



Southern Willamette Valley Groundwater Management Area

Committee Meeting Minutes
October 25, 2012 8:00-10:00 AM
The Harrisburg Old City Hall
354 Smith Street

In Attendance:

Lanny Zoeller* (Chair, Realtor), Tim Bunnell* (City Public Water Supply Operator), Rich Margerum* (University of Oregon), Pat Straube* (Citizen and CAFO Representative), George Pugh* (Linn County Farmer), Mindi Thornton* (Farmer), Linda Modrell,* (Benton County Commissioner), Gary Horning* (Benton County Farmer) Audrey Eldridge (Department of Environmental Quality), Denise Kalakay (Lane Council of Governments), Donna Schmitz (Benton County Soil and Water Conservation Dist.), Tom Pattee (OHA Drinking Water Program), Shawn Stevenson (OHA Drinking Water Program), Jack Arendt (Department of Environmental Quality), Jacqueline Fern (Department of Environmental Quality), Thomas Snyder (NRCS), Bobby Cochran (Willamette Partnership), Carrie Sanneman (Willamette Partnership), Michelle McCrackin (EPA), Alan Henning (EPA), Chrissy Lucas (OSU Extension Service), Kevin Fenn (ODA), Bridget Chipman (USDA-NRCS), Ranei Nomura (DEQ), Chris Kelley (Washington State University), Jana Compton (EPA), Bill Emminger (Benton County Env. Health), John Cunningham (Resident), Ross Penhallegon (Lane OSU Extension), Liz VanLeeuwen (Linn County SWCD), Kevin Seifert (Linn County SWCD), Chris Marko (Rural Community Assist. Program), Teresa Matteson (Benton SWCD), Lanny Loeffler (WAR), Nathan Adelman (USDA NRCS), Ed Moore (Department of Land Conservation and Development), Dan O'Brien (Greenberry Irrigation District), Bob Butler (Coburg Public Works), Heather Medina Saucedo (USDA NRCS), Renee Brooks (EPA), * denotes Committee Members

1. Announcements, Introductions, Adjustments to Agenda

Lanny Zoeller, Chair

2. Public Comment

None

3. Approval of Last Meetings Minutes

Minutes approved

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.

Chrissy Lucas, OSU Extension, highlighted the clinics she has been conducting around the region. Chrissy sets up forums for kids to “construct” edible aquifers made in a cup and resembling an aquifer where the kids can add “contaminants” to observe how contaminants can move through a real aquifer. Chrissy reports that overall event attendance has been down although since May, about 1,200 contacts have been made.

Jana Compton and Alan Henning of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) updated the Committee on a grant that will fund research in the GWMA. The funding will use lysimeters to better understand nitrogen/nitrate leaching beyond the root zone using different agriculture best management practices. Best management practices examined will be the relatively new ones,

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such as precision agriculture and the use of slow release fertilizers. Work on the grant is a collaborative effort with entities including the Willamette Partnership, Lane Council of Governments (LCOG), the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), and the Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD). The grant leverages additional funding from the ODA fertilizer funds received by the Benton County SWCD.

Denise Kalakay, LCOG, provided a brief update on the work to conduct focus groups in northern Benton County in an area where two small schools are located. The schools are experiencing problems with high nitrate in their well water. What we want to learn is their basic understanding of barriers to protecting groundwater. The schools (Children's Farm Home and Fairplay) have applied for a grant through Oregon Health Authority to do some follow-up work after the focus groups in order to target messaging to specific groups based on the outcomes of focus group input.

5. Willamette Partnership and the Nutrient Tracking Program

Bobby Cochran and Carrie Sanneman, of the Willamette Partnership shared what the Willamette Partnership is doing with the NRCS Nutrient Tracking Tool, and how this work may potentially benefit the growers in the GWMA. Bobby began the agenda item with an overview of the work that the Willamette Partnership is doing with the Nutrient Tracking Tool and Carrie provided a Power Point presentation about the tool and a research project that will be conducted in the GWMA in the next couple of years. A video of Bobby and Carrie along with Committee and staff discussion can be found at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ywLf4C2fvRQ&feature=youtu.be%20>

A copy of the presentation can be found at this web site location:

<http://gwma.oregonstate.edu/meetings>

6. Results of the Independent Review of the Southern Willamette Valley GWMA Groundwater Data

Chris Kelly, Washington State University, shared his experiences with soil water, tile drain and groundwater analysis in a setting similar to the GWMA at the last meeting in May. Chris spent this summer reviewing the GWMA data collected to date and explored ideas for appropriate lysimeter and other studies that could help address important questions for our area. Chris was back to share his evaluation of groundwater analysis of the GWMA. Chris presented his results and recommendations that could help address important questions for the GWMA. A video of Chris's presentation and the GWMA Committee discussion and questions can be found at

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ywLf4C2fvRQ&feature=youtu.be%20> (about 28 minutes into the video). A copy of the presentation can be found at this web site location:

<http://gwma.oregonstate.edu/meetings>

7. Wrap-up and Suggestion for Future Meeting Topics

Lanny Zoeller, Chair

Schedule next meeting for early March.