

Clatsop County Local Work Group Meeting
February 14th, 2019 OSU Ext Conference Room

Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Dean Moberg at 10:00 a.m. Self-introductions followed.

Dean welcomed everyone to the meeting and stated that the purpose of this meeting is to work together collaboratively with local partners and landowners to develop a plan that strategically utilizes limited resources effectively and efficiently. These meetings are mandated by policy to be held annually. Even though we only meet annually, we will certainly take comments and ideas at any time.

Thomas Gehrkens DC Clatsop Co. presented the topics for discussion:

- **Small Acreage Livestock Producers**

Lewis and Clark CIS, 24 conservation practices associated with this CIS

Private landowner/Small farmer asked, what is a CIS? Dean described the CIS concept to the group, the CIS's focus on concentrated areas where EQIP funding can be utilized strategically to address resource concerns. Clatsop co. currently has one active CIS. Dean also mentioned that staff issues and funding did not allow for real conservation to take effect on the ground when projects did not concentrate in an area.

CSWCD member stated that the future for the county as he saw it was in the farms and that was where he saw the agriculture concerns for the county.

It was mentioned and echoed by the group that a major issue is with the NRCS not being able to keep a person in the DC position in Clatsop for any longer than a few years. They said that when the DC would leave the county the county would then be left without NRCS representation and it seemed like things would have to start over and practices and programs would fall behind as well as the relationship within the community.

The issue with community gardens was then approached, Thomas Gehrkens explained the USDA does and has assisted with the sponsorship of "People's Gardens" around the country. The NRCS does not supply financial assistance with these but they are sometimes allowed to provide Technical Assistance as well as to help with labor and to help the communities connect with individuals and companies to help supply labor and materials to materialize community gardens. The group expressed interest in this idea and would like to further revisit these topics.

The discussion was then steered back to the topic of resource concerns for the county in the current CIS and possible new CIS

The major resource concerns identified by the group are: Water quality (garbage in water bodies, sediment and lack of fish habitat).

Water quantity: The small farmers and agricultural producers in the group expressed concern over lack of water quantity. Both individuals present stated that during the 3 summer months

before the rain starts again the only water available for them is in the form of the municipal water. To be able to water the pasture and provide continuous growth on grazed lands during months that rain does not occur was mentioned. This is very costly and will quickly erode any profits from the season. They have expressed desire for a reservoir to capture water from the rainy season to hold over for those dryer months. These concerns were noted.

- **Forest Health and Forest Management (Non-industrial, private land)**

The Green Mountain CIS has closed

We are attempting to have Clatsop Co. put onto the NC/LW basin Forest Mgt. Plan initiative

There are some forest practices associated with lands in the Lewis and Clark CIS

Resource concerns for the forest grounds included: Swiss Needle Cast, Spruce insects, Stump Stands, forest roads and engineering & culverts, crossing streams, road up grades, erosion and surfacing, fire access being impeded by overgrown vegetation.

Where could the next forestry CIS be positioned: Svenson/Knappa area, south county, Jewell, and Bergenfield (people who are generally thought of as hard to work with in Bergenfield).

Practices would include; pre-commercial thinning, roads, culverts, decommission roads, tree planting, brush mgt., herbaceous weed mgt.,

The representative from NCLC asked if the NRCS helped to fund decommissioning of roads and the answer was Yes

The NWC representative asked if the NRCS could offer engineering, Dean answered that they could but that it could also be difficult due to funding constraints.

Possible partners to assist in forestry identified by the group would be ODF, ODFW, OWEB, Watershed Councils, SWCD, OSU, Small land owners and TSP

Then the question was asked who the TSP's were in Clatsop Co.

- **Wetland Restoration/Off Channel Fish & Wildlife Habitat**

2 WRP and past CREP projects

More opportunities available

- **Seasonal High Tunnel**

NRCS will help provide financial assistance for a High Tunnel/Greenhouse up to 2178 sqft

2 high tunnel greenhouses are allowed for financial assistance

This is to extend the growing season and to assist in plant health/ and plant productivity

- **Organic Initiative**

Provides conservation funding to organic producers and those transitioning to organic. Financial and technical assistance is available through the Organic Initiative under the EQIP program

Up to \$20,000 a year and \$80,000 over a 6-year timeline

Must be organic or transitioning to organic

Practices that deal with soil health, pollinator habitats, and livestock operations

Water Quality as a resource concern for the county

The group voiced interest in addressing water quality needs in the Skippion and Necanicum area.

Practices that were thought to be suitable for these areas would be: Riparian plantings, filter strips, manure storage facilities, fencing, livestock pipelines and watering facilities.

Possible partners identified by the group would be the Watershed Councils, Local Governments, Community College, and School Districts, Solve, Recology, CREST, and OWEB and the OSU Extension

The group decided that the main resource concerns in the county were:

Water quality, water quantity, and forestry.

Other topics from Meeting

Possibility for a new CIS dealing with small farms and small farm resource concerns.

There is a need for a local meat inspection service. The agriculture producers of meat products are required to take their products to the next counties over to comply with regulation. A desire to have a local inspector is desired.

Pollinator concerns and partners for the pollinator projects would be Bee keeping groups for pollinator outreach and NORP for plant materials

Tide gates- One has collapsed in the Lewis and Clark CIS; who regulates the tide gates? County, Dept. state lands, Army Corp. of Engineers for permitting OWEB

Then the discussion went on to explain tide gates and the ways that they function and the needs and concerns for these as far as up keep, fish habitat and other management issues. This is still an unresolved area of discussion and much more work and conversations need to be had to just determine the course of action if any can be taken.

Meeting adjourned at noon.