Hermiston Agricultural Research and Extension Center

Hermiston, OR, 97838

**List of Attendees**

Gerald Breazeale – City of Irrigon

Phil Richerson – DEQ

Vern Frederickson - Farmer

Tom Demianew – Umatilla Co SWCD Tom Straughan – ODA

Kerri Deal - IRZ

Leann Rea – Morrow County Art Kegler – American West Properties

Melissa Ney – Umatilla Co Health

Maria Snodgress - ODA

Aaron Madison – Madison Ranches

Bill Dean – RiverPoint Farms

Dave Lovin – Port of Morrow

Dave Fraser – Simplot

Janet Greenup – Morrow SWCD

**10:02 *Meeting Commencement Time***

***Introductions****-* The meeting was called to order by Chair Leann Rea. A signup sheet was circulated and everyone introduced himself or herself.

***Sub-Committee Reports –***

*Irrigated Agriculture –* Bill reported that the full Ag sub-committee is reviewing their draft internally. They hope to have it to the LUBGWMA committee by the next meeting. Bill emphasized the group is committed to finding solutions and not excuses.

Bill summarized the main recommendations from Dr. Gitelman’s review of the statistical methods used by DEQ to evaluate groundwater nitrate concentrations in the LUBGWMA. The review is part of the ODA Fertilizer Fund grant awarded to GSI Water Solutions last summer and lasts for three years. GSI will prepare the first annual report in June. Dr. Gitelman’s main comments/recommendations involved the adequacy of the well network, the time frame of data to be analyzed, and focusing on hot spots. Phil said he has reviewed the document, and agrees with some observations and conclusions while disagreeing with others. Phil is preparing a response. Bill said Phil’s response can be attached to the first annual report.

*Food Processors* – Dave reported that he has not yet connected with the other co-chair, but will continue to try. Phil said he would also try to contact the other co-chair and encourage him to work on the plan. Vern said they will get the topic of drafting the next action plan on the next Water Reuse Consortium meeting scheduled for early June.

*CAFOs –* The sub-committee is working on the third iteration of their portion of the action plan. They hope to have it done by the end of April for review and input by the sub-committee, and finalized by the end of May.

*Communications/Outreach –*Jerry noted a general lack of progress recently and asked if DEQ’s communications folks could come help re-energize the committee. Phil said he would ask what assistance DEQ could provide. Jerry discussed upcoming events that could be used as outreach possibilities including watershed days, outdoor school, watermelon festival, and county fairs. Jerry also indicated the septic tank bulletin was still being worked on.

*Rural Residential*– Leann reported that Art Kegler has agreed to chair the rural residential sub-committee, and that Leann will work with him. There was a discussion of the real estate transaction database, and how it might be helpful. There was also a discussion of how to fill out the sub-committee and how to engage the rural residential community. Art agreed to ask realtors if they want to participate. It was also recognized that the SWCDs should be involved. Other suggestions for members of the sub-committee included county planners, septic installers, and local veterinarians. Aaron said he will follow up with a local vet who has expressed interest in participating.

***Ground Rules Discussion*** – Phil had previously circulated the Southern Willamette Valley GWMA Ground Rules and the Yakima Valley GWMA Ground Rules and asked that committee members review the information and provide input at this meeting regarding LUBGWMA Committee Ground Rules. No comments on the ground rules were provided. Phil will draft LUBGWMA ground rules for the committee to review by the next meeting.

***Lead Agency Discussion*** – At the previous meeting, Phil described what the lead agency should do, which includes tasks associated with running the meetings (e.g., working with the Chair to develop agendas, sending out announcements of meetings, developing meeting minutes, arranging guest speakers, etc.) as well as tasks associated with implementing the Action Plan. In other words, the lead agency should assist everyone in implementing the Plan’s recommendations. For example, if the Plan recommends research or conducting surveys, the lead agency would assist the party identified as implementing the recommendation in pursuing funding or other means to implement the recommendation. Phil also asked that ODA and the SWCDs have a conversation with their decision makers regarding their desire to be a lead agency and bring their response to the next meeting. Responses were as follows.

ODA does not plan on adding additional resources to work in the GWMA. ODA and the Umatilla SWCD are not interested in being the lead agency. The Morrow SWCD cannot be the lead agency due to limited resources. Jerry made a motion that DEQ be designated the lead agency. Aaron seconded it. A vote was held and it was decided that DEQ will be the lead agency implementing the Second LUBGWMA Action Plan.

*After the meeting, some members of the Morrow SWCD board expressed interest in participating as lead agency. Their May meeting was cancelled due to no quorum, but the issue will be discussed during their June meeting.*

***Focus of Second LUBGWMA Action Plan*** – It was pointed out that, as part of the ODA Fertilizer Fund grant, GSI is conducting a review of the monitoring well network including: compiling geologic and water level information from the bi-monthly and synoptic well networks, reviewing geologic units relative to nitrate results, reviewing distance to water bodies relative to nitrate results, reviewing screen location relative to nitrate results and geology, reviewing land uses relative to nitrate results, reviewing the thickness of the alluvial aquifer for patterns, reviewing soil drainage conditions within the GWMA, and identifying hot spots.

Because the report describing GSI’s findings will be finalized by June, it was decided to wait for this report before continuing the discussion on how to focus the second LUBGWMA Action Plan.

***Next Meeting:***

Thursday June 13, 2013 at OSU Experiment Station in Hermiston

10:00 am to noon