



Southern Willamette Valley Groundwater Management Area

**Groundwater Management Area Committee Meeting Notes
April 22, 2010 8:00-10:00 AM
Harrisburg Old City Hall**

In Attendance:

Attendance: Tim Bunnell (City Public Water Supply Operator)*, Judy Volta (Coburg Mayor)*, Lanny Zoeller (Realtor)*, George Pugh*, Roger Haffner (Wilbur-Ellis Co.)*, Audrey Eldridge (Department of Environmental Quality), Denise Kalakay (Lane Council of Governments), Jacob Callister (Lane Council of Governments) Tom Pattee (Department of Human Services), Bill Emminger (Benton County, Environmental Health), Jan Heron (Linn County Environmental Health), Donna Schmitz (Benton Soil and Water Conservation Service), Peter Jensen (Linn Soil and Water Conservation Service), Kevin Seifert (Linn Soil and Water Conservation Service), Ross Penhallegon (OSU Extension), Betsy Parry (DHS Drinking Water Program), Jackie Fern (DEQ--WQ), Shawn Stevenson (DHS Drinking Water Program), Ed Moore (DLCD), Melissa Fery (OSU Ext), Jack Arendt (DEQ), Alan Henning (EPA), Brenda Hoppe (OSU/Oregon Environmental Health), Paul Measeles (ODA), Terry Nelson, David Richey (Lane Council of Governments), Jim Tesoriero (USGS), Angela Boudro (Jackson SWCD), Kyle Whitham (Local Farmer), Derek Brandow (Farmer), George Ehlers (Lane County)

*** denotes Committee member GWMA committee,**

1. Announcements, Introductions, Adjustments to Agenda

Lanny Zoeller, Chair

2. Public Comment

None

3. Approval of Last Meetings Minutes

No Quorum - No Approval

4. What is Happening in the GWMA Hood?

Short updates on the GWMA news and what different groups and communities are doing or have experienced

Judy Volta (Coburg Mayor) commented on Coburg's progress on wastewater. She noted that there were some roadblocks—largely opposition groups. The City Council knew they had the authority to move forward, but decided to take an advisory vote for public support. They put in great amount of effort on education effort and public outreach, and had a task force created to support wastewater. Three town hall meetings were held. Audrey presented about groundwater issues at one town hall meeting. Citizens committee formed in support of wastewater, and they had a good cross section of community. However, there was strong and deep-pocketed opposition. The City's strategy was to talk to everyone! Mayor Volta noted that she made a lot of personal contacts, even going door-to-door. On March 9, the vote came back in support of wastewater. Mayor Volta noted that of 220 in opposition, it was mostly one block of voters. Opposition then established a referendum, so there will be another vote in May. Citizen's committee is working again to get word out. Lenders have been great but want to wait until we get the word in May before we move forward.

Denise Kalakay (Lane Council of Governments) reported on a Tri-County Group (LINN-

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BENTON-LANE) that has been meeting for about three months now. The group is focusing on benefits of collaboration with regard water quality issues, such as: what can we learn from each other, how do we affect each other? Group is ready to be more public and focusing on raising water awareness issues.

Melissa Fery (OSU Extension) shared some information on the Living on Land series, which started last night (April 21, 2010). Living on Land series focused on stewardship for small acreages. Presentation dedicates a lot of time addressing water quality. Melissa noted that they would love to have someone from the GWMA committee come share some GWMA background, Goals, etc. at the Living in the Land 6-9 pm (for about 20 minutes). Lanny said there would be some e-mail coordination to figure out who from GWMA may be able to help out. (Note: Roger Haffner indicated he would help out with this.)

Audrey Eldridge (Oregon DEQ) announced the buffet celebration today in honor of the GWMA 4th years as a "Groundwater Garden Community". She also reported on the February Agricultural workshop took place in Corvallis. Three subgroups resulted from that workshop. 1) "kept up to date" group, 2) "e-mail update group" and 3) "working group"— the folks who will be working on project ideas and research etc.

Daffodil Festival was a great time, and once again the edible aquifer was used to educate kids and their parents on groundwater protection.

Audrey also shared and she and Kevin Fenn (ODA) gave a joint presentation on the GWMA to the National Groundwater Association/Ground Water Protection Council joint Summit. They both got good, positive feedback, and it was noted that Kevin was likely the only agricultural representative present at the Summit.

5. Final Resolution on the GWMA Meeting Frequency/Time

Lanny noted that the committee is outnumbered 18 to 9 at this particular meeting. Some have ideas about changing how we meet. We meet approximately quarterly now. Lanny said that at the last two meetings we had a hard time getting every thing accomplished on the agenda in two hours. Different ideas have been tossed around about when and how long we should meet. When should we meet? Can we skip the entire summer? If we meet every other month can we keep the meeting time down?

Preference seemed to be to keep meetings quarterly--- longer meetings may be appropriate rather than more meetings (travel time increase). Should there be a summer meeting in June? Audrey suggested an idea such as designing a GEOCACHE activity for GWMA for a summer meeting.

Conclusion: June 24th next meeting, September 23rd, then quarterly. Meetings can go longer if necessary, but if it does go over, establish a break time so people don't feel like they are ducking out inappropriately if they need to leave.

6. Review SWV GWMA Strategies – Part I

Discussion and reaction to the question "Are we making sufficient progress?"

Jacob presented a summary of GWMA Action Plan evaluation, and oriented GWMA

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committee members and those present to the summary sheets and forms with greater (and full) detail. Jacob discussed the rating system and how scoring was achieved and how reporting was accomplished. Jacob then presented some highlights and “not so high” lights for each of the Focus Areas (Agriculture, Residential, Commercial/Industrial/Municipal, Public Water Systems). There were several clarifying questions regarding how certain measures were rated or how summary sheets assembled/calculated. Jacob also presented a summary sheet for measures based on Focus Areas and Themes (Funding, Tracking/Implementation, Coordination, Instructional, Information Sharing, Policy, Research and Development).

7. Review SWV GWMA Strategies – Part II

Denise Kalakay, Lane Council of Governments
Continue the progress discussion

Feedback: Some 0s are there because they should have been done but weren't while others may not have been intended to be done as yet. This should be noted somehow. Jake noted that this was taken into consideration but with limited time just hadn't been done yet. Further analysis will call this detail out somehow. It was noted that some measures need to be evaluated and should perhaps be dropped.

It was noted that on the matter of Agricultural BMPs – these may be done but maybe not coordinated. An agency staffer noted that some work has indeed been done for 9 BMPs specific to the GWMA. Denise asked everyone to consider how many accomplishments are “business as usual” tasks. These tasks are probably a good thing, but it's important to determine whether the Action Plan is specifically making a difference. Denise noted that staff would be expecting everyone to chew on this information and that it would be further discussed at the next meeting.

8. Real Estate Transaction Well Water Nitrate Data

Brenda Hoppe discussed her study on Nitrate Concentrations in Residential Wells in Oregon [see presentation here](#).

Q&A:

Bill Emminger expressed his concern that this testing has to be part of a real estate transfer that involves a bank. Transfer of property otherwise is not tracked. This would be a great step: also to include a test for the “first drilling of well”. Brenda noted that in the current environment there is not a lot of enthusiasm about new legislation.

9. Wrap-up

June 24 next meeting, hopefully in Harrisburg. Apologized for the shortness of attendance by the committee. Lanny acknowledged Jackson County representative in attendance.

Jim Tesoriero (USGS) presented his study on Linking Groundwater Age and Chemistry Data to Determine Redox Reaction Rates and Trends in Nitrate Concentrations in Agricultural Areas ([see presentation here](#))