

MEETING NOTES

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, central Oregon coast

Local Work Group meeting

Date: February 15, 2018

Time: 1:00pm

Location: MidCoast Watersheds Council office

23 North Coast Highway, Newport

The meeting began at 1:00pm

This is the joint meeting of the technical teams of the Salmon Drift Creek Watershed Council and the MidCoast Watersheds Council, which incorporated the local work group meeting.

Attendees were welcomed; *the purpose of the meeting was stated and attendees were asked to introduce themselves.*

NRCS local work group was the first agenda item.

Kate Danks(NRCS) provided a review of the discussion from the 2017 Local Work Group meeting and updates that have occurred as a result of those discussions and suggestions. Next, the 2018 EQIP priorities were presented, noting the changes since 2017. Also presented was an interest from Lane County woodland owners to develop a basin wide Conservation Implementation Strategy focused on forest resilience and health.

The focus areas for project implementation are currently the:

- 1. "Siuslaw Salmon Sanctuary" which expanded from the Siltcoos Tahkenitch watershed (western Lane County) of 2017 to align with the Siuslaw Coho Business Plan area;*
- 2. Big Elk watershed (farm and nonindustrial private forestland) in Lincoln County; 2018 is the final year for this, and,*
- 3. Siletz Strategy which includes nonindustrial private and Tribal forestlands and farms in the Siletz/Yaquina (north of Hwy 20) watershed in Lincoln County.*

Attendees were then asked to provide input or ask questions. Open floor discussion of priority areas and natural resource concerns challenging the central coast followed; main points voiced during the discussion were:

- wetlands conservation remains a high priority on the central coast*
- technical assistance from the NRCS Plant Materials Center for species selection and planting recommendations is still desirable*
- consider including wetland restoration specifically in the Siletz Strategy for 2019*
- consider including practices which will improve beaver populations*
- interest in Conservation Innovation Grants was expressed; potential for use of a grant for developing a modified heat source model for use in place based planning and the Siletz Coho Business Plan development*

The local work group meeting adjourned at 2pm, Watershed Council technical team discussion continued until 3:00pm