

LUBGWMA HYBRID Committee Meeting – 2*

09/02/2022
1:00 pm to 3:00 pm

Meeting Location (Note that the location has changed)

Hermiston Community Center
415 S. Hwy 395, Hermiston, OR 97838

MEETING Link: 

Click [here](#) or copy and paste the link below to your browser (Google)
<https://oregonstate.zoom.us/j/96361409894?pwd=OWMzRGF1aVdUcXVRb1ZoTG5tTVFBUT09>

Enter Meeting the Passcode
364037

Please find the [instruction](#) on how to join a Zoom meeting

Agenda:

Time	Action Item
1:00 – 1:05 pm	Welcome and present meeting agenda
1:05 – 1:10 pm	Approve Minutes (if available)
1:10 – 1:15 pm	Salini Sasidharan Reevaluate the existing Ground Rules for appointing the Chair, vice chair, and committee members
1:15 – 1:45 pm	Justin Green Ground rules and Bylaws of LUBGWMA Committee
1:45 – 2:00 pm	Finalize Chair and Vice-chair appointment
2:00 – 2:10 pm	Recruit members for 'Bylaw Action Committee'
2:10 – 2:20 pm	Commissioner Dorrان Update on Umatilla County's groundwater testing
2:20 – 2:40 pm	Commissioner Lindsey Update on Morrow County's declaration of emergency
2:40 – 2:55 pm	Open discussion time
2:55 pm – 3:00 pm	Schedule the Next Meeting Date and Time
3:00 pm	Adjourn

Alternate meeting information:

Phone Dial-In Information

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 971 247 1195 US (Portland)

Meeting ID: 963 6140 9894

Join by Polycom/Cisco/Other Room System

96361409894@zoomcrc.com

*Meetings will be numbered, starting on August 30th, 2022 (1), for data archiving purposes.

LOWER UMATILLA BASIN GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AREA
LUB
MINUTES-9/2/2022
(Meeting 2 - 09022222)
Hermiston Community Center & Zoom video

Attendance:

Aaron Madison	Aaron Palmquist	Kyle Waggoner
Kevin Payne	Kathleen Cathey	Lisa M.
Tom Straughan	Salini Sasidharan	Miff Devin
Justin Green	Dawson Quinten	John Steven Selker
Kelly Doherty	Karen Pettigrew	Tom Demianew
Melissa Lindsay	Isaak Stapleton	Abigail Tomasek
Bob Waldher	Debbie Radie	Wym Matthews
Randy Jones	Don Wysocki	Maria Isabel Zamora
Ruijun Qin	Elizabeth Schultz	Karen Lewotsky
Tamra Mabbott	Gibb Evans	Unknown Caller 1
Dan Dorrان	Grace Goldrich	Unknown Caller 2
Todd Crosby	Greg Harris	
Carla McLane	Ian Toevs	

The meeting was called to order at 1:06 pm by Salini Sasidharan.

Randy Jones spoke to DEQ's statutory responsibility to appoint a Chair with at least a seven member action committee. This would serve as a "reset" by DEQ. Randy asked the county commissioners to come up with a list of action member categories that will have voting authority.

Melissa listed the proposed categories as 1) Science/Research/Academia, 2) Umatilla County, 3) Morrow County, 4) City within the LUBGWMA, 5) Production Agriculture, 6) Industry/Business, 7) Environmental/Non-profit and 8) Public.

Aaron Palmquist suggested that CAFO/Irrigated Agriculture may need self-representation.

Dan Dorrان said the list is not final, but just a starting point so that the group could move forward.

Aaron Palmquist asked about the SWCD being the lead agency designated by DEQ and if we were going to change that.

Randy said the topic of lead agencies will be taken up in turn, but today the focus is on establishing a voting quorum.

Randy approves the proposed categories submitted by the counties to address ORS 468B.179.

Melissa Lindsay mentioned that in the future, the port may be represented at some point, but they requested to not partake at this time.

Randy Jones appointed Salini as Chair of the action committee for at least a 2 year period.

Dan Dorrان wanted it known that there is no longer an interim tag on the chair position and that DEQ has made their appointment.

Salini suggested the formation of a temporary action committee that will be dissolved after certain initial actions are taken. That committee would be composed of Commissioner Lindsay, Commissioner Dorrان and Randy Jones, DEQ.

Carla McLane wanted clarification on how voting membership was going to be appointed.

Salini explained that with people coming and going it may be easier to appoint categories and not specific individuals as voting members.

Aaron Palmquist mentioned the need for bylaws to be created to lay out a structure for voting membership.

Salini reiterated the need to focus on creating an action committee to get all these items moving.

Aaron Palmquist requested that Aaron Madison and Tom Straughan be added to the temporary action committee. Both agreed to the addition and Salini approved the 5 member committee.

Aaron Madison wondered about a timeline for action committee duties and responsibilities selecting voting member categories.

Salini hopes that can be accomplished by the next meeting in November.

Randy Jones said he will coordinate with all agencies involved, but that DEQ's primary purpose is to support both counties and this action committee.

Melissa mentioned that the list of voting members can be amended in the future as needed.

Justin Green discussed how bylaws and ground rules create a strong base for an organization. He looks forward to assisting the group with the formation of bylaws for the LUBGWMA.

Salini brought up the need to appoint a vice chair and opened a discussion on how that can get accomplished.

Carla McLane mentioned that appointing a vice chair may not be an action that can be taken seeing as voting members have not yet been appointed.

Aaron Palmquist echoed Carla's concerns and the need for bylaws to be established before selecting a vice chair.

Randy mentioned that DEQ can not appoint a vice chair.

Justin reiterated that bylaws are needed and voting members established to vote on a vice chair.

Randy mentioned that DEQ has statutory authority to appoint voting members that have been populated by the action committee.

Salini said a vice chair will not be nominated today but suggested a list a potential candidates be identified by the next meeting.

Aaron Palmquist requested that items are in draft format at least a week before the next meeting. Items being voting member categories/selections and bylaws.

Dr. Ray thanked Salini for the vice chair nomination and that he has been in the area since 2016. He has served as a LUBGWMA committee member and has a good understanding of the region.

Salini proposed a bylaw action committee consisting of Randy Jones, Kevin Payne, Aaron Palmquist, Karen Lewotsky, Justin Green and herself.

Dan Dorrان gave a Umatilla County update that they are averaging 8 to 10 water well tests a week. Those tests are free, provided by the county. They are hoping to fill some "Nitrate Tracer" positions. Only drinking water wells are being tested. The average cost of a test is \$88.00.

Aaron Palmquist mentioned that the CDC states 10 ppm for nitrates but in the LUBGWMA it is 7 ppm. He wants that communicated more clearly.

Melissa Lindsay gave a Morrow County update that the Morrow County Health Department is hoping to pay for well tests soon. 501 tests have been done with 247 coming back above 7 ppm. 71 filters have been given out and installed by the county as well as drinking water and outreach materials.

Tamra Mabbott mentioned that mapping wells is tough given types of wells aren't identified accurately in all cases. They are working to get clarification on that.

Bob Waldher stated that Umatilla County is in a similar spot with regards to mapping.

Melissa Lindsay reminded everyone that the purpose of the LUBGWMA isn't about drinking water.

Randy Jones thanked Melissa for the reminder. He encouraged the group to focus on its statutory work which is a net reduction of nitrates in the system.

Justin Green added that remediation is included as well.

Aaron Palmquist brought up the potential congressional spending that may be on the way and how it might be used in the LUBGWMA. He wondered if it could be used for remediation.

Dan Dorran isn't sure what rules may come with that money if it comes.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:14.

The next meeting will be in-person with Zoom option, Friday November 4th, 9:30-12:30 pm. Location TBD.

Submitted by Kevin Payne

Reviewed by Salini Sasidharan