

Local Work Group Meeting Notes

Yamhill Local Work Group

February 1, 2017

Prepared by: Thomas Hoskins

15 min	Thomas Hoskins NRCS District Conservationist	Welcome Housekeeping and Review Agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outline: objectives, decision-making process, relationship between NRCS & SWCD • Logistics: facilities, time, parking lot, minutes • Invite: participant introductions
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Notes:

Objectives of the meeting:

- What can NRCS and the Conservation District do to apply more soil conserving practices?
- How can NRCS the CD and OSU extension make the adoption of these practices easier?
- How's our outreach, and what should we do to improve it?

Logistics, Facilities, time and parking lot.

Participant Introductions. Participants were invited to introduce themselves, and explain why they came to the meeting.

- We had 35 people present at the meeting, including district staff, NRCS staff, local farmers, landowners, ODF employees, OSU extension employees, Greater Yamhill Watershed council staff, Grande Ronde tribal staff, TSP foresters, and

15 min	Sergio Villaseñor NRCS Natural Resource Specialist	What are we up to now...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss Forestry Conservation Strategy
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Notes:

- Sergio discussed our existing forestry conservation strategy area. He showed a map, and he gave out a handout that was produced by Kim Gray with all of the details of the forestry program. Sergio explained what the purpose of the CIS was, and what we aimed to accomplish with the included enhancements.

30 min	Thomas Hoskins NRCS District Conservationist	What are we up to now...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss AG Conservation Strategy
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Notes:

A Prezi presentation was made, explaining the logic, and reason behind our new AG CIS.

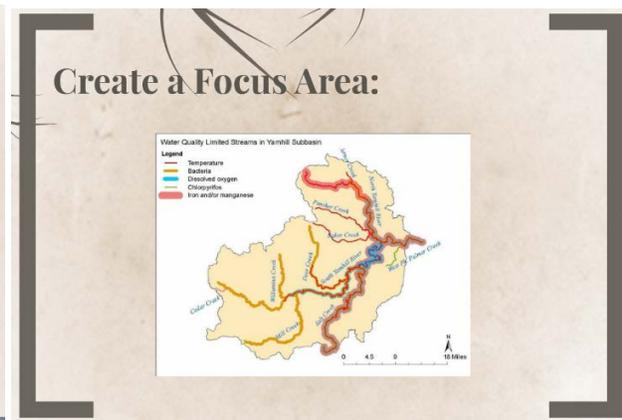
- The objective of this meeting was discussed again during this section. This LWG is not being used to create a new CIS, but rather to refine, and improve our existing CIS. The Yamhill Co. NRCS is exploring options for SWCD to get their hands dirty, and help the NRCS implement these CIS's. We are looking for new outreach strategies, and we are looking for practices that address the issues that have been determined to be important to the land managers of Yamhill Co. See the final slide for more LWG objectives that were identified.

Prezi presentation that was shown.



It's all about the water...

- Clean up the water/ Improve the quality and quantity of water in the Yamhill River
- Reduce Erosion
- Control Weeds
- T & E Species and Pollinators



Submit Application for Farm Bill Grant Funding.

Application Submitted in February of 2016

Yamhill County NRCS Awarded with Ag Water Quality Grant

Grant Years 2017-2019 3 years of funding

2017 - 2019 CIS Focus Area

Legend:
 100% Conservation
 50% Conservation
 25% Conservation
 10% Conservation
 5% Conservation
 Yamhill River System

Water Quality Fund Pool

Practices

1. Weed Control
2. Conservation Cover/ Grass Planting
3. Cover crops
4. Grassed Field Borders
5. Filter Strip
6. Micro Irrigation System
7. Sprinkler Irrigation
8. Irrigation Water Management (Irrigation Sensors)
9. Fence
10. Pumping Plant
11. No-Till planting
12. Structure for Water Control
13. Tree/Shrub Establishment
14. Underground Outlet
15. Riparian Forest Buffer
16. Nutrient Management

Local Work Group Meeting Objectives 2017

- Discover the barriers to conservation implementation
- Discuss creative solutions to overcome these barriers
- Find out if the existing Ag Water Quality fund pool meets your expectations
- Refine the fund pools to match your needs
- Explore opportunities for future grant requests

Explore Partnership Opportunities with:

- Conservation District
- Yamhill Watershed Council
- OSU Extension

10 min	Sam Sweeney Conservation District Board Member	Local Perspective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Perspective
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Notes: Sam Sweeney has been a Conservation District Board member for 35 years, and he is also a local farmer. Sam spoke for 10 minutes, during which he discussed the value of soil, and the time it takes to create soil. He explained the history of the valley, and its erosion problems. Sam spoke personally about what his family has done to reduce erosion on their own farm, and he added a local perspective to the LWG.

20 min	Marie Vicksta Conservation District Planner	Creative Solutions to conservation problems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss erosion • Explain benefits of cover crops in orchards and on cropland • Why did the district purchase a no till drill?
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Notes;

30 min	Larry Ojua Yamhill SWCD	Discovering Barriers to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How can we apply more conservation practices. • What will it take to plant 1500 acres to cover crop • What will it take to plant 20 miles of road side buffers
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	Executive Director	conservation adoption	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How can we as the NRCS and the District make adoption of conservation practices easier?
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Notes:

30 min	Break Out Session Larry Ojua (Cropland) Josh Togstad and Marie Vicksta (Wildlife and Riparian) Kevin Mclaughlin ODF (Forestry)	Document Barriers: Address Meeting Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forestry group • Cropland and Orchard group • Wildlife and Riparian Group
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Notes: See 4 attached documents

- LWG Break Out Questions asked
- Forestry Breakout Notes
- Ag Breakout Notes
- Wildlife and Riparian Notes

5 min	Thomas	Closing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revisit objectives & outcomes • Summarize results of activities • Process & follow-up/contact information • Thank-you
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Notes:

See attached participant sign in

Recorded by Larry Ojua

Topic: Irrigation

Barriers

- Cost of capital expense
- Cost of monitoring, maintenance, and upgrades
- Buffers and Filter Strips
- Barriers
- Maintenance (mowing, weed control, etc.)
- Loss of production
- Need for drift reduction strategies
- Need to find species to use buffers that are compatible with adjacent/neighboring crops (e.g. not use species that could be harmed with regular spray regime on crops)
- Availability of the “right” species. (low growing, or other characteristics)

Opportunities

- Plant beneficial species for pollinators, or for other production benefits
- Find the right equipment to mow the shapes of the borders

Topic: Cover Crops

Barriers

- Technology
 - Finding the right species for companion crops
 - RTK – Does it work and need to update equipment
 - Re: no-till; use technology that allows for one-pass work (e.g., using a drill that can plant 2 rows of oats and 1 row of perennial rye grass)
 - What are the options to manufacture a proto-type or obtain equipment that can do the work.
- Crop load and field conditions; challenges to incorporate cover crop residues
- Better working understanding of the details, conditions, benefits and “how-to” publications or guides about cover cropping

Opportunities

- Handouts, leaflets, or other guides on the “how to”
- Information about how to work cover crops into a multi-year plan
- Possible connections and work with Nick Andrews at OSU
- Field Tours
- Develop quantifiable data about rotations, affects on 2nd year crops, etc.
- Grow and harvest your own cover crop seed to keep costs low

Topic: No-Till

Barriers

- Slugs, mice, and voles
- Need to find a solution to the zinc phosphide bait issues and the effects on geese. (look for alternatives)
- Options and research relating to spring-planted perennial ryegrass instead of fall-planted
- Barrier for spring planted is the Yellow-Dwarf (virus?)
- Barrier of losing a year of production for spring-planted grass
- Issue of pH problems

Topic: Tree and Shrub Planting (Riparian Buffers)

Barriers

- Costs
- Planting the right species that is compatible and also meets the purposes
- Maintenance (hassle factor)

Topic: Composting

Barriers

- Costs (pile turner, spreader, etc.)
- Opportunities and next steps.
- Sharing equipment or use of rental equipment (grinder)
- Education and demonstration projects
- Need research about compost use on food crops

Other Wish List Ideas

- Real-time weather data to use with IPM

Topic: Water

Barriers

- Recognize that this is an increasing issue for the region and state

Topic: Weeds

- Explore a weed district (with a liaison role instead of enforcement)
- Neighbor Issues

Topic: Energy and Climate Change

Items listed

- Consumption, offsets, credits, etc.
- Fuel efficiency
- Fertilizer and Chemicals
- Carbon Char (Ag Energy in Spokane Washington)

2017 Yamhill County Work group-

Forestry group break out-

- 1) What conservation practices should be added to current Implementation Plan?
 - A) Slash treatment options
 - B) Afforestation
 - Incentives to plant alternative tree species other than Doug Fir that might not fit the soils
 - site prep funds
 - C) Fire protection
 - Fire plans
 - Fire access roads
 - Fuel / Fire breaks
 - Enhanced forest Mang plans with fire as a concern
 - D) Roads
 - Water control along forest roads
 - “Disconnects” from road system to avoid water runoff into waterways
 - Under sized culverts
 - E) Family session plans
- 2) What are the barriers to adopting these practices?
 - A) Only 30% of county in CIS
 - Too much of a moving target for some landowners
 - B) Sign up system
 - To long of wait times
 - To many hoops to jump through
 - C) Remove Bureaucracy
 - D) This meeting should be held with small woodlands chapter
 - E) More outreach
 - Signs along roads
 - Maybe near or at CIS locations

- Local Champions in the area to help get word out

- Local Ad Space

F) Ready to go contractor list (2 options)

- A list of operators the landowner can hire

- A list of operators that can be “turnkey” so that NRCS hires the operator and the landowner only supplies the land

G) NRCS or SWD help with paperwork

3) What should the next funding request look like?

A) Climate Change

B) Available to all landowners

Wildlife and Riparian Breakout Notes

2/1/2017

Recorded by Josh Togstad and Marie Vicksta

Barriers to Conservation Practice Adoption

- Access to equipment and plant material
- Right contractor for specific equipment – *Sometimes hard to find skilled contractors to complete work the right way.*
- Program ranking excludes some landowners
- Competitive grant funding – *This excludes some landowners that are willing to complete a project.*
- Programs don't fit every landowner
- Restrictive regulations – *Some landowners are afraid if they participate in a federal program there might be restrictions on how they could use their property. An example might be if Kincaid's Lupine and/or fender's blue butterfly is found on their property.*
- Bureaucracy – *Paperwork can be intimidating.*
- Information clearing house – *It would nice if landowners could go to one website to find information on all possible programs that might apply to their property.*
- Complicated Rules/specs – *Program rules and practice specs are overcomplicated and too hard to read for landowners.*
- Misinformation about projects – *Sometimes neighbors see spraying or other practices being completed on a project and spread negative/false information (they don't know that the practice is part of a management/restoration plan).*
- Getting multiple landowners on the same page – *This could help with contiguous restoration and help wildlife habitat overall. Property management from one landowner to another varies greatly.*
- Wildlife data
- Capacity to manage – *Some landowners don't have the time/money to complete projects.*
- Communication – *Communication could be better between natural resource agencies.*

Inefficient Equipment	1
Farming Practices	4
Other	
Habitat Degradation	8
Inadequate Livestock Water	
Inadequate Wildlife Habitat	6
T&E and Pollinator's	5
Poor growth	
Weeds / Noxious brush	12
Wildfire	1
Pesticide application	2
Erosion Sheet and Rill	6
Compaction	1
Organic Matter Depletion	3
Fertility Management	3
Tillage to reduce erosion	5
Too much water	
Inefficient use of Irrigation	7
Excess Nutrients and Pesticides	3
Excess Sediment	4
Elevated Water Temp	3
Inadequate Water Storage	6
Runoff Management	7
Ground Water	4
Smoke and Dust	1

LWG 2017 Resource Concerns

