

Benton County and Linn County Local Work Group Meeting Minutes

Tuesday February 27, 2018

Introductions:

- Tom Snyder – Benton/Linn District Conservationist (DC) – Acting DC for Lane County
- Wallace Jennings – Soil Conservationist for Benton/Linn County
- **Objective of the Local Work Group Meeting and description of NRCS's Strategic Approach to Conservation:** Reviewed Agenda, Refine focus areas

Existing Funding Opportunities:

- Funding Pools– EQIP Initiatives
 - Organic
 - High Tunnel
 - Energy
 - Dairy/Livestock
- Forest Resistance and Resilience Funding Pool – Thinning, Diversify – looking to expand – Production Practices & Conservation working together
- Hazel Nut Micro Irrigation Strategy – 20% irrigation efficiency, Tom Snyder would like to extend outreach opportunities –
 - Priority Areas**
 - Halsey
 - Muddy Creek
- District Water Quality Focus Area -
 - Benton/Linn SWCD's Priority Area's – Maps reviewed by group
 - Linn SWCD Focus Area – Bear Branch Creek Map
 - Southern Willamette Valley GWMA
 - Jackson – Frazier Watershed
 - Benton
 - Irrigation
 - Water quality – anything to improve water quality
 - Cover Crop
 - Linn
 - Storage Facilities
 - High irrigated area
- Tom - Discussed Dan Olson's Strategic Plan – Requested input on strategy and possible priority areas, now is the time to change the areas –
 - Priority Areas**
 - Alsea – Oak Savana Woodland, open prairie
 - Blodgett
 - Calapooia
 - Peterson Butte

- Discussion on the process for past and present decision on priority areas. Local Work Group meetings are just one way to decide priority areas. It is a process that is discussed with partners & producers thru out the year. Even when a priority area targeted the next step is working with producers within those areas

Group Discussion of resource concerns and future funding priorities: Broke out in groups to discuss

Tom Snyder – Forestland & Wildlife Habitat

Wallace Jennings – Pasture & Crop

Recap/Closing – Groups rejoined and discussed shared resource concerns and future funding priorities from white board discussions