# Southern Willamette Valley Groundwater Management Area
# Committee meeting minutes
# April 28th, 2011 8:00-10:00 AM

**ATTENDANCE:**

Tim Bunnell*, Lanny Zoeller*, Roger Haffner*, Jerry Marguth*, George Pugh*,Jim Pendergrass*, Jim Anderson* , Rick Partipilo*, Dennis Boeger*, Pat Straube*, Rich Margerum*, Mindi Thornton*, Keir Miller*, Gary Horning*, Steve Hinkle (USGS),Terrence Conlon (USGS), Audrey Eldridge (Department of Environmental Quality), Denise Kalakay (Lane Council of Governments), Chris Gollan (EPA- HQ), Betsy Parry (OHA-DWP), Zach Loboy (DEQ-WQ), David Croxton (EPA-Seattle), Anthony Barber (EPA-Portland), Kevin Seifert (Linn SWCD), Fraser MacDonald (LCOG) Joe Clift (EPA-HQ), Kevin Fenn (ODA), Chrissy Lucas (OSU Extension), Terry Nelson (Resident), Ross Penhallegon (OSU Extension), Shawn Stevenson (OHA-DWP), David Hammer (EPA-Corvallis) Wym Matthews (ODA), Stephanie Page (ODA)

1. **Announcements, Introductions, Adjustments to Agenda**
   Lanny Zoeller, Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:00 AM

2. **Public Comments -** None

3. **Approval of Last Meetings Minutes –** these were approved by the GWMA Committee members present.

4. **What is happening in the GWMA- Hood**
   Audrey (DEQ) recently gave a presentation as part of an EPA webinar. She discussed what is going on in the Southern Willamette Groundwater Management Area, and highlighted that increased monitoring has shown that they are making some improvements. 1600 people listened nationwide. The archives of the March 29th Webcast on **"Nitrogen and Phosphorus Pollution Series: Nitrate in Ground Water"** are now posted at https://owpubauthor.epa.gov/learn/training/wacademy/archives.cfm#nutrient

   Denise Kalakay (LCOG) gave a brief synopsis of the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) exercise that some of the GWMA Committee and staff participated in, as part of a review of the Action Plan. The SWOT identified ideas and issues that were both programmatic and working group specific. The SWOT also identified a number of issues and ideas for both the entire committee and individual working groups to address. The Committee decided to revisit the SWOT findings in October.

   Kevin from ODA gave an update on the fate of Tucker's (OSU graduate student) survey of agricultural operators. In his initial attempts, Tucker was unsuccessful in getting farmers to participate in the survey. Tucker is now working with Benton SWCD to move forward with the survey and see if he can identify farmers who are

willing to participate and may be interested in doing focus groups. Kevin suggested that it might be sometime next year before the BMP survey is completed.

Chrissy (OSU extension) hosted a "Well Clinic" on Peoria Road. She had 74 people bring samples during her 3 hour screening event. Samples were processed by the local 4H group.

5. **An Introduction to the United States Geological Survey (USGS)**
   Terrance Conlon from USGS gave an introduction to the USGS and discussed the work that they are able to do for communities. USGS is able to develop studies of groundwater and surface to meet a community's priorities. Most projects require 60% local funding to 40% federal funding to complete projects

6. **An Introduction to the United States Geological Survey (USGS)**
   Steve Hinkle (USGS) presented the agency's work in La Pine and Deschutes County to understand the transport and fate of groundwater contaminants in the aquifer.

   The contamination experienced in the La Pine area is primarily from low density development, where septic effluent creates point source plumes. Because of the low recharge to the groundwater system, the septic effluent (nutrients) does not tend to disperse quickly to the entire aquifer but rather increase in concentration locally as plumes. USGS developed a regional transportation model that works at a variety of scales (Upper Deschutes Basin, Sub aquifer and aquifer scale model). The work from this study has been used to develop new strategies to minimize the impacts of low density development and it contribution to groundwater contamination. A couple of the strategies include Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) and a program to offset the cost of upgrades to septic systems that more completely reduce the nutrient concentration in effluent entering the groundwater system.

   A similar study could be undertaken to understand the current and legacy issues associated with groundwater in the in the Southern Willamette Valley.

**Break**

7. **Anaerobic Digesters**
   Alan Tank from Revolution Energy Solutions (RES) gave a brief background on his experience working with anaerobic digesters to convert animal manure to methane where it is used to produce electricity. Alan has been working with the Gibson Family to install and manage an anaerobic digester at the Lochmead Dairy. The system they are using is a three tank system that can process 45,000 gallons of liquid manure per day. The system is automated and is operated on a remote basis by RES. This project provided the dairy with a variety of benefits including: increased air quality, reduced odor from the operation, better solids management, a higher quality effluent to be integrated into soils. The effluent being integrated is weed free, and contains mineralized nutrients that are plant available. Emerald People's Utility District has a 15 year contract with RES to purchase all of the electricity generated from the digester.

8. **Wrap-up and Suggestions for Future Meeting Topics**
   Next meeting will be held on October 27, 2011.