

Hood River Local Working Group Meeting

Date: 1/10/2018

Location: Hood River Forest Service Ranger Station Conference Room

Attendees: Carly Heron-Hood River County District Conservationist, NRCS

Alex Geritz- Forestry Technician, Ecotrust Forest Management

Brian Nakamura- Board Member, East Fork Irrigation District

John Buckley- Manager, East Fork Irrigation District

Jordan Kim- Manager, Hood River SWCD

Cindy Thieman- Coordinator, Hood River Watershed Group

10:00 am Meeting called to order

1. Introductions
 - a. Since Alex was new to the group, Cindy explained what watershed counsels were and how she had previously worked with his co-worked on a different counsel.
2. Description of CIS and process- Carly
 - a. For the benefit of review and for Alex who was new to the group, Carly briefly reviewed the programs, EQIP, CSP, and RCPP. She discussed the CIS process and why the LWG meetings are important in the process.
 - b. The group then began to discuss the progression of the East Fork Irrigation District funding. It seems the natural flow of things is Central Canal, then Eastside lateral, then Dukes Valley. Cindy wrote on a chart the timeline of funds and current funding status as a visual for everyone.
 - c. There was discussion of whether a new CIS was needed for 2019 or not. It was unclear if one needs to be written to spend the money that has been allocated via the awarded RCPP for the Eastside lateral onfarm work or not. Cindy was pretty sure that there would not need to be one. Carly felt like Kevin had said there did need to be one but then agreed that that did not make sense and said she would follow up on that question.
 - d. Jordan and John both made points that some growers they are encountering may be hesitant from applying for contracts because they feel that they need to install all of the practices in the first year of the contract. Carly said that is not correct. They need to get a practice completed within the first year of the contract. That can be one block of the irrigation system, or a mainline, it doesn't need to be the whole place that they plan to do. It can be a multi-year contract.
 - e. Carly brought up the idea that while we may not want to have a new CIS for 2019 due to workload, that it doesn't mean there can't be work starting to do outreach and coordination for a future CIS. If EFID feels that the Dukes valley growers would be the next group to target but that they also will be the most resistant to work with the government, then pro-

active outreach started now would be good. And there's no reason to not start writing the CIS now. The group liked the idea of starting work early so there's less of a mad rush.

- f. John expressed some concern over design and pressure changes when the RCPP and other on-farm designs start taking place. I assured him that NRCS won't approve a design without pressure regulators or other apperutances that are required to make the system work. It's in our best interest as well to approve designs that will work.
 - g. Alex then explained his vested interest in the group. His EFM group just purchased a ~2000 acre inhoding of forest land up near Lolo Pass. It previously belonged to Weyerhauser. It was previously heavily harvested. It has the BPA powerlines going through it. It has some wetlands, and American Pika habitat. They are looking at any possible program options for assistance with fish habitat, interplanting, pollinator habitat, non-commercial thinning, etc. All conservation and Forest Service groups are SUPER happy to have this group on board with this land.
 - h. Jordan, Cindy, and Carly all gave him ideas for contacts for pollinator species and weed management.
 - i. There was then some discussion of writing a forestry/pollinator CIS for forestry parcels. Jordan will reach out to the new contact at ODF once Carly has talked to Wasco county to see if they want to expand the current CIS that covers the Eastside forest to cover forest as far west as this area and add a pollinator component.
A small follow-up meeting will likely occur after getting more of a gel to this CIS idea together with Jordan, Cindy, Alex and Carly.
3. Meeting adjourned.