LUBGWMA Committee Meeting 10

10/12/2023

HYBRID

VIRTUAL ONLY

HOSTED BY
SALINI SASIDHARAN
OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY

Agenda

Time	Action Item
9:00 am - 9:10 am	**Welcome; present agenda and recap.** Salini Sasidharan
9:10 am - 9:15 am	**Introduction** LUBGWMA Committee Members
9:15 am – 9:45 am	**Discussion for Additional Subcommittee and Approval** LUBGWMA Committee Members and Public
9:45 am – 10:00 am	**Selection and approval of Communication and Techincal Subcommittee Coordinators** LUBGWMA Committee Members and Public
10:00 – 10:15 am	**Potential Funding Pathways through Farm Bill** John Selker, Oregon State University
10:15 – 10:40 am	**Update on Roadmap based on Workshop Outcome** HDR
10:40 – 10:55 am	**Bylaw Update (Vacancy/Subcommittee)** Laura Gleim/DEQ
11:00 am	Adjourn

Salini Sasidharan, Oregon State University/LUBGWMA Chair

Workshop Summary

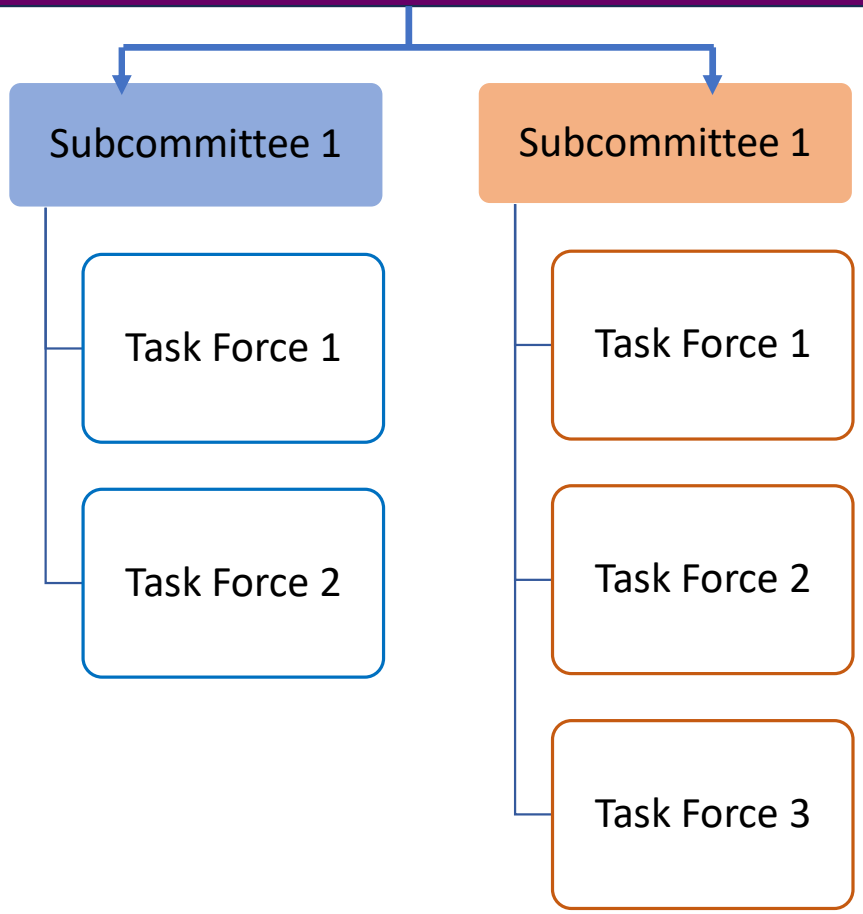
Presentations are now available online

Top Priorities

- Secure funding.
- Trained personnel to manage funding
- Leverage partnerships and collaborations for knowledge sharing and support.
- Conduct a detailed hydrology transport model for the Lower Umatilla Basin.
- Understand and characterize the groundwater situation.
- Community outreach and understanding BMPs.
- Researching the effectiveness of BMPs

Structure and Leadership

LUBGWMA Committee



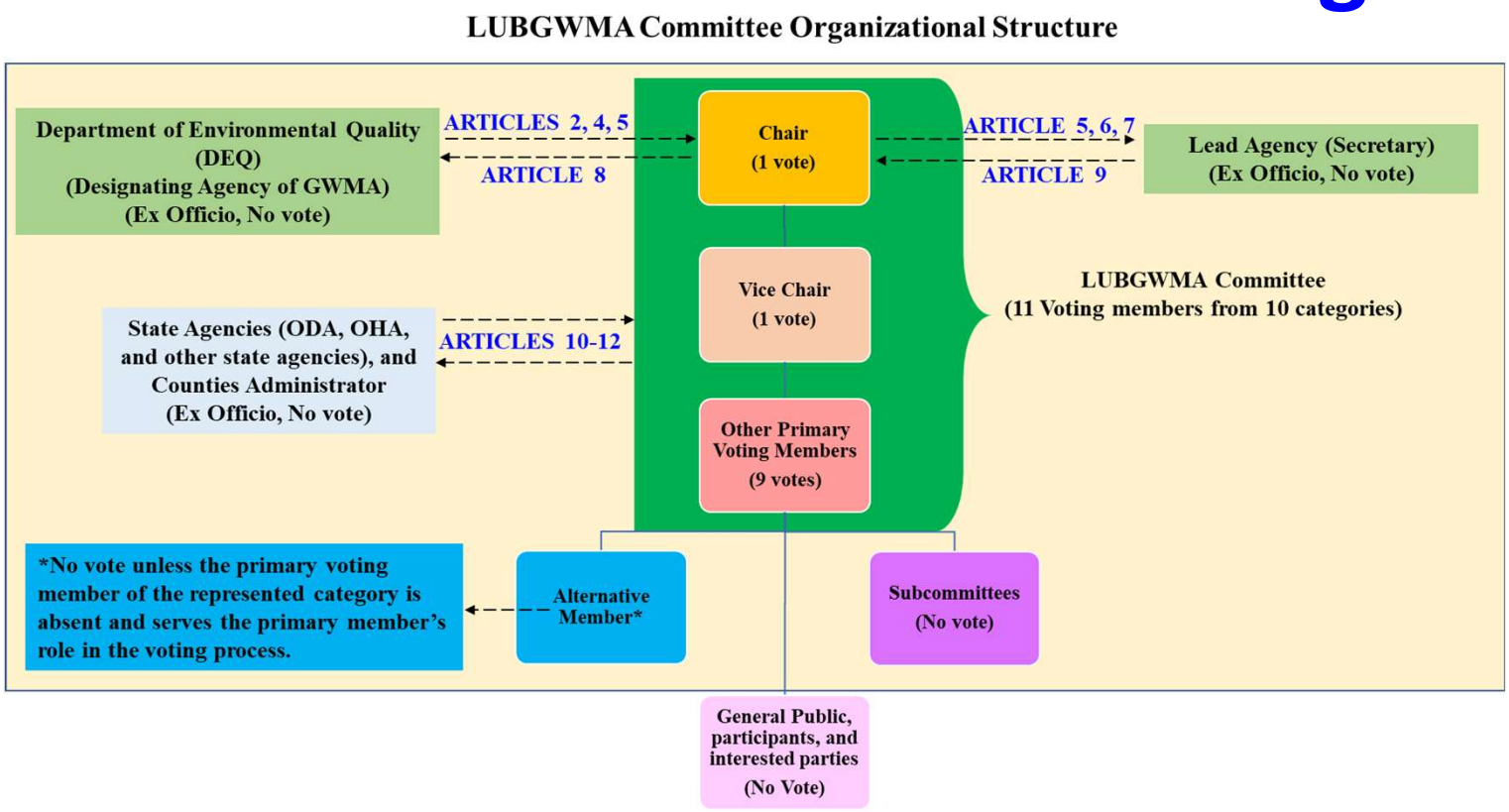
Subcommittee leadership roles like "**Subcommittee Coordinator**" to be assumed by:

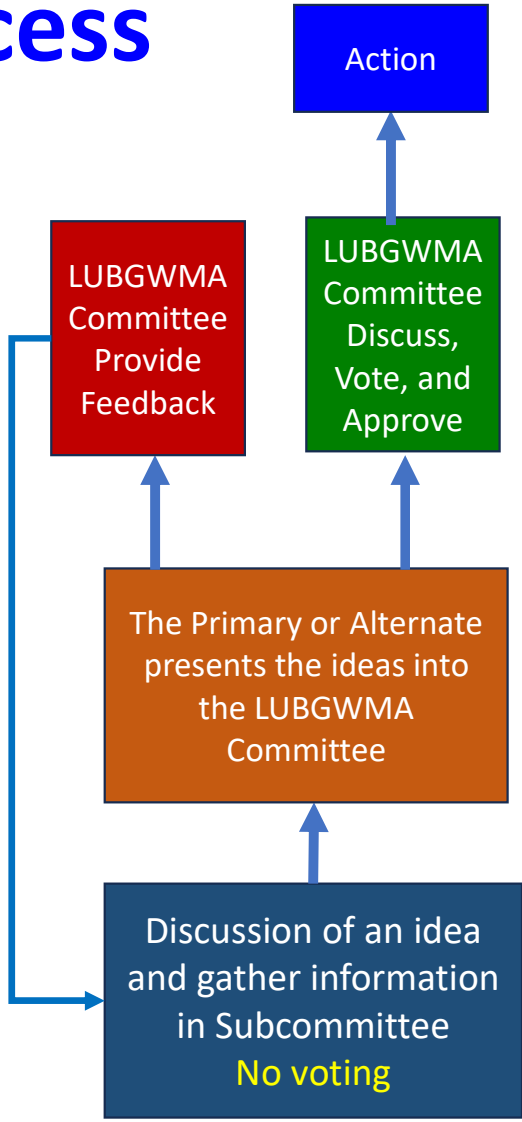
Primary Member (PM) or	Alternate Member (AM) from the LUBGWMA Committee.

Each Task Force is led by a **Task Force Facilitator**.

Maintains focus on specific objectives, promoting efficient work processes.

Structure and Decision-Making Process





- **Subcommittee follows LUBGWMA Committee Bylaw**
- **A webpage is now added to the LUBGWMA Website**

Salini Sasidharan, Oregon State University/LUBGWMA Chair

1. Funding Subcommittee

Objective: **To source and allocate financial resources effectively for the overall operations and specific projects of the LUBGWMA Committee.**

Subcommittee Coordinator/s:

Dan Dorran (PM)

Gregg Harris(AM)

Task Forces

a. Political/Legislative Funding Task Force

Aim: To cultivate partnerships at State, Federal, Local, Regional, and Private levels, leveraging political and legislative opportunities.

Task Force Facilitator/s: **Gregg Harris (PM)**

b. Research Funding Task Force

Aim: To find collaborative State, Federal, and Private research funds, ensuring sustainable research backing for the LUBGWMA initiatives.

Task Force Facilitator: **Salini Sasidharan (PM)**

2. Technical Subcommittee

Objective: **To gather, analyze, and manage all data relevant to the LUBGWMA, ensuring the Committee's strategies are data-driven.**

Subcommittee Coordinator/s:

Task Force

a. Inventory Task Force

Aim: To catalog existing data assets, making them easily accessible for Committee use.

Task Force Facilitator/s:

b. Data Gap Identification Task Force

Aim: To identify areas where data is lacking and strategize on filling these gaps.

Task Force Facilitator/s:

c. Hydrogeology of the Basin Task Force

Aim: To continuously study and update the basin's hydrogeological profile, ensuring LUBGWMA's strategies align with current realities.

Task Force Facilitator/s: **Salini Sasidharan (PM)**

d. Postdoc Task Force

To harness postdoc researchers' research and analytical capabilities for the benefit of LUBGWMA

Task Force Facilitator/s: **Dan Dorran (PM)**

2. Technical Subcommittee

e. Bylaw Task Force

Update and manage the Bylaw of the LUBGWMA Committee

Task Force Facilitator/s: (PM)

Salini Sasidharan, LUBGWMA Chair, Oregon State University
Justin Green, Justin B. Green Consulting, Consultant for NOWA
Karen Lewotsky, Oregon Environmental Council
Kevin Payne, Morrow Soil and Water Conservation District
Aaron Palmquist, City of Irrigon

f. Consultant Identification Group

Aim: To find and engage with external consultants relevant to LUBGWMA's initiatives

Task Force Facilitator/s:

g. Pilot Project Roadmap Group

Aim: To chart out the blueprint for pilot projects, overseeing their inception to completion

Task Force Facilitator/s:

Postdoc Subcommittee Meeting

Monthly from 9 am to 10 am on the third Monday

https://oregonstate.zoom.us/j/97505482758?pwd=dzIvQlNMcXhxWTRFbDN4TkYyUGpaUT09

Password: 024073

Task Force facilitator: **Dan Dorran (PM)**

3. Communication Subcommittee

Objective: To disseminate information effectively within the LUBGWMA and to external stakeholders, ensuring transparency and fostering partnerships.

Subcommittee Coordinator/s:

Task Force

a. Direct Outreach Task Force

Aim: To maintain open channels with stakeholders, using direct interactions to keep them informed and involved.

Task Force Facilitator/s:

b. Formal Communications Task Force

Aim: To ensure that all official communications, announcements, and publications are consistent and accurately reflect the LUBGWMA's stance. This includes the LUBGWMA website and email management.

Task Force Facilitator/s: **Salini Sasidharan**

Kevin Payne

Laura Gleim

Dan Dorran

4. Agency? Liaison and Partnership Subcommittee

Objective: To navigate the regulatory landscape, ensuring LUBGWMA's activities remain compliant and foster strong regulatory partnerships.

Subcommittee Coordinator/s:

Task Force

***a. Nonregulatory* Agency Relationship Task Force**

Aim: To cultivate and maintain productive relationships with nonregulatory key federal and state agencies as well as, city and county governments, and other local agencies

Task Force Facilitator/s:

***b. Regulatory Agency Partners* Task Force**

Aim: To ensure smooth collaborations with bodies like OWRD, ODA, DEQ, OHA, OWEB, and DOGAMI, aligning the Committee's actions with their guidelines and projects in LUBGWMA.

Task Force Facilitator/s:

5. Best Management and Monitoring Subcommittee

Objective: To oversee and continually refine strategies for monitoring Best Management Practices (BMP) and groundwater quality for LUBGWMA initiatives.

Subcommittee Coordinator/s:

Task Force

a. Innovation and Technology in BMP Task Force

Aim: To ensure the LUBGWMA stays at the cutting edge of Best Management Practices (BMP), leveraging the latest technology and innovation.

Task Force Facilitator/s:

b. Monitoring Technologies and Tools Task Force

Aim: To explore, evaluate, and recommend the latest monitoring tools, technologies, and software that can be adopted to improve oversight and data collection.

Task Force Facilitator/s:

Potential Federal Funding Pathways from DC

Dr. John Selker

Position: Distinguished Professor of Biological and Ecological Engineering at OSU.

Co-Director: CTEMPs.org and TAHMO.org.

Expertise: Electronic design irrigation, water systems, development projects, and hydrological research.

Experience: Over 31 years at Oregon State University. Research conducted in multiple countries including the USA, Kenya, Chile, Ghana, Senegal, and many European nations.

Achievements:

- Published >230 peer-reviewed articles.
- Fellow of the American Geophysical Union.
- John Hem Award recipient from the American Groundwater Association.
- Elected President of the AGU Hydrology Section in 2020.
- Boussinesq lecture honoree at the Netherlands National Academy of Sciences, 2021.

Nutrient Management for Farmers and the Nation:
Enhanced Agricultural Nutrient Management (EArN)

Contact: John Selker* John.Selker@Oregonstate.edu text/phone: 541-829-0137 February, 2023

Context:

Excess nutrients have rendered significant portions of the nation's water supply undrinkable, created a massive dead zone in the Gulf of Mexico and surface waters due to hypoxia. A massive loss of investment to farmers, a threat to the health of rural America, and making the nation's growers less profitable and less competitive globally. Farmers spend ~ $200/acre/yr on nitrogen. Improved management can save a 100-acre farm ~ $5,000/yr. Further, reducing nitrogen loss by 100 lb/acre decreases nitrate-N moving to groundwater drops by 25 ppm (> 2x the 10 ppm drinking water standard). The opportunities are many, for instance cover-crops remove nitrate while improving soil quality. Science suggests many practices, but **farmers deserve field-based evidence** for practicality and improvement of water quality. In the 50 years since this was recognized as a problem, water quality has continued to degrade. **Science and extension work has proven insufficient** to change the trajectory of this crisis. A national boots-on-the-ground approach is needed that is based on field-proven methods that provide long-term protection of drinking water resources and ecosystems. This will require integration of **private and public efforts**. We must have a national strategy if we are to pass on drinkable water and viable ecosystems to future generations.

The Nation needs:

1. A collaborative **USDA center** that synthesizes current knowledge, identifies necessary national water quality targets, develops practicable monitoring strategies and practice implementations, and verifies effectiveness through **on-farm results**.
2. Trained and certified private sector nutrient examiners who verify that **growers benefiting from Federal farm programs has a management plan** that meets the basic requirements to produce agronomic yields and maintain healthy water.

The USDA "**National Nutrient Management Collaboratory"** will synthesize and verify management practices which will be implemented through a joint public and private partnership. Like a "Certified Water Rights Examiner," private advisors develop and submit economically and environmentally beneficial nutrient management plans to the **Collaboratory**. Selected on farm monitoring will verify practices **actually work**. With continuous improvement the US will demonstrate the most efficient and effective agricultural production system in the world that enhances water quality. The Collaboratory will integrate efforts across the land grant university system (cooperative extension and ag experiment station), the USDA-NRCS, the USDA-ARS, the USGS, the US-EPA, and state offices.

Ask:

We seek that the following be put in the 2023 Farm Bill or other legislative vehicle:

1. Establish a **timetable** for phase-in of publicly certified nutrient management examiners wherein growers seeking federal program assistance must show they have a created and followed a certified nutrient management plans. This could include incentive programs for participating farmers.
2. **Funding** for the **National Nutrient Management Collaboratory** to develop and verify nutrient management planning tools for best management practices and carry out field validation studies to confirm plan effectiveness and the basis for continuous improvement of nutrient use efficacy.

The opportunity:

More competitive farms, safe water, heathy ecosystems, lower energy consumption, reduced greenhouse gas

Update on Roadmap based on Workshop Outcome

HDR

Salini Sasidharan, Oregon State University/LUBGWMA Chair

Bylaw Update (Vacancy/Subcommittee)

Laura Gleim/DEQ

Next Meeting

November 9th 2023, 9 -11 AM
(Hybrid)