

LUBGWMA Committee General Meeting 13-Hybrid

01/12/2024 – 11 am to 1:00 pm

Stafford Hansell Government Center 915 SE Columbia Dr, Hermiston, OR 97838

MEETING Link: 
[Zoom Meeting](#)

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
11:00 am - 11:10 am	Welcome; present agenda and recap. Salini Sasidharan
11:10 am - 11:15 am	Introduction LUBGWMA Committee Members
11:15 am – 11:20 am	Website Logistics Update Salini Sasidharan
11:20 am – 11:40 am	Subcommittee Update Subcommittee Coordinators
11:40 am – 12:00 pm	Update on Facilitator Courtney Crowell
12:00 pm – 12:30 pm	Water Quality – How to coordinate the effort and data validation? Agency Delegates
12:30 pm – 12: 40 pm	Agency Update Agency Delegates
12:40 pm– 1:00 pm	General Update (LUBGWMA Committee/General Public)
1:00 pm	Adjourn

Agenda Prepared By - Dr. Salini Sasidharan/LUBGWMA Chair

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 Morrow/Umatilla County

LOWER UMATILLA BASIN GROUND WATER MANAGEMENT AREA

LUBGWMA Committee meeting #13

MINUTES-1/12/2024

Hybrid meeting: Stafford Hansell Government Center 915 SE Columbia Dr, Hermiston, OR 97838/Zoom video

Attendance:

Roy Drago Jr.	Justin Green	Paige Haxton
Salini Sasidharan	Gracie Krahn	Gabriela Goldfarb
Bob Waldher	Aaron Palmquist	Mark Millard
Curtis Cude	Monica Samayoa	Gibb Evans
AE Wilson	Russ Kazmierczak	Brandon Hammond
Ruijun Qin	Tamra Mabbott	Andrew Wentworth
Jessica Keys	Wym Matthews	Maria Zamora
Jane Hill	Abigail Tomasek	Madison A
Rob Hibbs	Sunni Voss	Mitch Wolgamott
Sandra DeBano	Misty Edgecomb	Kathleen Cathey
Torie Griggs	Karen Lewotsky	1-971-xxxx-853
Kevin Payne	Brandon Hammond	Karen's iPad
Jared Huddleston	Chris Kowitz	Bob's iPhone
Bill Goss	Kristin Ostrom	KGW News
Carlos Bonilla	Ann Farris	Joe Taylor
Jake Madison	Courtney Crowell	Tony Shepherd
Kaleb Lay	Gina Gray	Laurel Singer
Wes Killion	Lyndsi Lewis	Kate Ely
David Wooster	Patty DLI	Kerri Macomber
Bill Gross	Robin Harkless	

The meeting was called to order at 11:01 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 gave an update on the website and some modifications she has made. Meeting information, including agendas and zoom links, will be under the "meetings" tab. Subcommittee information will be updated and posted under the "subcommittees" tab.

Aaron Palmquist mentioned that the website looks great, and everything functions as it should, and he thanked Salini for her work on the site.

Salini gave an update on her pursuit of funding for work in the LUBGWMA as part of the Funding Subcommittee. She had no update with regards to the Technical Subcommittee.

Misty Edgecomb mentioned that she is working on a Comms Plan for the committee and can give an update soon in a future meeting as part of the Communications Subcommittee.

Karen stated that the Partners Subcommittee movement hasn't been initiated just yet, but she is ready when needed.

Jake Madison echoed Karen's comments and stated that they are starting the process to make sure everyone involved is on the same page and knows what the LUBGWMA Committee has to offer.

Bob Waldher mentioned that the Best Management Practices Subcommittee hasn't met yet, but they are looking to get some things lined up very soon.

Dr. Ray expressed his desire to sit on the BMP Subcommittee.

Salini stated that subcommittee memberships are informal, and anyone can participate. Individuals listed on the website are just coordinators and alternate coordinators.

Kate Ely stated that she would like to see that members be required to sit on a subcommittee or subcommittees. She also requested to be part of the Funding and Technical subcommittees. She hopes for more engagement from the members.

Salini mentioned that any/all subcommittee meetings are informal, and no decisions will be made. However, all subcommittee meetings should follow the LUBGWMA Committee bylaw and public meeting law, and the meeting dates and minutes will be posted through the LUBGWMA Webpage. Subcommittee coordinators will bring pertinent information back to the larger group.

Salini turned it over to Courtney Crowell to discuss the effort to find a LUBGWMA Facilitator.

Courtney stated that the state has been looking to assist the committee with resources, one of which is a facilitator. The Governor's office hopes that a facilitator with local knowledge and experience can help support the LUBGWMA Committee. Jane Hill has been identified as an individual with experience and expertise that could serve in that roll.

Roy Drago expressed his excitement about this collaboration, and what it could bring to the area.

Gabriela Goldfarb with OHA stated that she thinks someone with local knowledge should be a great resource for the committee, and communications to the public specifically.

Ann Farris mentioned that she really appreciates the effort that the Governor's Office put into the formation of this facilitator and looks forward to continuing the collaboration effort.

Rob Hibbs stated that he is excited about the facilitator being available to relay information to the public.

Wym Matthews mentioned that communications are key, and he is excited about getting things going and getting feedback from the public as well.

Chris Kowitz echoed other agency folks in his excitement for the facilitator to be available to foster communication and collaboration in the LUBGWMA.

Robin Harkless with the National Policy Consensus Center spoke to their ability to act as a hub for collaborative efforts including community engagement. They aim to be a neutral forum for public policy issues. They look for a group's needs, interests, and readiness in a given effort and add accountability measures as well.

Jane Hill introduced herself and stated that she is excited to be deployed by NPCC to help boost the committee's efforts.

Tamra Mabbott asked about the relationship between the governor's office, NPCC and Jane Hill. Jane stated that she is "subcontracted" by NPCC for this task.

Salini discussed potential ideas to coordinate water quality data validation in the GWMA. She mentioned the postdoc work with the goal of developing a groundwater flow model. She also hopes to come up with a nitrate transport model with potential sources. Salini has a new masters student that she hopes will come up with nitrate sources that may be contributing to the contamination of the compartmentalized aquifers in the basin. She hopes that the various data collected or supplied is centralized and capable of being complimentary and collaborative.

Chris Kowitz stated that he hopes this discussion leads to an interagency meeting to give feedback on data collection and validation needs.

Kate Ely hopes that people are able get water levels as well as water quality data when samples are collected.

Karen Lewotsky stated that consistency with monitoring efforts would be great as well. Cross-training could be the answer.

Tamra Mabbott mentioned that perhaps a data subcommittee could be of use. Formatting issues and centralized storage could be addressed.

Gabriela stated that OHA has knocked on a bunch of doors and has a lot of data and that that work may assist others in recruiting further collection and examination in areas of interest. She hopes the OHA data may point to areas that need a closer look.

Curtis Cude mentioned that all the data collected is done so in different ways and quality assurances are different given the types of data collected and reasons for collecting. He hopes for some consistency across the GWMA in data collecting methods.

Chris Kowitz mentioned the Statewide data portal discussion and formation is ongoing and may be of use.

Kaleb Lay inquired about the trends study by Phil Richardson. Ann stated that it is close to being completed and should be available very soon.

Salini opened it up for agency updates.

Commissioner Drago inquired about recent helicopter activity over North Morrow County. Kate Ely read that it was research by Pacific Northwest National Labs looking at deep basalt.

Rob Hibbs discussed the SIA in the area is getting under way and local Ag Water Quality Plans will be reviewed soon.

Tamra Mabbott stated that the EPA Grant in Morrow and Umatilla counties will run the RFP soon. She also mentioned that the Morrow County Water Advisory Board has water quality/quantity briefing papers on the planning department website for reference.

Next meeting will be 2/9/2024, 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM, virtual only.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:01 am.

Submitted by Kevin Payne

Reviewed by Salini Sasidharan