

Oregon Technical Advisory Committee (OTAC) Q1 Meeting
November 9, 2023

Agenda:

10:00 - 10:15 - Welcome and Updates - Jay Gibbs, NRCS Acting State Conservationist, and Gail Greenman, FSA State Executive Director

10:15 - 10:30 - OACD Updates - Andrea Kreiner, OACD Executive Director (Andrea has to leave by 10:40, so moved her to top)

10:30 - 10:35 - FSA update - Sarah Hanlon, FSA Farm Programs Chief

10:35 - 11:00 - NRCS Program Updates – Tom Miewald, NRCS Oregon RCPP Coordinator

11:00 - 11:30 - Integrated Water Strategy - Crystal Grinnell, Oregon Water Resources Department Integrated Water Resource Strategy Specialist

11:30 - 11:45 - Conservation Innovation Grant Project Update - Addie Candib, American Farmland Trust Pacific Northwest Regional Director

11:45 - 12:00 - People's Garden Updates - Heather Nelson Kent, East Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District Grants Program Manager, and Mary Logalbo, West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District Urban Conservationist

12 p.m. - Meeting Adjourns

Attendees:

1. Jay Gibbs, NRCS OR Acting State Conservationist
2. Gail Greenman, FSA OR Executive Director
3. Andrea Kreiner, OACD Executive Director
4. Tom Miewald, NRCS Oregon RCPP Coordinator
5. Sarah Hanlon, FSA Farm Programs Chief
6. Heather Nelson Kent, East Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District Grants Program Manager
7. Mary Logalbo, West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District Urban Conservationist
8. Addie Candib, American Farmland Trust Pacific Northwest Regional Director
9. Jessi Kershner, Climate Coordinator, OWEB
10. Megan Kemple, Executive Director Oregon Climate and Agriculture Network (OrCAN)
11. Mikal Cline - ODFW Upland Game Bird Coordinator
12. Addie Candib, American Farmland Trust
13. Carly Boyer - Program Manager, Oregon Climate and Agriculture Network
14. Jericho Winter - Oregon NRCS State Soil Scientist
15. Damon Brosnan, NRCS OR Basin Team Leader
16. Amy Hendershot, State Resource Conservationist, NRCS-OR

17. Lisa Romano, USFS State, Private, and Tribal Forestry, Landscape Scale Restoration and Inflation Reduction Act Landowner Support Program Manager for OR and WA
18. Mike Edwards, Klamath Basin Coordinator for the USFWS Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program
19. Crystal Grinnell, Integrated Water Resources Specialist, OWRD
20. Sarah Gardner - Pollinator Partnership/NRCS Partner Biologist
21. Misty Beals, C-Program Specialist, NRCS
22. Dr. Gabrielle Roesch-McNally, Women for the Land Director for American Farmland Trust
23. Jason Flowers, Program Director at the Oregon Wheat Growers League
24. Will Fett, NRCS, Outreach Coordinator and Tribal Liaison based in Portland
25. Ken Yates, Oregon Water Resources Congress
26. Kelly Albers, Acting State Conservation Engineer NRCS
27. Gary Diridoni, OR NRCS ASTC Watershed Program
28. Andrew Owen NRCS State Forester
29. Brett Golden, Director of Modernization, Farmers Conservation Alliance
30. Gabrielle McNally
31. Angela Powell, FSA OR
32. Jodi Emtman
33. Brett Golden

OTAC Q1 Notes

Jay:

- We're in an era of abundance
- Inflation Reduction Act is the biggest investment in conservation at the center of everyone's mind
- National Leadership Meeting is next week, IRA will be the focus

Gail:

- Accessing ways to work with new customers
- CRP software has been turned off in last couple weeks, planned to be turned on in a week or so
- IRA – working on assistance for distressed farmers and increased outreach

Sarah:

- ELAP and Livestock indemnity program have issued a waiver. Have it in by Jan payment period deadline to be considered eligible
- Emergency relief program started
- CRP – we don't have authority to enter into new CRP contracts as the Farm Bill has expired
 - o Which is why the CRP tool is locked currently
 - o Hoping to have access next week
- Working with partners on annual CREP report

Tom:

- IRA FY23 and FY24 update
- Reminders about IRA funds, funds ramp up to FY26 and then decrease

- Reviewed Climate Smart Ag and Forestry (IRA – specific) practices and enhancements available
 - o <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/conservation-basics/natural-resource-concerns/climate/climate-smart-mitigation-activities>
- FY24 NRCS OR updated their top 10 priority practices based on input from OTAC
 - o 90% cost share rate
- Highlighted FY24 Watershed Priority Practices where some practices have a higher cost share rate
- Agricultural Conservation Easement Program updates
- Regional Conservation Partnership Program updates
 - o 22 projects currently, about \$100M of NRCS funds, \$100M in partner funds

Crystal:

- Integrated Water Resource Strategy intro, project teams, update timeline
- Update to requirement to produce biennial progress reports
- IWRS updates are now required no more than every 8 years (previously 5 years)
- See OWRD presentation online for more presentation info

Addie:

- Women for the Land group overview
- Awarded Conservation Innovation Grant in 2021 to support Women in Ranching program.
- Goals include: Develop program interventions to meet the needs and challenges faced by women ranchers in NE Oregon (Union, Baker, and Wallowa counties), Increase regional understanding of the needs and challenges faced by women ranchers
- See American Farmland Trust presentation for more info

Mary with WMSWCD:

- Working with UNITE Oregon, Portland Parks and other partners to implement People's Garden funding received from NRCS OR
- Portland Parks commissioner put forward \$1M toward this project; NRCS OR put forth \$200k in grant award

Heather with EMSWCD:

- Put out open application period for folks to apply to meet project goals
- 1 garden funded – Our Village Gardens – funding to go to high tunnel, staffing, ambassador program, etc. - <https://www.villagegardens.org/>
- 2nd garden funded – Thimbleberry Collective Farm - <https://thimbleberrycollaborativefarm.org/>