

# 2018 Wasco County Local Workgroup Meeting

January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2018 9:00 am – 12:00 pm  
Cousins' Restaurant Conference Room  
2114 W. 6<sup>th</sup> St. The Dalles, OR 97058

## Minutes\*

### Attendees\*\*:

Peter Grubb – Wasco County Producer  
Josh Thompson – Wasco County Soil and Water Conservation District (WCSWCD)/Wasco County Producer  
Tatiana Taylor – WCSWCD  
Karen Lamson – WCSWCD  
Pat Davis – White River Watershed Council/Wasco County Producer/Rock Creek Ditch Improvement Company  
Bill Markman – Wasco County Producer  
Mel Gard – Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF)  
Brian Tuck – Oregon State University Extension  
Andrew Rosenberg – Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW)  
Chet Behling – ODF  
Brian Reel – ODF  
Lissa Biehn – Farm Service Agency (FSA)  
Aimee Bell – FSA  
Ed Thomas – FSA  
Amy Kaser – Wasco County Producer  
John Dodd – United States Forest Service (USFS)  
Shilah Olson – WCSWCD/Wasco County Producer  
Tim Morelli – Wasco County Producer/Juniper Flat Irrigation District/White River Watershed Council  
Jeff Markman – Wasco County Producer  
Robert Hathorne – Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)  
Chase Brown – ODFW  
Phil Kaser – WCSWCD/Fifteen Mile Watershed Council/ Wasco County Producer  
Larry Magill – Wamic Rural Fire Department/Wasco County Producer  
Ron Mobley – Wasco County Producer  
Dusty Eddy – ATI  
Garrett Duyck – NRCS  
Clinton Whitten – NRCS  
Katie Pierson – NRCS/ODFW  
Frank Cochran – NRCS  
Tracy Robillard -- NRCS

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 am by Frank Cochran, Wasco County NRCS District Conservationist. The group was asked to individually provide an introduction and state what stakeholder group they were a member of. Afterwards, Frank Cochran commenced to give an overview of the locally led conservation process, a brief history of the NRCS and Soil and Water Conservation District formation, and the history of the Farm Bill and Oregon's strategic approach to facilitate federal Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) funds at the local level. Additionally, he stated that another deliverable from the meeting was to get an update from all the stakeholders attending including: what/where are the issues they face, whether there is adequate funding to address them, and potential collaboration opportunities. He planned to facilitate the meeting in two parts: first identify and prioritize Wasco County natural resource concerns, and second, identify stakeholder involvement and funding opportunities.

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Clinton Whitten provided the group with an update of NRCS work over the previous 4 years (2014-2017). The data presented\*\*\* included the monetary value that has been received by Wasco County producers through the Conservation Security, Conservation Stewardship, and Environmental Quality Incentives Programs in that time frame. Additionally, the acreage and land uses receiving conservation benefits were presented.

Frank provided the group with a form with a list of resource concerns to rank in order of importance. The form contained an additional notes section to identify any concerns that were not listed as well as a map for participants to delineate where the concerns were located within the county. A round table discussion was initiated to allow all participants a chance to discuss their prioritization (concentrating on their top 3) and voice any other concerns. Points of discussion included†:

- a. Dusty Eddie:
  - a. Soil Quality, specifically soil acidification on wheat cropland
  - b. Forest Health and Wildfire hazard
  - c. Technology Adaptation Hurdles
- b. Phil Kaser:
  - a. Soil Quality, specifically soil acidification on wheat cropland
  - b. Herbicide resistant weeds are increasing
- c. Ron Mobley:
  - a. Juniper Encroachment
  - b. Water availability for grazing and cross fencing
  - c. Weeds (Medusa head)
- d. Peter Grubb:
  - a. Water availability for grazing
  - b. Soil Quality on Rangeland
  - c. Grazing Infrastructure
- e. Karen Lamson (Wasco SWCD)
  - a. Weeds (Medusa head)
- f. Shilah Olson
  - a. Water Quantity – Irrigation
  - b. Water Quality
  - c. Fish and Wildlife Habitat – Uplands
- g. Larry Magill (Producer, Wamic Fire)
  - a. Wildfire Hazard/ Forest Health
  - b. Energy – Pumping Costs
  - c. Water Quantity – Irrigation
- h. Pat Davis (Producer, Rock Creek Irrigation District)
  - a. Insufficient water – Irrigation ditch water loss
  - b. Soil Quality – Soil Acidification on cropland
  - c. Oak Woodland Health
  - d. Groundwater depletion
- i. ODF Forester
  - a. Wildfire Hazard
- j. Andrew (ODFW)

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- a. Wildlife Habitat (Upland)
- b. Weeds (Winter Annual Grasses)
- k. Mel Guard (ODF)
  - a. Wildfire Hazard / Forest Health
- l. Amy Kaser (Producer)
  - a. Weeds (Skeleton Weed and Knapweed)
  - b. Soil Acidification on cropland
  - c. Insufficient Water – Irrigation
- m. Tim Morelli
  - a. Insufficient Water – Irrigation
  - b. Soil Acidification on cropland
- n. Ed Thomas (FSA Loan Officer)
  - a. Crop Diversity
- o. Aimee Bell (FSA)
  - a. Habitat Degradation (Upland)
  - b. Expiring CRP
- p. Lissa Biehn (FSA)
  - a. Insufficient Water
  - b. Soil Acidification on Cropland
- q. Brian Tuck (OSU Extension)
  - a. Soil Acidification on Cropland
  - b. Insufficient Water - Wheat
- r. Bill Markman (Producer)
  - a. Soil Acidification
- s. John Dodd (US Forest Service)
  - a. Wildfire hazard
- t. Chase Brown – (ODFW)
  - a. Weeds (Medusa Head)
  - b. Forest Health – Oak Habitat
- u. Tatiana Taylor (SWCD)
  - a. Insufficient Water
- v. Katie Pierson (ODFW)
  - a. Upland Wildlife Habitat

After the resource concern discussion, a short break was taken for stakeholder networking. Frank reconvened the group by handing a form out for the participants to discuss their current work, what future work could be (5 years), discuss their funding opportunities/pitfalls, and potential for collaborations. A round table discussion was initiated and the following updates were provided:

- i. Dust Eddie (ATI)
  - a. Implementing on farm technology improvements (Precision ag)
- ii. Peter Grubb – (Producer – Cattle)
  - a. Beaver Dam Analogs on degraded streams
  - b. Planting Brush in degraded areas
- iii. Karen Lamson, Shilah Olson, Josh Thompson (Wasco SWCD)
  - a. Feral Pig eradication project
  - b. White River RCPP

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- c. CREP
- d. Small Grants
- iv. Pat Davis (Rock Creek Irrigation District)
  - a. Piping Ditches
- v. Andrew (ODFW)
  - a. Large Elk and Deer collaring project
  - b. Orchard Damage Problems]
  - c. SAFE Acre CRP Proposal with FSA
  - d. Weed Control on Deschutes
  - e. Wolves have been confirmed in Wasco County
- vi. Mel Guard (ODF)
  - a. Fuel Reduction projects
- vii. Tim Morelli (Juniper Flats Irrigation Improvement District)
  - a. Juniper Flats improvement feasibility study is complete.
- viii. FSA
  - a. Loans, SAFE Acre CRP Proposal, CREP renewals
- ix. Brian Tuck (OSU Extension)
  - a. Still waiting to see if they can fill vacant extension agent positions
- x. Chase Brown (ODFW White River Area)
- xi. Oak Restoration for wildlife habitat

Frank thanked all the participants for attending and asked that they fill out the evaluation sheet he provided them regarding the meeting. He stated that the concerns brought up would be incorporated into Wasco County's Long Range Plan, as he was updating it for the next 5 year period. Information gleaned from the SWCD neighborhood/shop meetings and input from SWCD Board will be incorporated as well. The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 pm.

### **Post meeting analysis:**

Resource Concern prioritization, stakeholder update, and meeting evaluation forms were collected and analyzed to help document participant responses; the information is presented below:

#### Participant Resource Concern Prioritization†:

- 1 Insufficient Water -- Inefficient use of irrigation water
- 2 Soil Quality - Organic matter depletion/compaction
- 3 Plant Condition - Wildfire hazard
- 4 Plant Condition - Excessive pest pressure or undesirable productivity/health
- 5 Fish and Wildlife Habitat - Habitat degradation
- 6 Water Quality - Elevated water temperatures
- 7 Livestock production - Inadequate feed/forage/water
- 8 Water Quality - Excess sediment or other contaminates
- 9 Soil Erosion - sheet, rill, wind, bank & concentrated
- 10 Inefficient Energy Use - equipment/facilities/field operations
- 11 Air Quality - Particulate matter or Greenhouse Gases

## 2018 Wasco County Local Workgroup Meeting

*\*Minutes recorded by Clinton Whitten and Frank Cochran, composed by Frank Cochran*

*\*\*In order of signature on sign-in sheet*

*\*\*\*Tables attached to these minutes*

*†All bullets/narratives are paraphrased, but effort to maintain intended content was made*

*‡Summarized after meeting – total of 20 respondents*