

**Southern Willamette Valley Groundwater Management Area (GWMA)
Committee Meeting - January 24, 2008
Dari Mart offices 125 E. 6th Junction City**

Present: Tim Bunnell (City Public Water Supply Operator)*, Sue Lurie (Natural Resources Representative)*, , Judy Volta (Coburg Mayor)*, Lanny Zoeller (Realtor)*, Dennis Boeger (Engineering Consultant)*, Roger Haffner (Wilbur-Ellis Farm Supplements)*, Rick Partipilo (Linn County Environmental Health)*, Pat Straube (Citizen and CAFO Representative), George Pugh (Linn County Farmer), Audrey Eldridge (Department of Environmental Quality) , Denise Kalakay (Lane Council of Governments), Nicholas Chambers (Department of Agriculture), Kevin Fenn (Department of Agriculture), Alan Henning (Environmental Protection Agency), Jacqueline Fern (Department of Environmental Quality), Ross Penhallegan (OSU Extension Service), Kelly Hoell (Good Company), Jim Anderson (Truck and Travel), Jim Pendergrass (Long Tom Watershed Council), Tom Pattee (Department of Human Services), Ed Moore (Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development)

Committee Members Absent: Annabelle Jaramillo (Benton County Commissioner), Linda Modrell (Benton County Commissioner), Karen Strohmeier (Cascade Pacific RC&D), Rich Margerum (Long Tom Watershed Council), Mike Warner (Marathon Coach), Frank Wright (Citizen and Small Business Representative), Faye Stewart (Lane County Commissioner), Jerry Marguth (Farmer).

Announcements, Introductions, Adjustments to Agenda

Chair Tim Bunnell opened the meeting with announcements and introductions. The GWMA Committee and the audience introduced themselves.

Public Comment

None

New Committee Memberships

Audrey Eldridge announced that Rick Partipilo has been officially appointed as a Committee member as a replacement for Commissioner Cliff Wooten. Commissioner Wooten resigned his Committee seat over a year ago due to complications within his agency. Rick has had many years of experience as the head of Linn County Environmental Health, and is also active in the GWMA Technical On-site Committee. Audrey also noted that Mr. Anderson is considering joining the group as a replacement for Mike Warner's seat on the Committee as a Commercial/Industrial representative.

Review Ground Rules

Denise Kalakay stated that since the Ground Rules were adopted three years ago and might influence the Election of Chair and Vice Chair topic it was timely to review all of the ground rules to make sure they were still what the Committee wanted to operate

under. The Committee reviewed the Ground Rules section by section. The section generating some discussion was the section pertaining to the election of officers. At the last meeting, where there was not a quorum, Denise reminded the group that it was suggested that the vice chair automatically succeed the chair. Several Committee members were concerned that a clause like that might limit the people who would be willing to be a vice chair since that could be a four year commitment. The Committee decided by consensus to leave all of the Ground Rules as they are and not change anything.

Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Lanny was nominated to be Chair of the Committee. The Committee “voted” to elect Lanny as the new Chair. Lanny nominated Roger as Vice Chair. The Committee “voted” Roger in as Vice Chair of the Committee. Audrey thanked Tim for his three plus years of service to the Committee as Chair and presented him with a small gift. According to the Ground Rules, Tim remained as Chair for the remainder of the meeting and the office will change starting the next meeting.

Education Grant Proposal

This item was moved up on the agenda so that Mayor Judy Volta would have a chance to talk about her grant proposal since she had to leave prior to the end of the meeting. Mayor Volta has submitted an education grant proposal to the EPA. The concept is for education and outreach to occur by school children as “traveling raindrops”. Kids learn about water reclamation and teach their parents. Mayor Volta also thanked the Committee for a letter of support that helped generate a 8 million dollar check for Coburg’s new wastewater treatment facility.

Meeting Time and Location

Denise Kalakay asked the Committee what they wanted to do about the meeting time and location. She reminded the group that at the last meeting it was suggested that the Committee meet quarterly instead of every six months and wanted to confirm that that was what the group wanted. It was agreed to meet every three months on the last Thursday of that month, with the next meeting being April 24. Tim Bunnell explained that Harrisburg City Hall is now being used by the courts most mornings making it unavailable on an on-going basis for the Committee. Pat Straube offered to let the Committee use the Dari Mart offices meeting room and the Committee decided to make the Junction City location the place for future meetings.

Update on Action Plan Implementation Items

Onsite Technical Group, Audrey Eldridge and Rick Partipilo:

Audrey asked Rick Partipilo to take the lead in talking about the onsite technical group. Rick said that a small group of people interested in onsite wastewater treatment issues. This group met to discuss issues that might be of interest to a yet to be formed onsite technical group associated with the GWMA Committee and potentially other entities state wide. Participants at the Eugene meeting included Rick Partipillo, Linn County; Denise Kalakay, LCOG; Audrey Eldridge and Zach Loboy, DEQ; and Barbara Rich,

Deschutes County. A main focus of the meeting was on the onsite rules. The timeline for rule revisions is out around 2010 – 2011.

There is reference to nitrate standards in the rules but those are about 30 years old. There may be value in having the DEQ look at the areas in the rules where nitrate standards exist to determine if they are sufficient. The newer rules do include sections related to alternative systems, such as a requirement for a time of sale inspection. Rick noted that the on-site program may need to standardize training and make a requirement that all systems be inspected at time of sale.

A question posed to the Committee is “What is the Committee’s role in onsite issues, rulemaking in particular? Audrey noted that the technical committee will be meeting periodically on an on-going basis.

Lanny asked what the “change cost” is if rules change and noted that there is often a “trickle down” effect with rule changes. Rick noted that there was nothing specific as to cost and impacts at this time, but that this can be a double-edged sword. Advance treatment systems can allow for development of land that is currently not developable, albeit at a higher cost. He also noted that the DEQ is currently auditing counties in terms of how the onsite rules are applied by the counties. Counties do not always apply the rules equally. Jim Pendergrass stated that it seems like the onsite group is the right vehicle to explore the onsite issues and bring thoughts/recommendations to the Committee for consideration. Jim Anderson stated that rules can be burdensome to the end user and Lanny added that it would be important to take into account end-user rights and needs. Dennis Boeger talked about the Hermiston Area GWMA and how commercial treatment facilities had to meet strict standards. Audrey clarified that commercial facilities with WPCF permits are treated (permitted) differently than residential on-site systems which may explain these requirements.

The Committee agreed that the onsite technical group was worthwhile and would like to be involved early in any review process as to what the technical group is thinking about moving forward with.

Nick Chamber, Crops and CAFOs: Nick introduced Kevin Fenn, who will be taking on Mike Powers (ODA) role in the GWMA. The Department of Agriculture (ODA) is working with the 8 confined animal feeding operations (CAFOs) in the GWMA reviewing permits and their Water Quality Management Plans. He noted that there have been changes in at least two facilities that might change the Management Plans. One facility is now having cows out on the fields needing to factor in the waste distributed on the fields. The second facility may have some issues of biosolids waste application timing and elevated nitrate levels could be due to past or current activities. It is both a tricky and sensitive situation. The ODA would like to conduct some sampling but have to get permission from property owners. Pat Straube stated that the largest CAFO is probably her family’s Dari Mart operation with about 1,000 cows. Lanny asked if the ODA is testing any former CAFO sites and Nick stated that currently the ODA is not testing those sites.

Nick noted that Melissa Fery with OSU Extension would be teaching Rural Living Basics classes in Coburg and Harrisburg soon. Pat suggested advertising in little newspapers like the Tri-county News. Jacqueline Fern explained that there is an established protocol for news releases promoting Extension Service activities, but it would be good to check whether this includes smaller papers.

Jacqueline Fern, Residential: Jackie talked about efforts to integrate drinking water protection concepts into school curriculum. She recently met with several school principals to initiate this work. One idea is through career-development or senior projects that are required and/or integrating into the science classes. Jackie plans on meeting with the Vocational Agriculture Programs associated with GWMA schools. John Broom with LCCs Farm Business Program might also provide some useful information. Jackie continues to offer water quality talks with OSU Extension's Master Gardener Program which is a good place to get information to and get the information distributed. Rick suggested putting out information on best practices being employed in various situations.

Denise Kalakay, Public Water System Workshops: Denise highlighted the workshops/meetings that Lane County public water systems have been engaged in. A workshop was held about a year ago where about 30 different water system operators and city administrators came together to learn about protecting their systems. A follow-up meeting was held in October with a focus on identifying and prioritizing actions that Lane County could take to protect multiple water systems. Denise shared a handout of those priorities and noted how they were very similar to the priorities identified by the GWMA Public Water System Working Group and GWMA Committee. Sixteen systems took part in the meeting representing about 75 percent of Lane County's population and 90 percent of the population served by public water systems in Lane County. Representatives of the group then went to the Lane County Board of County Commissioners with the request to "consider" taking actions that would help protect public water supplies. The County Board asked Lane County staff to develop a work program that would outline integrating drinking water protection more fully into county efforts.

Funding Opportunities

Audrey Eldridge told the Committee about several grants being sought that relate to the GWMA. Lane Council of Governments has submitted a grant to the Governors Fund, which would allow for the collection of Legacy Pesticides in Linn and Benton Counties. This would follow the same plan as the last very successful collection event in Lane County. LCOG and OSU Extension Service have prepared grant proposals for the 319 (Clean Water) funds. These two proposals would include the planning Action Kit for the local jurisdictions and additional Rural Living Basics classes. OSU Extension also applied for an education grant through EPA and an OSU graduate student applied for a grant to the Institute of Water and Watersheds to complete a survey of the GWMA residents. Rick suggested that such a survey be integrated with total maximum daily load (TMDL) issues.