

**Southern Willamette Valley Groundwater Management Area  
Committee meeting minutes  
October 27, 2011 8:00-10:00 AM**

**ATTENDANCE:**

Tim Bunnell\*, Lanny Zoeller\*, Jerry Marguth\*, George Pugh\*, Rick Partipilo\*, Rodger Haffner\*, Pat Straube\*, Linda Modrell\*, Gary Horning\*, Mindi Thornton\*, Audrey Eldridge (Department of Environmental Quality), Denise Kalakay (Lane Council of Governments), Bill Emminger (Benton County Environmental Health), Jacqueline Fern, Chrissy Lucas (OSU Extension), Kevin Fenn (Oregon Department of Agriculture), Tom Pattee (DHS Drinking Water Program), Kevin Seifert (Linn SWCD), Liz VanLeeuwen (Linn SWCD)

*\* denotes Committee member GWMA committee,*

**1. Announcements, Introductions, Adjustments to Agenda 8:00 AM**

Lanny Zoeller, Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:00 AM

**2. Public Comment**

None--

**3. Approval of Last Meetings Minutes**

Motion to approve last Committee Meeting minutes – Motion passed –

**4. What is happening in GWMA- Hood**

Chrissy Lucas, talked about OSU Extensions development of a GWMA related school curriculum. She also described the latest “Kids Day for Conservation” event sponsoring a groundwater booth where kids made edible aquifers. The event was a huge success with over 5,000 participating.

Audrey Eldridge provided a summary of the September 2011 National Groundwater Protection Council meeting. The Groundwater Council consists of representatives from all of the states. Although the focus of the meeting was on “Energy and Water” nutrients issues and groundwater became a focus of the conference. Agencies are saying that “we have to act now”. There is an understanding among those who attended the Groundwater Council conference that surface water and groundwater issues are linked but recognition that this concept is not universally embraced. The Groundwater Council prepares a Groundwater Report to the Nation and a sub-group of the Council will be preparing a Nutrient Section. Audrey is the Chair of that sub-group and welcomes any input along the way to the development of the nutrient section.

## **5. Review of the GWMA Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) Exercise**

Denise provided a summary of the SWOT analysis conducted by a combination of Committee and staff in February 2011. Denise stated that one purpose of the SWOT exercise was to look at the GWMA program as a whole as well as the Action Plan a little more specifically and keeping the discussion broad instead of strategy specific. Denise also explain that the overall purpose of the SWOT was to feed the results into the update of the Action Plan process and to give staff and the Committee some direction.

The group that met in February did a brainstorming session for each of the SWOT categories. After the brainstorm, through a “voting” exercise, group members narrowed the lists generated by identifying priorities under each category. Twenty priority topics were identified.

Denise asked the GWMA Committee if there were critical issues missing from each category. Issues were added and then potential priorities discussed. After discussion for each category, Committee members and staff present were given 6 dots each and asked to “vote” for the issues they thought were the most important to start working on. These issues will then come back at future GWMA Committee meetings as agenda items. Click on this link to see the original prioritized list from the February meeting, the additions made by Committee members, and voting results from the staff and committee dot exercise. [Link to the SWOT here.](#)

## **6. Groundwater Monitoring Results**

Audrey presented the latest monitoring trends evolving from the long-term monitoring program. Audrey reports that after 21 sampling events – once every three months – we can say there are some areas that can be indentified as surface water dominated (at least part of the time) and other areas where there are clear nitrate trends. Unfortunately, this year there was an average increase of 0.71mg/L for all the monitoring wells, when compared to last year’s average.

Her presentation can be found here – [Presentation](#)

## **7. Agriculture Working Group and Action Plan Update**

Kevin Fenn shared information on the Agricultural Working Group review and critique of the revised Agricultural Section of the Action Plan. Kevin explained that the update process started several months ago with input from Department of Agriculture and Soil and Water District staff. Kevin reported that the Overview/Background section of the Agriculture Section of the Action Plan has been updated and there is now a better link with the Water Quality Program. About 17 people attended an Agriculture Working Group meeting including about 7 producers. A link to the Agriculture Working Group meeting notes can be found here: [Presentation](#)

Rick Partipillo asked if the work identified in the strategies will lead to more funding. Kevin Seifert mentioned that 75% of AWIP funds come to Oregon. One need is to have producers signed up already.

**8. Wrap-up and Suggestions for Future Meeting Topics**

Lanny noted that the next meeting is scheduled for February but staff have a schedule conflict. Denise suggested that rather than having the full Committee meet at that time, that instead the time be used for Working Group meetings. The Committee agreed.

The committee approved of the GWMA Staff trying to secure additional funds for specific projects to better understand the groundwater/nitrate issues. Denise noted that during the meeting there had been significant discussion around the research needs issue and also noted that was the issue receiving the most “votes” in the SWOT follow-up exercise. Denise suggested that if a research related funding opportunity comes up in the next few months that it be discussed by e-mail and that the next full committee meeting take up the topic.