

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

ATTENDANCE:

Tim Bunnell*, Lanny Zoeller*, Jerry Marguth*, George Pugh*, Jim Anderson*, Rick Partipilo*, Dennis Boeger*, Pat Straube*, Rich Margerum*, Jim Pendergrass, Audrey Eldridge (Department of Environmental Quality), Denise Kalakay (Lane Council of Governments), Fraser McDonald (Lane Council of Governments), Bill Emminger (Benton County Environmental Health), Stephanie Page(ODA), Brenda Hoppe (DHS), Wym Matthews (ODA), Shawn Stevenson (DHS Drinking Water Program), Betsy Parry (DHS Drinking Water Program), Terry Nelson (Resident), Chrissy Lucas (OSU Extension), Kevin Fenn (Oregon Department of Agriculture), Tom Pattee (DHS Drinking Water Program), Tucker Selco (OSU Student), Taber Burton (Benton SWCD), Donna Schmitz (Benton SWCD), Dave Downing (UW SWCD), Jack Arendt (ODEQ), Kevin Seifert (Linn SWCD), David Hammer (EPA), Steve Klein (EPA), Keli Kuykendall (CPRC&D), Kathy Ferge (CPRC&D), Heather Median-Sauceda (NRCS)

** denotes Committee member GWMA committee,*

1. Announcements, Introductions, Adjustments to Agenda 8:00 - 8:05 AM

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

2. Public Comment 8:05 - 8:10 AM

None--

3. Approval of Last Meetings Minutes 8:10 - 8:15 AM

Motion to approve October 2010 Committee Meeting minutes – Motion passed –

4. What is happening in GWMA- Hood

Dennis Boeger had an update on SB 83 proposed by DEQ. This Bill provides the financial means to repair failing septic systems, allows a greater education in general regarding the aspects of these systems, and will therefore directly reduce the impact to the public health and the environment. Dennis was seeking input and support from the committee for the bill as it goes through the policy process. Dennis asked for a letter of support from the Committee. Randall Trox of DEQ (Eugene) is the contact for more information.

Bill Emminger (Benton County Environmental Health and Safety) asked about funding sources to do community surveys to look at community based solutions- Pat Straube was wondering what amount of money this would entail.

Chrissy Lucas (OSU Extension - Benton County) asked the committee about she should report success stories. She discussed increased numbers of people bringing in well water to be screened for nitrates. In particular she had met with one family who after implementing a number of the BMP's were able to bring their nitrate levels

down. Following this report the main conversation focused on how to get this type of anecdotal information out so that it gets reported and people can see progress. In response to this question, another question was asked about qualitative vs. quantitative figures and what gets reported. It was not clear that there was an easy way to report personal stories like the one presented by Chrissy.

Kevin Fenn (ODA) reported to the Committee on the reasons why the application for an NRCS AWAP grant was not funded. The reasons discussed were applicable to both water quality and quantity, the cost-share was only a 50%, and the need to have specific geographic areas already in mind. Kevin thinks that in order to receive the grant in 2012 priority areas within the defined geographic area need to be targeted. Also identification of priority landowners to work with and getting their approval upfront. It was suggested that working with partners to find landowners and define priority areas would be the best approach. Interested attendees were asked to stay after the Ad Hoc technical committee meeting to discuss ideas.

Tucker Selco (OSU graduate student) presented his interest in doing a landowner survey that asks folks about BMP's and management practices. He wants to do personal interviews and had an updated survey for folks to look at. Denise asked about personal contacts and Tucker responded that he was working with ODA's GIS folks to develop a list of 750 landowners to interview.

Audrey Eldridge (DEQ) announced that the GWMA committee is now a supporting member of the Junction City Chamber of Commerce. Committee members were invited to attend a dinner and auction on March 5th at Shadow Hills. Audrey asked the group to think about something that could be donated on their behalf for the auction. Audrey also noted to the committee that EPA Region 10 staff will be attending the April 2011 GWMAC meeting.

5. Action Plan SWOT

Denise presented three options to the committee on how to proceed with the SWOT for the GWMA action plan. Of the three options presented consensus formed around option number three, which was:

Staff/GWMA Committee review SWOT → GWMA Committee → Working groups

The date discussed for the 1st SWOT meeting was Tuesday 2/15 in the morning. The committee needs to look at how to get representation for all four stakeholder groups addressed in the action plan (AG/ Rural Residential/ Public water providers etc)

6. Update on Southern Linn County Groundwater

Audrey gave an update and reported that she had heard about a case of blue baby Syndrome in the area of a well that tested high. She also discussed that blue baby syndrome is not tracked by DHS as BBS and instead is reported as a respiratory case.

7. GWMA Chair and Vice Chair elections-Elections

These were held and the same regime was reelected with Lanny as Chair and Roger as vice-chair.

8. Biofuels in Southern Willamette Valley

Stephanie Page from ODA discussed the business plan for a proposed Lane County project is on LCOG's website. See handout for more information about biofuels progress – [link to that document here](#). A question was raised about the liquid effluent from the facilities and whether it is high in nitrogen and could pose problems. Response was that it does appear to contain more ammonium.

9. Soil Quality Project –

Teresa Matteson (Benton County SWCD) presented her results of the work on developing a soil health rating system that helps producers understand how to work with their soil to achieve their desired outcomes. [Link to presentation here](#).

10. Meeting wrap up

Next meeting was scheduled for April 28th at 8 AM, same location.