

LOWER UMATILLA BASIN GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AREA
LUB
MINUTES-8/30/2022
(LUBGWMA_Meeting 1 - 08302022)
ZOOM VIDEO

Attendance:

Scott Lukas	Tom Demianew, ODA	Stephanie Case
Kate Ely CTUIR	Kristen Ostrum, ORA	Justin Green
Elizabeth Schultz	Kathleen Cathey	Sunni Voss
Kyle Waggoner	Carla McLane, Public	Aaron Palmquist
Grace Goldrich-Middaugh	Greg Harris	Laura Gleim, DEQ
Jen Woody	Stephen Machado	Abigail Tomasek
Tom Straughan	Dan Dorran	Ruijun Qin
Jeshua Sargetis	Melissa Lindsay	Torrie Griggs
Kevin Payne Morrow SWCD	Benjamin Burgener	Tamra Mabbott
Randy Jones, DEQ	Meghna Babbar-Sebens	Salini Sasidharan
Josh Hackett, OWRD	Robert Waldher	Maria Isabel Zamora
JR Cook, NOWA	Russ Kazmierczak	Unknown Caller

The Zoom meeting was called to order at 9:02 am by Salini Sasidharan.

Salini outlined the meeting agenda and gave a background of her extensive education and research/experiences around the world. Outlined goal of LUBGWMA committee to ultimately repeal GWMA declaration via ORS 468B.188 through reducing and maintaining groundwater nitrate concentrations to less than 7 mg/L. She hopes that innovative solutions can be developed through asking scientific questions, collaborating with experts, and acquiring research funding.

Dr. Ray gave a brief background of his education, research, and time at OSU HAREC.

Scott opened the floor for discussion before the vote to make Salini the Chair and Ray the Vice Chair.

Aaron Palmquist voiced his concerns over having LUBBGWMA leadership from outside the GWMA. He would like to see agency folks be in more of a supportive role to members in the GWMA. Aaron also mentioned that he much prefers in-person meetings as opposed to virtual meetings. It was mentioned that Oregon HB 2560-A now requires all meetings held by a governing body to provide access via phone, video or other electronic or virtual means.

Scott elaborated on why he believes Salini and Ray are qualified and were ultimately nominated.

Randy mentioned that the original declaration from 1990 establishing the committee described its membership as local residents and governments representing a broad range of interests. DEQ believes the solutions will come from within the region. Randy reiterated that DEQ can appoint the Chair but has no authority to appoint the vice chair.

Dan Dorran wondered who the actual voting members of the LUBGWMA are, and the need to identify them. He suggested setting up a stake-holders group. He also proposed having a "non-government" individual fill the Vice Chair position.

Melissa Lindsay echoed Dan's feeling on the need to identify voting members.

Randy offered that the group could appoint Salini the Chair on an interim basis until voting members are identified.

Greg Harris mentioned the need to update the committee members listed on the website and latest action plan due to the amount of turnover over the last couple years.

Aaron made a motion to appoint Salini the interim Chair as appointed by DEQ until bylaws are reformatted.

Melissa Lindsay seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

Kate Ely mentioned that she is very supportive of OSU's involvement in the LUBGWMA and Salini as Chair.

Tom Demianew mentioned the amount of turnover since the 2020 action plan and that representation needs updated.

Scott mentioned his frustration with the lack of feedback from his email to appoint Salini (7/7/2022). He said he only received 13 responses from the approximately 119 recipients. He would like to see a full chair appointed and the interim tagged dropped.

Dan reiterated the importance of funding to drive the group with supportive bylaws and core voting group to move forward.

Salini discussed the format of future meetings. A hybrid set up on the 1st or 2nd Friday of every other month from 11:30 am to 2:30 pm. Locations are to be determined. Meetings will be recorded and live telecast.

Salini mentioned the need to take a look at the ground rules and bylaws.

Randy said he could help with some examples of bylaws.

Kevin said the Morrow SWCD would help with the development of bylaws.

Aaron mentioned that he would like to assist with bylaw development.

Scott said that Miff will continue to update the website.

Randy stated he believes efforts should be focused on building around the Counties (Morrow and Umatilla) for regional considerations and solutions.

Salini mentioned that she would like the group to come up with a data management plan to act as a repository for research materials.

Salini Opened it up for open discussion.

Scott asked Salini if she was ok with the interim tag.

Salini said she was wondering what the timeline might be before becoming a full chair.

Dan expressed that he could see a full appointment being made as early as Friday's meeting, with a structure in place.

Debbie Radie mentioned how important this topic is to her and that she will try her best to get more local people actively involved.

Salini said she is good to move forward as the interim chair until a decision is made to move to full chair in the near future.

Salini mentioned that she is running into some email logistical issues sending group messages and is hoping for some help from someone in the group.

Salini hopes for more participation from attendees moving forward expressing their motivation to be a part of the group to better reflect roles and provide feedback.

Carla McLane said she was asked to join the group about a year ago as a community member and agreed. She wants to continue to participate. She is hopeful that the group can look at more focused areas instead of the GWMA as a whole.

Kristen Ostrum mentioned Oregon Rural Actions involvement in the area working with landowners with high nitrate levels, landowners who have installed filtration systems and continue to see high levels and people who have dug wells. They wish to provide a voice for people in the area who have high levels of nitrates.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:46 am.

The next meeting will be in-person with Zoom option, Friday September 2nd, 1:00-3:00 pm. at the Hermiston Community Center

Submitted by Kevin Payne

Reviewed By Salini Sasidharan