Committee Meeting Minutes
February 27, 2014 8:00-10:00 AM
Harrisburg Old City Hall
354 Smith Street

In Attendance:
Lanny Zoeller* (Chair, Realtor), Pat Straube* (Citizen and CAFO Representative), Linda Modrell* (Benton County Commissioner), Jerry Marguth* (Ag. Producer), Rich Margerum (U of O), Audrey Eldridge (Department of Environmental Quality), Denise Kalakay (Lane Council of Governments), Alan Henning (EPA), Chrissy Lucas (OSU Extension Service), Ed Moore (Department of Land Conservation and Development), Jo Morgan (ODA), Bill Emminger (Benton County Env. Health), Tom Pattee (OHA Drinking Water Program), Jack Arendt (Department of Environmental Quality), George Ehlers (Lane County On-site Program), David Downing (Upper Willamette SWCD), Jacqueline Fern (Department of Environmental Quality), Susanna Pearlstein (Benton SWCD and EPA), Pamela Wright (DEQ), Paul Measles (ODA), Susan Yellowtail (Marist High School), Toby Primbs (ODA), Wym Mathews (ODA), Donna Schmitz (Benton SWCD), Lamar Nelson (Hayward Farms), Brittany Kingpatrick (Farmer), Mike Kesling, (Surecrop), Tom Mendes (Metro Wastewater), Kevin Siefert (Linn SWCD), Allison Henley (OR Environmental Council), Teresa Huntsinger (OR Environmental Council), Tom Snyder (NRCS), Mike Thorn (WRD), Jana Compton (EPA), Calden Carroll (Suprasensor Tech), John Hudspeth (Suprasensor Tech), Petra Schutz (City of Coburg)

Public Comment:
No public comment was recorded.

Approval of Last Meetings Minutes
Minutes approved.

What is Happening in the GWMA Hood:

There is a vacancy on the Committee from fertilizer representation. Jerry would like to see Mike Kesling from Surecrop replace Steve Sallisbury.

Tom Snyder from NRCS reported that the NRCS is getting funding for water, nutrient, and soil management. Funding will soon be available through the Regional Conservation Partnership Program where they hope to get money for “focused dollars” which would get focused on the GWMA. Tom is located in the Tangent area.

Lysimeter Installation and Monitoring Progress
Lysimeters installed as part of the EPA funded Regionally Applied Research Effort (RARE) have been sampled and the RARE Technical Expert Panel has met. The 2 year study examines water quality that leaves the root zones of agricultural crops.

Susanna Pearlstein (EPA and Benton SWCD) updated the Committee on progress related to the lysimeter study. The current lysimeter work is coordinated with a past study conducted by John Selker. John is involved on an advisory capacity for this current study. The RARE project is developed through partnerships. The overall goal is to provide tools that help agriculture land managers to set priorities and establish water quality trading possibilities. In response to a question from Rich, Susanna clarified that the work is being conducted on a field scale but the results can be applied regionally. To view Susanna's presentation go to http://gwma.oregonstate.edu/sites/default/files/rare_project_gwma_presentation_may_2014_0.pdf.

Tim Bunnell – A Reflection
Lanny noted how Tim was at the last meeting in his typical jovial mood helping to set up but now Tim has passed away. The service for Tim was phenomenal, with a filled stadium at the high school. Tim will be sorely missed by Harrisburg and the GWMA Committee. Jerry shared how he knew Tim for a long time and he was always a constant. Tim had a huge and generous nature and gave to the community as a whole constantly. Audrey reflected on how much Tim had given to both the Committee and the Harrisburg community. He was always there to help her set up the meeting well in advance of others arriving. He will be missed. Audrey introduced the idea of establishing a Tim Bunnell Community Hero Award. Denise thought that Tim would not want people to be "mournful" as Tim is probably at the "Heavens Gate" McMenamins looking down at the Committee.

Branding the GWMA
Denise explained the concept of branding the GWMA as trying to create a certain "image" of the GWMA and/or GWMA activities. As part of LCOGs grant, they coordinated preparation of a a new logo and tagline for the GWMA. Input for these came in part from the focus groups. To view the presentation that provides an overview of what staff was trying to accomplish in the development of a logo and tagline as well as 6 potential logos go to:
http://gwma.oregonstate.edu/sites/default/files/logoandtagline_0.pdf

Some of the comments received at the Committee meeting include:
- Purple doesn't work for denoting land/landscape; also purple might not copy as well (Audrey pointed out that it copied ok)
- The drinking straw not showing through white in glass is bothersome to a few people

- For logo samples 5 and 6, many folks might not recognize those symbols as signifying groundwater wells; also the GWMA acronym is not defined
- What if words were more prominent, instead of acronym? Try **Groundwater** Management Area Southern Willamette Valley instead of **Groundwater Management Area** Southern Willamette Valley. Emphasize the groundwater not the area.
- The tagline "Get to Know Your H2O" was popular

Denise will send out potential logos and taglines and Committee members will "vote" on which one is preferred.

Nitrate Soil Sensor
Suprasensor is developing a prototype of a wireless sensor that incorporates nitrate selective compounds for precision agriculture, working in tandem with soil moisture probes, the goal is to provide a detailed look at in-soil nutrient levels. Calden Carroll shared their current testing results and their plans for the future.

Calden's idea originated from work he was conducting in the chemistry department. They are developing the sensor but it is still in Alpha stage development. John, Calden's associate is in product development as they have a devise that works but need to package it. The team is using federal and state grants so can't necessarily do anything they want. The devise works in the lab but will it work in the real world. The devise can be combined with soil moisture monitoring originating in California issues. Strawberry growers in some places in California are making 25-30 K/acre so the amount of nitrogen applied is no big deal financially. The sensor can be used in places like California that is getting regulated. How much will they cost and when will they be available? Cost could be under $100 although with the app. attached to talk to phone through Bluetooth it would be more. They are now testing accuracy in test sites.
Jana asked– what are they testing against? Measuring in soil moisture and lab tests are using soil extraction.
Paul: Might consider core water extraction to test from.
Rich: Might look into lawn uses and/or other urban uses.
Jana: Consider just measuring water not soil since soil gets complex. Calden explained that they went to soil measurements because he was told early on that it would be cool to be able to measure soil levels.
Calden passed out cards and Lanny encouraged people to flood him with questions. To view Calden's presentation: *We are still trying to get a copy of his presentation.*

Wrap-up and Suggestion for Future Meeting Topics
Wym: OSU Extension is hiring someone for a 70 percent teaching and 30 percent field specialist with some research.
Next meeting in September or October. Probably on the 25th of September. Potential topics include information on the Willamette 2100 project and WRD Basin Planning opportunities.