

LOWER UMATILLA BASIN GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AREA  
LUBGWMA

MINUTES

Thursday, November 2, 2017

Attendance:

Miff Devin	Port of Morrow	Janet Greenup	Morrow SWCD
Scott Lukas	OSU HAREC	Charles Kennedy	ODEQ
Ruijun Qin	OSU HAREC	Bill Terry	Water Point
Maria Greenwalt	Threemile Canyon Farms	Gibb Evans	IRZ
Dixie Echeverria	Columbia Feeders (CAFO)	Craig Williams	Hermiston Foods LLC
Phil Hamm	OSU Hermiston	Stephen Machado	CBARC
Stephanie Loving	MC Planning	Jim Doherty	MC Commissioner
Wym Matthews	ODA	Mark Millard	Agri NW
Carla McLane	Morrow County	Tom Demianew	ODA
Shannon Jones	Simplot		

The meeting was called to order by Vice-chair Miff Devin at 2 pm. Introductions were made. There were no public comments. The minutes of the August 28 meeting were approved with a correction to the spelling of Scott Lukas' name.

DEQ vacancy: Phil Richerson took another job with DEQ and will no longer be the LUB representative. Charles Kennedy has been assigned as the new rep.

Meeting with ODA, OHA (by phone), ODEQ, OWRD. Phil Hamm reported on his meeting in Salem with the purpose of getting agencies to agree to meet with all stakeholders with high nitrates and come up with answers to questions that have been asked for years with no action. Phil was given the OK to go forward with the list created by Oregon Solutions and creating a comprehensive list of agencies & growers for a stakeholders meeting in January. Phil will send the list to the LUB email list for vetting. He asks for a quick turnaround. He will meet with Clive, and Tom Demianew and Ray Jaendl with ODA on November 20 to come up with a complete list.

The January meeting will be at HAREC (the BMCC meeting room) to discuss short term/long term projects. We need to understand what the data tells us from DEQs well monitoring and we aren't interested in data that has not been referenced.

Phil asked what the charge is for this committee: Write the action plan and 1) work on a solution, and 2) identify how to manage the problem. CAFO was a low hanging fruit so they are permitted.

There was extensive discussion including the following two statements: 1) Wim stated: If nitrates show up in the monitoring wells, it's too late. 2) Tom Demianew said we need the ability to stand in front of the legislature and say we have enough information to provide recommendations to DEQ.

Phil will write a summary of this conversation. He said \$10,000 is needed to carry out this process, but we will not wait for the funding to get it going. Phil will also contact Bill Hansell and Greg Smith to request \$1-200,000 for research. Tom D. said that agriculture is so important in this basin that whatever information is given and funds asked for from the legislature must be the same for agencies.

We want the #1 priority project to be selected at the January meeting.

It was stated again that it is very important that OWRD be involved in this process. Do we need a director level discussion to make this happen?

A doodle poll will be developed to select a date in January for the facilitated project selection.

Round table discussion.

The Hermiston Farm Fair will be held 11/29-12/1 at the Eastern Oregon Trade & Event Center. There will be an irrigation session on 11/30.

Wym provided copies of a 3 year study of nutrient and water management. He also discussion grants from ODA to fund research in partnerships including education & outreach.

December or January is the deadline to submit RFPs to the fertilizer fund.

The next meeting will be Thursday, February 8 from 2-4.

Submitted by Janet Greenup, Morrow SWCD