

Upper Grande Ronde River Watershed Partnership
Place-Based Integrated Water Resource Planning
Stakeholder Meeting

Meeting Minutes

June 12, 2019

OSU Ag Extension Office

Island City, OR

ATTENDANCE: Cheryl Murchison, Steve Perrett, Jesse Steele, Larry Larson, Shad Hattan, Jed Hassinger, Bill Gamble, Jim Webster, Winston Morton, Tony Malmberg, Mike Burton, Darrin Walenta, Leonard Flynt, Kyle Carpenter, Margaret Matter, Adrienne Averett, Del Little, Darren Hansen, Brett Moore, Tim Bailey, Donna Beverage, Dana Kurtz.

Via phone: Tim Wallender, Roxie (DEQ)

I. Welcome

- a. Recap of May 15 Stakeholder Meeting: Dana reminded to group that at the last meeting, they brainstormed groundwater sustainability strategies.
 - i. Feedback: Input received indicate that the meeting format is comfortable for everyone. Studies were submitted with locations to find information about reservoir sites and geology.
 - ii. Dana reviewed meeting guidelines and the project timeline.

II. Step 4 Issues and Strategy Brainstorm (water quality strategies)

Storage/ Recharge

- Increase water storage (release cold water, speed up instream flows)
- Protect and improve groundwater recharge areas

Research / Data Collection

- Reexamine 303(d) standards to determine if we should advocate for them to be changed
- Monitoring: groundwater quality (nitrates, arsenic, coliform) in addition to surface water quality
- Toxic algae blooms (testing, nutrients, temperature)
- Nitrate abatement needed?
- Are there high mercury levels?

Land Management

- Monitor uplands for erosion (sediment)
- Vegetation management: opportunity and costs for each type of project
- Invasive species management
- Reduce nutrient (nitrogen and phosphorus) loading through irrigation efficiency
- Buffer zones
- Filter strips
- High residue farming
- Bioswales (vegetation infiltration)
- Road management, locations, culvert sizing, surfaces (decrease sedimentation through good management strategies)

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Habitat Restoration

- Enhance riparian vegetation and stream shading
- Reestablish wetlands
- Restore channel morphology

Infrastructure / Conservation

- Control warm water (thermal refuge in winter, divert for later use)

Policy Actions

- Minimum flow agreement (ex: Lostine River, Dixie Creek – turn water off if below certain point)
- Voluntary water lease transfers (ex: 15 mile “FAST” program, stop withdrawals when temperatures are predicted to be lethal for fish)
- Source water exchanges: “bucket for bucket exchange”
- Point source control

Outreach and Education

- Awareness of ECSI listed sites
- Promote recycle chemical program (for pesticides, ag, and municipal)
- Inform the public about best practices for lawn care (fertilizers flow to the creeks)
- Public outreach for toxic algae blooms
- Water quality report for whole We get a city water quality report – maybe watershed wide

III. Conclusion

- a. Next meeting: July 17, 2019 @4pm at OSU Extension Office
- b. Other Comments
 - Donna presented information about the Catherine Creek tributary timeline from 1800s to 2010. This aligned with the strategy to talk to other people about historical approaches. Dana will distribute via email.
 - Darrin shared information about the hazardous waste recycling program that has been in place for five years; outreach covers communities, ag producers, and is also included in pesticide training.
 - Donna reminded everyone that the governance agreement is available for everyone to review; signing is needed in order to vote, in addition to attending two of the four most recent meetings.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cinda Johnston
Union County Planning Department Specialist