

Meeting Minutes – WQPMT Meeting Minutes
November 7, 2019 9:30 am – 2:30 pm
Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
Lloyd 700 Building, 700 NE Multnomah St
Portland, Oregon
Conference 601

Attendees:

Kirk Cook	Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA)
Ted Bunch	Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA)
Rose Kachadoorian	Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA)
Paul Measeles	Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA)
Stephanie Page	Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA)
Brenda Sanchez	Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA)
Kevin Masterson	Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ)
Aaron Borisenko	Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ)
Todd Hudson	Oregon Health Authority (OHA)
Thomas Whittington	Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF)

Absent:

Audrey Hatch	Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB)
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Guests:

Keri Handaly	City of Gresham
Roy Iwai	Multnomah County

Introductions

The WQPMT meeting started promptly at 9:30 and introductions were made. Guests from the Coalition for Clean Rivers introduced themselves and presented a brief professional background. Further agency information was deferred until later in the meeting.

Presentation on Clean Rivers Coalition

Mr. Roy Iwai and Ms. Keri Handaly provided the WQPMT with a presentation on the structure and goals of the Clean Rivers Coalition. Both Mr. Iwai and Ms. Handaly discussed the current status of the Coalition, and the near-term future needs both for financial contributions and for expansion of partners. Currently the Coalition has a wide range of partners from numerous sectors including local government, and statewide and local interest groups. The main focus for the Coalition is creating public awareness for the protection of Oregon's water resources including threats from pesticide application. A significant portion of the presentation was

dedicated to the results of a Coalition survey regarding contaminants in water to also include pesticides. This has resulted in the development of the Oregon Pollutant Risk Database. Analysis of information for this database is used to create a risk table that helps to convey to the public the relative risk of various pollutants to Oregon's water bodies. The presentation of the database can be located at:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1XgibtQ7V3SR_4ju3mK_VF5vfdOe2di4J

The WQPMT will discuss potential support for this effort likely during the January 23rd meeting at the Oregon Department of Agriculture HQ building in Salem.

Planning for Stakeholder Advisory Group (SAG) Meeting

Stephanie Page distributed the agenda for the first SAG meeting scheduled for November 15th. Members of the WQPMT discussed some concerns regarding the purpose of the group and the need for emphasis that the group is advisory in nature. The point was acknowledged by Ms. Page who will act as facilitator for the upcoming and future SAG meetings. The WQPMT discussed the content of presentation to be made by Ms. Page, Kirk Cook and Kevin Masterson which are designed to provide a detail overview of the program, its goals, and how it currently operates. The Team was provided with a set of questions from the SAG which will provide a basis for near term discussions and provide a basis for the update of the WQPMT's strategic plan. Team members were encouraged to attend the first meeting so that SAG members could get a sense of who sits on the WQPMT and their respective roles.

PSP Budget and Grant Updates

Following the lunch break, the Chair provided a brief update on the budget including the status of partners beginning development of their respective strategic plans. During the current biennium Amazon, Clackamas, and Walla Walla will be developing plans. The grant amounts for each of this project was discussed with no opposition noted from Team members. A letter of approval for the Middle Rogue was distributed to Team members with a recommendation from the Chair to authorize signature and delivery to the Middle Rogue Watershed Council. That occurred on November 14th. The Chair noted no opposition from Team members. As a follow-up several Team members apparently did not understand the goal of the question called regarding approval of the Middle Rogue Strategic Plan, as such they have approached the Chair regarding the ability to provide any final comments. The Chair has discussed this with the Middle Rogue who is receptive to any additional comments that may be provided by WQPMT members.

South Umpqua Pilot Study

The status of the South Umpqua was discussed. Currently the study is on hold with no water quality sampling having taken place during the fall sampling period. During the summer WQPMT members met with stakeholders in the South Umpqua regarding sampling results. To date all results have been well below EPA aquatic life benchmarks. Frequency of detections fall below criteria that would elevate a pesticide to a moderate level of concern, with the exception of

the herbicide atrazine which is detected at a frequency of 60% in at least one sampling station. Given this data there is a question whether the study warrants any further sampling effort without additional information of application timing. If the study is terminated, there should be consensus on what form a final report/fact sheet should take. Several questions were raised by members of the WQPMT which included some of the following:

- When does the data indicate that a study project has been completed and what are the primary indications
- At what point does the degree of cooperation between the WQPMT and the partner(s) drop to a level where continuation of the study would not yield any additional useful data

It was agreed that the SAG could provide some useful guidance on these and other questions regarding project/study termination. The issue will be teed up for the SAG at the November 15th meeting. The WQPMT will address the status of the South Umpqua at the next meeting following the second SAG meeting and after recommendations are obtained from the SAG.

Discussion of Strategic Implementation Areas and Pesticide Stewardship Partnerships

Brenda Sanchez lead a discussion on the potential linkages between ODA's Water Quality Program (Strategic Implementation Areas or SIA's) and the PSP's. During the discussion it was clear that in many cases the two programs could be of benefit to each other with improved coordination. The case of the Middle Deschutes was brought up as a potential test case for enhanced coordination between the two programs. It was noted that many of the improvements sought by through the SIA process would have direct benefit to limiting potential pesticide entry into nearby waterways. This included improved erosion control, and improved riparian conditions that would help to reduce both runoff and drift deposition. Brenda, provided an overall view of the program and how it interacts with SWCD's and local growers to promote water quality. It was noted that the SIA is a regulatory program while the PSP is voluntary. Cooperation between the two programs will have to take that into consideration. It was noted that the concept of improved coordination between SAI's and PSP is an interest of several members of the SAG and that the WQPMT could expect to hear more about this from the SAG in the future.

Next WQPMT Meeting

Please note that the next meeting of the WQPMT will be on January 23, 2020 at the Headquarters Office of the Oregon Department of Agriculture located at 635 Capitol St NE, Salem, OR 97301