

HB 3163 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water**

Action Date: 04/03/23**Action:** Do pass with amendments and be referred to Ways and Means. (Printed A-Eng.)**Vote:** 9-0-0-0**Yeas:** 9 - Boice, Gamba, Hartman, Helm, Levy B, Marsh, McLain, Owens, Scharf**Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued**Revenue:** No revenue impact**Prepared By:** Anna Glueder, LPRO Analyst**Meeting Dates:** 3/2, 3/7, 4/3

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes the Place-Based Water Planning Fund consisting of funds appropriated by the Legislative Assembly as well as public and private moneys. Continuously **appropriates fund moneys** to the Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) for purposes related to water planning. Authorizes the Water Resources Director (Director) to award grants from the fund to support place-based integrated water resources planning. Specifies as **eligible expenses** the costs of filling gaps in state, tribal, and local capacity, knowledge, and skill sets; developing data and associated analyses specific to a place-based integrated water resources plan (IWRP); assessing critical issues within the planning area; building knowledge and relationships among state agencies, interested organizations, and people who are associated with the planning area; assisting groups with preparing and assessing readiness to engage in relevant planning, and building the capacity of a community; facilitating and managing a collaborative planning process; developing or supporting the development of a place-based IWRP and facilitating relevant public participation, including by members of environmental justice communities; updating a state-recognized place-based IWRP; and implementation coordination. Specifies that **grants may be awarded to** persons, public bodies, Indian tribes, and nonprofit organizations and as part of cost sharing with other programs that support place-based integrated water resources planning. Authorizes OWRD to require cost matching by applicants. Authorizes the Director to use fund moneys for specified agreements and contracting to further place-based integrated water resources planning. Requires the **Director, prior to issuing grants**, to consult with the **Department of Environmental Quality, the Department of Land Conservation and Development, the Oregon Health Authority, the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, the Oregon Department of Agriculture, and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife** regarding their capacity to participate and provide information and assistance regarding application and planning efforts and authorizes these departments to provide technical information and assistance to applicants and grant recipients. Directs the **Director to notify** county and tribal governments within the proposed planning boundary of an application. Requires the Oregon Water Resources Commission (commission) to consider state-recognized place-based integrated water resources plans when updating the integrated state water resources strategy. Allows the **commission to adopt rules** regarding clarifying eligible expenditures, prioritization of funding issuance, requirements for promoting community participation and engaging environmental justice communities, criteria and process for state recognition of a place-based IWRP, implementation of actions, and reporting and other requirements necessary to maintain the status of a state-recognized place-based IWRP. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- History and collaborative effort behind the Place-Based Water Planning Fund
- Importance of place-based planning in Oregon
- Implementation of place-based planning

This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.

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- Place-based planning process

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Replaces all provisions except those establishing the Place-Based Water Planning Fund (fund) and the emergency clause. Authorizes the Water Resources Director (Director) to award grants from the fund to support place-based integrated water resources planning. Specifies as **eligible expenses** the costs of filling gaps in state, tribal, and local capacity, knowledge, and skill sets; developing data and associated analyses specific to a place-based integrated water resources plan (IWRP); assessing critical issues within the planning area; building knowledge and relationships among state agencies, interested organizations, and people who are associated with the planning area; assisting groups with preparing and assessing readiness to engage in relevant planning and building the capacity of a community; facilitating and managing a collaborative planning process; developing or supporting the development of a place-based IWRP and facilitating relevant public participation including by members of environmental justice communities; updating a state-recognized place-based IWRP; and implementation coordination. Specifies that **grants may be awarded to** persons, public bodies, Indian tribes, and nonprofit organizations and as part of cost sharing with other programs that support place-based integrated water resources planning. Authorizes the Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) to require cost matching by applicants. Authorizes the Director to use fund moneys for specified agreements and contracting to further place-based integrated water resources planning. Requires the **Director, prior to issuing grants**, to consult with the **Department of Environmental Quality**, the **Department of Land Conservation and Development**, the **Oregon Health Authority**, the **Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board**, the **Oregon Department of Agriculture**, and the **Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife** regarding their capacity to participate and provide information and assistance regarding application and planning efforts and authorizes these departments to provide technical information and assistance to applicants and grant recipients. Directs the **Director to notify** county and tribal governments within the proposed planning boundary of an application. Requires the Oregon Water Resources Commission (commission) to consider state-recognized place-based integrated water resources plans when updating the integrated state water resources strategy. Allows the **commission to adopt rules** regarding clarifying eligible expenditures, prioritization of funding issuance, requirements for promoting community participation and engaging environmental justice communities, criteria and process for state recognition of a place-based IWRP, implementation of actions, and reporting and other requirements necessary to maintain the status of a state-recognized place-based IWRP.

BACKGROUND:

In 2015, the Oregon legislature authorized the Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) to pilot a place-based approach to integrated water resources planning by making grants and providing technical assistance to communities to engage in place-based planning. Place-based planning is voluntary, locally led, and tailored to specific water resource needs and challenges of the location in which planning efforts take place. Participating communities are required to build a collaborative and inclusive process; gather information to understand water resources and identify knowledge gaps; examine current and future water needs for people, places, and nature; identify and prioritize strategic, integrated solutions to addressing water needs; and develop a place-based integrated water resources plan (place-based IWRP). In 2019, House Bill 2084 extended the sunset date of place-based IWRP program from July 1, 2019 to July 1, 2023. Current grant recipients participating in the pilot program include the Harney County Watershed Council in the Malheur Lake Basin, Union County in the Upper Grande Ronde Sub-Basin, Gilliam Soil and Water Conservation District in the Lower John Day Sub-Basin, and the Seal Rock Water District in the Mid-Coast Basin.

House Bill 3163 A would establish the Place-Based Water Planning Fund, specify criteria under which the Water Resources Director is directed to disburse grants related to place-based water planning, and require the Water Resources Commission to adopt rules regarding state recognition of a place-based integrated water resources plan.