

MEMO

To: Yachats City Council

From: Sam Hillmann, RARE Associate

Date: 2/25/2021

Subject: Water Planning Progress



Update: In light of the election of new council a progress report on the status of the water planning projects the city is engaged in has been requested to make sure council is informed. There are two active water planning projects currently: The Water Master Plan and the Drinking Water Protection Plan.

The Water Master Plan is undergoing a 20 year-update contracted with the engineering firm WesTech. The update began in January of 2019 and was funded through a 2-year grant that expired in January of 2021. The grant was extended, and the Master Plan is currently scheduled to be completed in early August of 2021. The Water Master Plan contains all the information regarding the city's water source and system as well as recommendations for future capital improvement. It also contains the city's water conservation and management plan which outlines actions for further water conservation within the system. WesTechs main point of contact throughout the process has been Yachats Water Lead, Rick McClung.

The Drinking Water Protection Plan is in the process of being developed to identify potential threats to the cities drinking water sources and identify potential strategies for mitigating or eliminating risk. The planning process began in 2020 and is being produced by the consulting firm GSI Water Solutions Inc. The planning process is being funded by a grant from the Oregon Health Authority. The city has established a team of city staff, citizens, regional water experts, and partner organizations that meet with GSI monthly to assist in the formation of the plan and act as the main point of contact. The most recent team meeting was February 26th where the team provided feedback on the drafted plan as well as the draft implementation plan that outlined suggested actions for water protection over the next three years. The next team meeting will be in late March to review final edits before publishing the document for public comment. The GSI planners held a public input meeting in September of 2020 to gather initial input and will hold another public input meeting in April of 2021 to gather feedback on the completed draft of the plan. The plan should be complete by August of 2021.