

LUBGWMA Committee General Meeting 11* Hybrid

11/09/2023 – 9:00 am to 11:00 am
2 Marine Dr Boardman OR 97818

MEETING Link: 

[Zoom Meeting](#)

<https://oregonstate.zoom.us/j/91969093915?pwd=Qld5RjNna2hzckp4UERJNzk2QmJhZz09>

Meeting ID: 919 6909 3915 Password: 951581

Click [here](#) or copy and paste the link above to your browser (Google)

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

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 – 9:30 am	Communication Structure Salini Sasidharan
9:30 am – 10:00 am	Update on Roadmap based on Workshop Outcome HDR
10:00 am – 10:30 am	State Agency +SWCD Update Laura Gleim-DEQ and Kevin Payne
10:30 – 11:00 am	General Update (LUBGWMA Committee/General Public)
11:00 am	Adjourn

Agenda Prepared By - Dr. Salini Sasidharan/LUBGWMA Chair
Kevin Payne/LUBGWMA Secretary
Laura Gleim/DEQ

Check Past Meeting Information, Minutes, and Presentations [here](#).

Alternate meeting information:

Phone Dial-In Information

+1 971 247 1195 US (Portland), +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma), +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

Join by Polycom/Cisco/Other Room System,

97665876086@zoomcrc.com<<mailto:97665876086@zoomcrc.com>>

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

Lunch will be provided for the in-person meetings. Thanks to the Morrow/Umatilla County

LOWER UMATILLA BASIN GROUND WATER MANAGEMENT AREA
LUBGWMA Committee meeting #11
MINUTES-11/9/2023
Hybrid meeting: POM Riverfront Center, Sand Hollow Room/Zoom video

Attendance:

Roy Drago Jr.	Robb Hibbs	Aaron Palmquist
Salini Sasidharan	Sandra DeBano	Mark Millard
Debbie Radie	Kevin Payne	Monica Samayoa
Karen Lewotsky	Jared Huddleston	Russ Kazmierczak
Bob Waldher	Laura Gleim	Tamra Mabbott
Justin Green	Don Wysocki	Wym Matthews
Dan Doran	Courtney Crowell	Gregg Jones
Curtis Cude	Ann Farris	Jim Doherty
Tom Straughn	Wes Killion	Kathleen Cathey
Greg Harris	Stephen Machado	Kelly Doherty
Ruijun Qin	Maria Zamora	Andrew Wentworth
Kristin Ostrum	Isaak Stapleton	Misty Edgecomb
Shiloh Simrell	Suraj Jena	Chris Kowitz
Jessica Keys	Victoria Binning	

The meeting was called to order at 9:01 am by Chair Salini Sasidharan.

Salini covered the agenda and meeting ground rules.

LUBGWMA committee members and alternates present introduced themselves. A quorum was present.

Salini touched on the LUBGWMA committee communication structure. Website has been updated with subcommittee page including subcommittees and subcommittee meeting information link. Salini is checking with OSU about more file space for the centralized location for documents and communication platform.

Salini and Gregg (HDR) gave an update on the LUBGWMA Roadmap to Implementation based on workshop outcomes. Goals identified were groundwater research/modeling, best management practices, education and outreach and monitoring/assessment. Process and Technical Elements were identified as a means to create a readily implementable strategy.

Process Element would:

- Promote organization and coordination
- Strong oversight to drive process forward
- Communications plan
- Dedicated sources of funding
- Incentive-based solutions

Technical Element would:

- Divide LUBGWMA into manageable areas
- Systematically implement small research/pilot projects
- Uses what's already in place or learned
- Centralized BMP data base
- Provides plan to expand BMPs basin-wide

Salini asked the room how we should divide the LUBGWMA into smaller, more manageable areas informed by science. HDR suggested establishing pilot projects areas where BMPs can be implemented and carefully studied.

Gregg Jones with HDR mentioned that their roadmap was for consideration of the group and not to dictate how it should be or go. He said Salini did a lot of good work on her interpretation of the presented roadmap and it is up to the committee to approve the plan.

Karen Lewotsky mentioned the need for effective communication with state and federal agencies on this work moving forward. The hope would be that everyone is “in the know” when it comes to information coming not the group via subcommittees. She is hoping that tasks are clearly presented to members and information isn’t siloed.

Bob Waldher stated that a strategic communications plan is a critical part of this roadmap.

Aaron Palmquist pointed out that hobby farms (40 acres or less) need looked at a bit closer in the GWMA. Many BMPs are geared towards larger operations.

Dan Doran would like to see the group define exactly what the funding asks are for, and how to prioritize projects that can be targeted sooner rather than later.

Courtney Crowell mentioned that adding some agency personnel to subcommittees to offer technical support in the process could be of great benefit.

Kristin stated that she would like speakers to identify themselves when speaking for the online attendees.

Misty Edgecomb asked about how members of subcommittees are approved. Salini mentioned that they are volunteers that have no vote but can contribute without being “elected.”

Laura Gleim (DEQ) gave an Agency update for the group. She echoed the groups calls for agency involvement in the subcommittee work.

Courtney Crowell gave an update on the liaison for the agencies and LUBGWMA committee to coordinate plans/goals and facilitate communication between the GWMA and the agencies. She says that she is hopeful that a person may be brought on soon to keep the committee moving forward.

Kristin wondered what the skills and background are they looking for in the liaison? She also asked how much money it will take and where is the money coming from to pay for it. Courtney said they are looking for someone with local knowledge of the area and the stakeholders involved. She is still working on the dollars and where they will come from.

Laura stated that DEQ has settled with the Port of Morrow for their violations and the POM is making good strides. Laura mentioned that DEQ is looking to hire a groundwater coordinator for the state. DEQ sampling continues with OHA in the area. Laura said DEQ is working on an updated trends analysis for the GWMA. DEQ is working on finding a suitable centralized data platform. Craft 3 is offering grants and low interest loans for septic system upgrades.

Dan Doran asked if there is a plan or expectation to expand that network of wells and if so, who would be the lead.

Ann Faris (DEQ) mentioned there are some data gaps that exist and expanding the network could be good but needs to be intentional. The updated trends analysis should shed some light on potential expansion.

Chris Kowitz gave an OWRD update. They continue to work on data sharing with other agencies and trying to identify hot spots in areas with commonalities. They hope to install backflow control devices for farmers who inject fertilizer into their irrigation systems.

Rob Hibbs with ODA gave an agency update. Rob introduced Victoria Binning, the new Implementation Coordinator for ODA. ODA is in the process of updating the Local Ag Water Quality Plans for both Morrow and Umatilla County. They are working with the Morrow SWCD to set up the new groundwater SIA in the LUBGWMA. Isaak Stapleton mentioned that this will be the first groundwater SIA in the state. ODA has applied for a WaterSMART Grant through the USBR. Rob mentioned the Ag Water Quality Support Grant with the Morrow SWCD starting next year.

Salini opened it up for general discussion. Aaron Palmquist mentioned the need for folks to get assistance with septic and drain fields issues who are experiencing problems with their drinking water. Cortney Crowell mentioned that OWRD has a program available to assist, but it may be tied to dry wells from drought. They may have changed the language to assist with wells abandoned due to water quality. She will look into it.

Tamra Mabbott stated that with all the money coming into the basin (DEQ fines included) it may be of use for the communications committee to put together something that details where all the money goes or what it is earmarked for. She is concerned that there is a misconception that this committee is receiving these funds and that may not be the case.

Karen urged us to document and coordinate all agency correspondence and efforts in the GWMA. She hopes the silos can be broken down proactively. Chris mentioned that there is a conscious effort to coordinate, and the agencies are meeting every Wednesday ahead of the regular LUBGWMA meetings.

Next scheduled meeting is set for December 14th, 2023, 9:00 – 11:00 am and will be via Zoom video.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 am.

Submitted by Kevin Payne

Reviewed by Salini Sasidharan