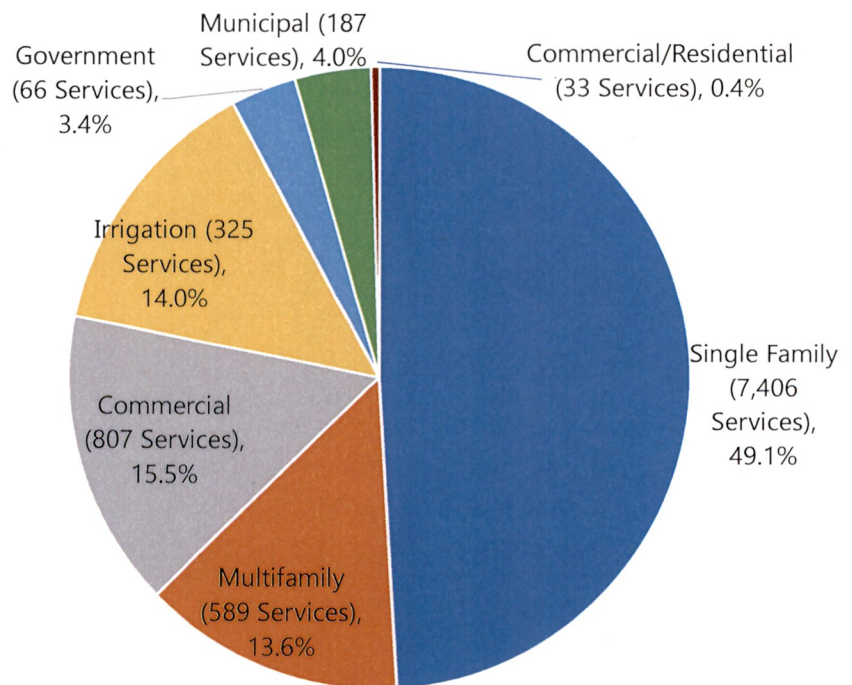
Annual Water Demand



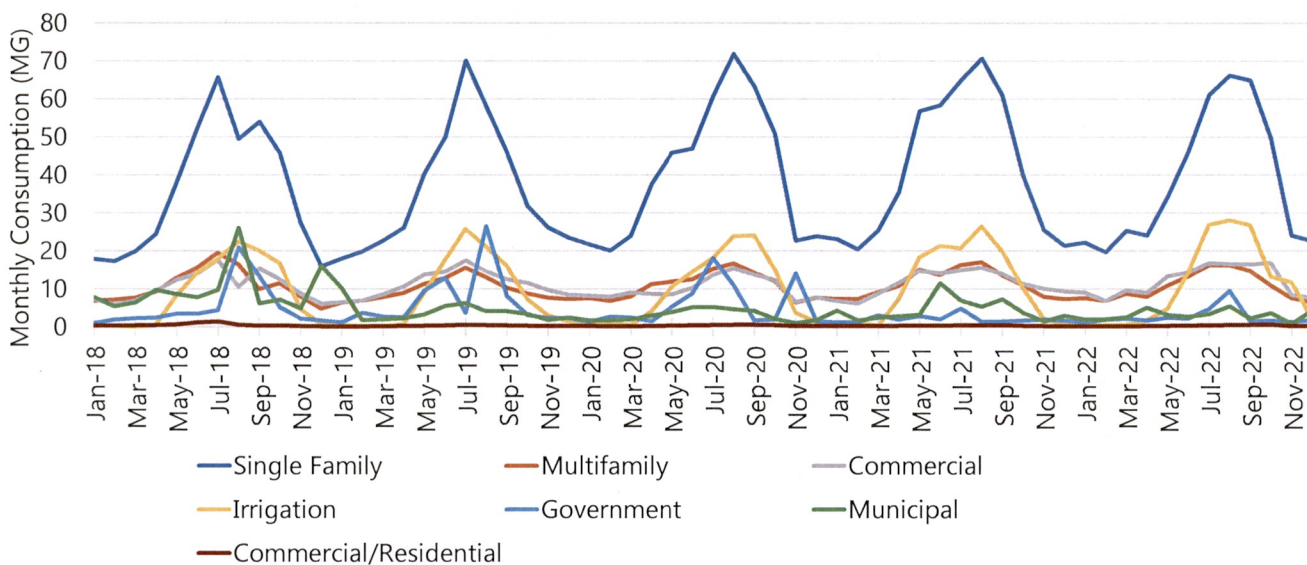
Average & Maximum Day Demands



2022 Water Service Connections & Consumption



Monthly Water Consumption



Water Loss

- **Loss = Demand – Consumption**
- **2022: Large leak contributed to loss**

Year	Water Loss as % of Total Water Demand
2018	7.2%
2019	9.3%
2020	9.9%
2021	9.3%
2022	14.1%
5-Year Avg.	10.0%

Conservation Program

- Ashland’s current program exceeds requirements
- Broad array of conservation measures
 - Ex.: technical assistance (e.g. irrigation audits), financial assistance (e.g. rebates), education and outreach (e.g. waterwise landscaping website)
- Advisory Committee and City staff developed a priority list of conservation measures to help expand or enhance program as resources allow

Meter Testing and Maintenance	• Establish a five-year testing program for master meters by 2025 and begin testing these meters in 2026
Public Education	• Maintain existing level of public education programming, with modifications over time to accommodate shifts in priorities and available resources
Technical and Financial Assistance	• Within two years, begin performing irrigation system evaluations at City parks • Within two years, provide financial incentives for irrigation contractors to install water-wise landscapes
Retrofit or Replacement of Fixtures	• Within two years, provide water efficiency grants to install water efficient fixtures to low-income residents
Rate Structure and Billing Practices	• Over the next two years, consider revising commodity charges to make more progressive
Water Reuse	• Continue promoting graywater and rain catchment systems • Within the next five years, consider studying a potentially feasible large-scale reclaimed water use project

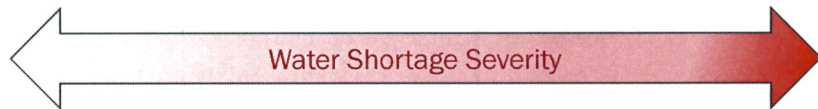
Select Conservation Measures

Water Curtailment Plan

- 5 stages of alert to address range of potential water supply shortage events
- Triggers for each stage
- Curtailment measures for each stage, progressively more stringent
- Alignment with Medford Water Commission

Stage 1: Least Severe

Stage 5: Most Severe



13

Water Curtailment Plan

Curtailment Stage	Trigger Example	Curtailment Measure Examples
Early Stages	Awareness of the potential for water supply shortage	Voluntary measures • City to limit water main flushing • Limit landscape irrigation
Mid-Stages	Demand may or will reach or exceed system capacity	Mandatory measures • Limited use of irrigation to certain day of week • Cease water distribution system line extensions
Final Stage	Near system or full system failure	Mandatory measures • Implement temporary rate surcharges • Customer usage limited to basic health and safety needs

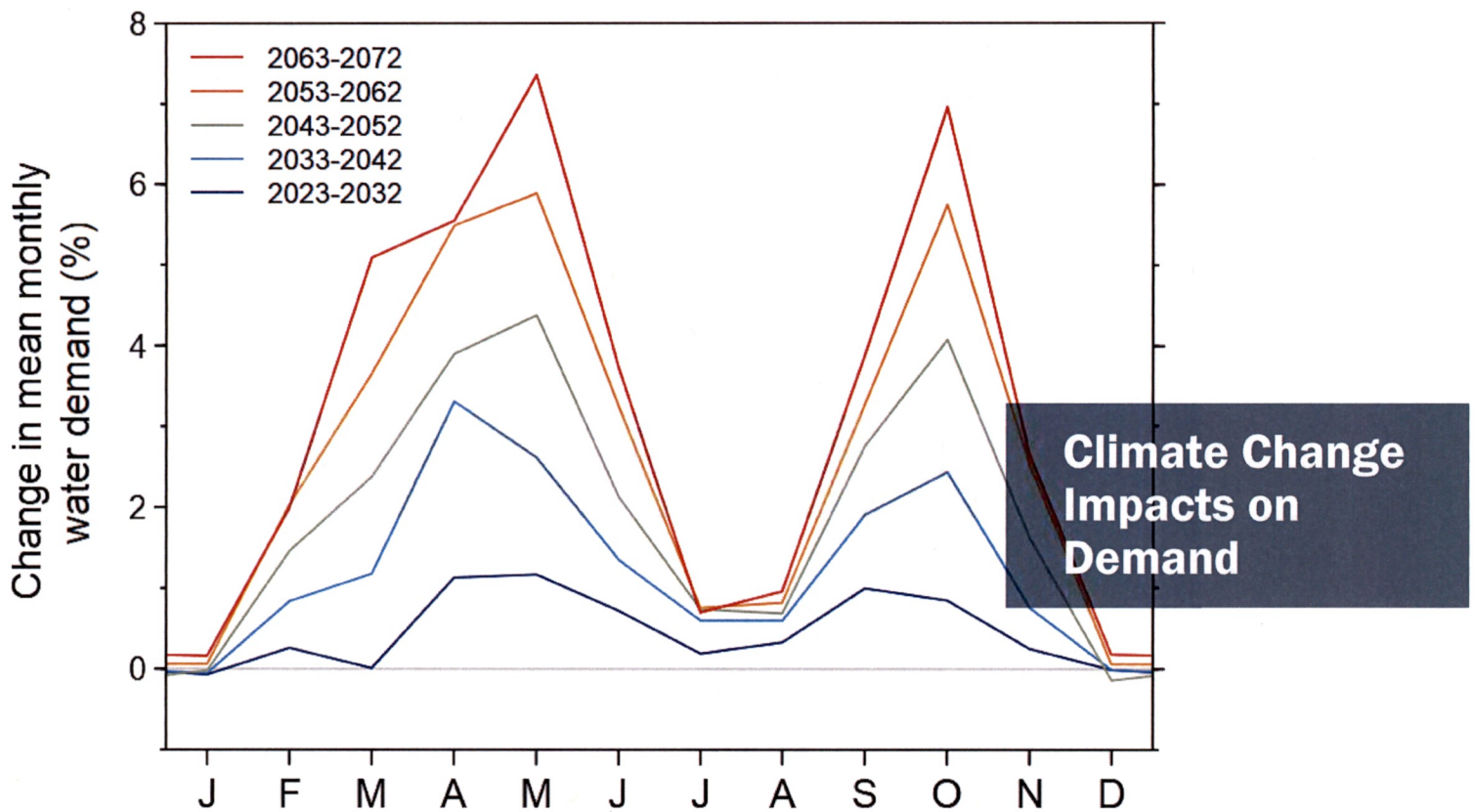
Supply Element

- Future demand
 - Projection of demands in 10, 20, and 50-year planning horizons
 - Primary driver: projected population growth
 - Addressed projected impacts of climate change

15

Climate Impacts Analysis

- Conducted by Oregon Climate Change Research Institute's David Rupp, PhD
- Assessed impacts to 2073 on:
 - Water system demand
 - Local sources of supply



Demand Projections

	Annual Demand (MG)	Peak Season (May - September) Demand (MG)	Average Day Demand (mgd)	Maximum Day Demand (mgd)	Peaking Factor	UGB Population	Per Capita Daily Demand (gpcd)
2033	1,177	722	3.22	5.81	1.80	23,611	137
2043	1,243	763	3.40	6.09	1.79	24,710	138
2053	1,320	808	3.62	6.41	1.77	25,942	139
2063	1,396	852	3.82	6.71	1.75	27,164	141
2073	1,471	895	4.03	7.00	1.74	28,379	142

Supply Analysis

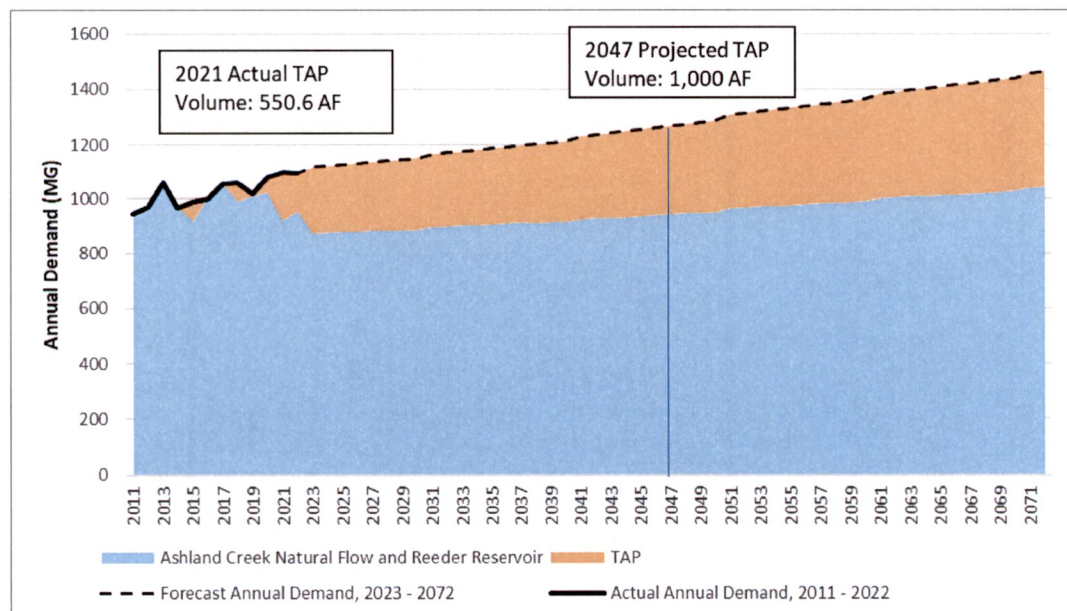
Percent Flow Change in E. & W. Fork Ashland Creeks from Baseline

Month	Decade					
	2021 – 2030	2031 – 2040	2041 – 2050	2051 – 2060	2061 – 2070	2071 – 2080
Jan	20%	28%	38%	50%	80%	94%
Feb	13%	26%	45%	61%	83%	88%
Mar	9%	18%	30%	35%	45%	42%
Apr	5%	7%	6%	1%	-6%	-19%
May	-7%	-17%	-29%	-42%	-52%	-61%
Jun	-21%	-40%	-51%	-65%	-71%	-76%
Jul	-15%	-32%	-36%	-47%	-45%	-49%
Aug	-4%	-6%	-8%	-9%	-8%	-8%
Sep	5%	-1%	-3%	-10%	-8%	-9%
Oct	2%	2%	-10%	-12%	-21%	-13%
Nov	14%	19%	26%	26%	31%	36%
Dec	25%	36%	51%	55%	74%	87%

GSI Water Solutions, Inc.

19

Supply Analysis (continued)



GSI Water Solutions, Inc.

20

Climate Change Analysis: Summary of Results

- Climate change is projected to increase demands
- Drought will continue to have the largest impact on supply and demand compared to climate change impacts
- These factors are expected to:
 - Extend peak season, increasing total peak season demand
 - Increase Ashland's reliance on water from Lost Creek Reservoir over time

Supply analysis

- Conclusion
 - WMCP requests the City gain full access its 1,000 acre-feet Lost Creek Reservoir water rights
 - City's current sequencing of use of its sources of supply appropriate to meet future demands

Next Steps

- Draft WMCP to “affected” local governments (December)
- Draft WMCP to OWRD (January)
- OWRD comments incorporated in WMCP (est. March)
- Final order issued by OWRD (est. May)

Measure	Major Benefits	Major Barriers	Measure Status ¹	Resources Currently Available (time, budget, staff) via IGA with Medford Water ²	Potential for Water Reduction ³	Level of Effort to Implement & Maintain	Recommended Timing of Implementation ⁴	Measure Source	Basis of Potential for Water Reduction ⁵	Correlate w/ WMCP Conservation Section
<i>On the City's conservation webpage, cross-reference Fire Adaptive Landscaping (FAL) information from www.fireadaptedashland.org</i>	Merges two mutually-beneficial landscaping techniques	City does not have a staff position to update website	Partially in process	Not currently	High	High	Short-term	Advisory Committee	City's 2018 water savings and cost-effectiveness analysis (DSS) model ranks Education and Outreach as providing high water savings relative to other measures modeled.	Outreach & Education
<i>Re-instate utility bill conservation newsletter</i>	• Low effort • High visibility	City does not have a staff position to lead communication efforts	For implementation	Yes	High	High	Short-term	Advisory Committee	DSS model ranks Education and Outreach as providing high water savings relative to other measures modeled.	Outreach & Education
<i>Increase social media presence</i>	• Low effort • High visibility	City does not have a staff position to lead communication efforts	For implementation	Yes	High	High	Short-term	Advisory Committee	DSS model ranks Education and Outreach as providing high water savings relative to other measures modeled.	Outreach & Education
<i>City's website should be easier to find information about FAL</i>	Easy-to-access resource for customers	City does not have a staff position to update website	For implementation	Yes	High	High	Short-term	Advisory Committee	DSS model ranks Education and Outreach as providing high water savings relative to other measures modeled	Outreach & Education
<i>Expand kids conservation page on City website</i>	Expands outreach	None initially identified	For implementation	Not currently	High	High	Short-term	City staff	DSS model ranks Education and Outreach as providing high water savings relative to other measures modeled.	Outreach & Education

From: 
To: [City Council; comment to the council council](#)
Subject: Comments from Larry Cooper on the WMP
Date: Monday, November 20, 2023 5:44:19 PM

[EXTERNAL SENDER]

In case I'm not able to step up to my laptop in the middle of dinner to deliver my comments, here's the text: For November 20, 2023 meeting

I'm Larry Cooper and I served on the Water Management Plan advisory committee. I think there is consensus from the community that the WMP should be adopted, but we also agreed that more needs to be done towards increased future water conservation by the city and its water users.

1. It has been 3 years that Ashland has been without a water conservation specialist
2. We have taken advantage of part time water conservation services from the Medford Water Commission during that time
3. It's time for Ashland to prioritized water conservation once again so that we can be prepared for the coming water supply changes that are described in the WMP.

Here is why Ashland must again pursue an aggressive water conservtion program: First, We know from the WMP that our water supply during peak season demand will be declining in the future and at the same time there will be some increased demand from growth in the community.

Secondly, Ashland is looked to as a regional leader in water conservation, along with the Medford Water Commission, and it makes sense, given our strong history in creating and implementing an effective water conservation program, that we should lead in this area going forward.

Third, Ashland is part of an intergovernmental Agreement that provides for sharing water among the various munitipalities that have water rights to Lost Creek, so it is in our interest to promote water conservation both here in Ashland as well as throughout the communities of the Bear Creek watershed. The benefit to having a strong water conservation program is that when water emergencies like droughts and fires occur in the future, which we know they will, we will be more resilient with our water supply and distribution system.

The water management plan provides clear support for stronger water conservation measures going forward.

The City of Ashland needs to support water conservation with a budget and a plan for recruiting, hiring, and maintaining a qualified water conservation specialist for our community. **THIS ACTION IS CALLED FOR BY THE CEPAC AND OUR CEAP!**

Also, there has been strong evidence gathered by community organizations such as the Ashland Climate Collaborative over the last 3 years that there is both demand and need for more City of Ashland support for community members who are ready to save water and use water more wisely. We just need more guidance and support.

Study Sessions

Speaker Request Form

THIS FORM IS A PUBLIC RECORD
ALL INFORMATION PROVIDED WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC
THOSE INTERESTED IN GIVING ORAL TESTIMONY AT A COUNCIL MEETING WILL NEED TO:

- 1) Complete this form, including the topic you want to speak on and send to the City Recorder:
<mailto:melissa.huhtala@ashland.or.us>
- 2) Begin the oral testimony during the meeting by stating your name for the record.
- 3) Limit your comments to the amount of time given to you by the Mayor, usually 3 or 5 minutes.
- 4) If you present written materials, please email a copy of the materials with this form to the City Recorder for the record.
- 5) Speakers are solely responsible for the content of their public statement.

Meeting Date 11/

Name Hebbie Neiswander

Study Session

Agenda topic/item number/Topic homelessness

The Public Meeting Law requires that all city meetings are open to the public. Oregon law does not always require that the public be permitted to speak.

Comments and statements by speakers do not represent the opinion of the City Council, City Officers or employees or the City of Ashland.

Study Sessions

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- 5) You may give written comments to the City Recorder for the record if you do not wish to speak. (Comments can be added to the back of this sheet if necessary)
- 6) Speakers are solely responsible for the content of their public statement.

Meeting Date 11/20/2022

Name MARK BRANLAIN

Study Session

Agenda topic/item number/Topic PUBLIC Forum

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Study Sessions

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Meeting Date	<u>Nov 20</u>
Name	<u>Kate Jackson</u>

Study Session

Agenda topic/item number/Topic WMCB

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