

Notes on 04/20/17 GWMA meeting

1. Previous meeting minutes approved
2. Jo Morgan – ODA

Agricultural Management Area Plans

- The GWMA overlaps three agricultural areas: Middle Willamette, South Santiam, and the Upper Willamette/Upper Siuslaw.
 - Local Area Committee (LAC) made up of 12 area farmers
 - Meet every other year
 - Plans identify actions to meet water quality goals
 - South Santiam Ag Area Plan meeting in Tangent on April 28th
 - Will review plan and look at updates
 - DEQ provides WQ status and trends analyses
 - ODA is a Designated Management Agency in the TMDL and have a signed MOU with DEQ
 - The Ag Area Plan is the Water Quality Management Plan used for TMDL implementation
3. Dennis Boeger – GWMA Vice-Chair
 - Indicated he was stepping down as vice-chair due to expansion of his business
 - Vice chair position remains open
 4. Maziar Kandelous – OSU
 - Hired at OSU in January
 - Presentation
 - Question about cost of leaching kits; approximately \$500-\$600
 - How many should be installed? It depends on what the purpose is. For a research project, he would recommend five or between one and three for growers. If the soil was homogeneous with good irrigation, maybe five per 100 acres. They could also be grouped by soil type and be managed separately.
 - Revisions to the HYDRUS model would start in the GWMA, then could be expanded to all agricultural areas in Oregon.
 1. More sophisticated than just using the Darcy equation
 2. Growers will need some sort of technical assistance or workshop to be shown how to use the model
 - Should talk to fertilizer companies
 - Some growers have artificial sub-drain systems (tile drains): how would these be accounted for in the model?
 1. Might be a need to do a separate study on tile drains

5. Jana Compton – EPA

- Presented results of PINE study – fieldwork and project will be wrapping up this year.

6. University of Oregon Capstone Project (Tom Fiorelli, Sam Dales, Ryan Gil)

- Will be pre-selecting groups of respondents for survey
 - Group 1 – will tell them where to get their wells tested, but no support of any kind
 - Group 2 – Will set up a follow-up time to meet and test well
- Alan Henning from EPA remarked that it was important that the students know what sort of research/outreach has gone on before this project
- Benton County Health performed a 3-year well-testing study that looked at nitrate, bacteria and arsenic. Will follow-up with students.
- Hypothesis is that people's concerns will increase with increased knowledge.
- Benton County Health asked if there were going to be barriers to interpreting results (language, cultural, socioeconomic, social equity factors)
- Dennis asked if they had checked to see if there had been any documented cases of blue-baby syndrome in the GWMA.
 - He indicated it would be good to be prepared for questions
- The survey is only in English – should quantify non-respondents if reason is because they don't speak English
- The survey will be issued by phone and may be followed up with by a paper survey distributed through LCOG
- Xan Augerot (recently elected Benton County Commissioner) indicated that voter registration records are not that accurate – many people have switched to only using cell phones as their primary line
- Interest in non-participation rate
- Mindi Thornton mentioned that there is a lot of resistance in the GWMA and students will be working against people's invasion of privacy
- OSU has been focusing on well education
- Questions they may want to consider revising about length of time in household
 - Are they the person/s directly responsible for the well?
 - Have they done anything to the well?
 - Who is in charge of the well?
- Benton County surveyed 150 homeowners – 100% participation – took convenience well sample
 - Got the “believers” up front
 - Barriers exist for nitrate collection – have to get people to farmer's markets, fair booths to get people out
 - Survey puts renters in an awkward position – homeowner had to be present for well testing and made them sign a waiver
- Maziar asked what the motivation was for the survey. Are there possible subsidies for filtration systems?

- Chrissy Lucas thought they might want to rephrase the survey to say “water treatment system” rather than “water filtration system”
7. Set next GWMA meeting for Thursday October 19th.
 8. Meeting adjourned

Copies of the presentations were mailed out after the meeting and will be posted on the GWMA website.