

Linn & Benton Counties
Local Work Group Meeting
Feb 6th, 2019 – Two Sessions 1-3pm & 6-8pm
Linn County Extension – 33630 McFarland Road, Tangent OR

Purpose: To build alliances, strategically invest, and effectively solve natural resource challenges

1:00pm Meeting

Welcome – Kathy Ferge – Introductions/Meeting Overview

Intros of Participants, agenda meeting protocol, bathroom, etc. Briefly discuss Local Work Groups & it's importance

- Around the room introductions from attendees
- Building breakdown
- Breakdown of meeting – Agenda & Breakout sessions

FSA Program Updates – Heather Tritt

- New Farm Bill – No updated info currently, news still to come (things on hold for now)
- Livestock Forage program (LFP) – Still accepting Applications
- Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) – Riparian Buffers
- Drought sign up – Project new sign up to begin starting this summer 2019 – News to come when participants can sign up

NRCS Progress Report – Amy Kaiser – Power Point – Where we've worked & where we're currently working

- Forestry – Forest Resilience & Resistance
 - 9 Conservation Practices within 2018
- Filbert/Hazelnut Micro Irrigation
 - 7 Conservation Practices within 2018

Partners in Conservation – Conservation focus key partners – Benton SWCD & Linn SWCD

Donna – Benton Soil & Water Conservation Districts (SWCD) – PowerPoint

- Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) – Riparian Restoration
- 2005 Declaration of Groundwater management area – map boundary conditions
- Jackson Frazier Watershed Focus Area
- Water Quality Focus Area
- 9 strategic area's – 1 chosen Upper Muddy Creek Strategic implementation area
- Clean out ditch's – problem areas

Debbie – Linn Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) – PowerPoint

- Bear Branch

- Walker/Stout Grant completed – Monday 2/4/2019

Farm Bill – Kathy Ferge

- Few Changes at this time, more to come
- Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) – Taking applications Mar 15th- this date may change
- Conservation Innovations Grants (CIG) – National will be in the Spring – Oregon will follow
- Regional Conservation Partnership (RCP) – Spring applications
- Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) – Changes are coming

Basin Easement – Suzy Liebenberg – Wetland Specialist

- Agricultural Land Easement (ALE) – Keep your land for future generations – Handled different than current easements 2 to 7 years to get into place – contact Suzy Liebenberg for further details
- Wetland fliers available if interested

Conservation Strategies – Kathy Ferge – What are emerging natural resource issues that need to be addressed for the next generation of NRCS activity? Working within NRCS parameters – 3 break-out session area discussions

Group discussion on break-out sessions with group – Debbie, Amy, Donna will review issues and invite further comments from others

- Prioritize – Discussion – group votes on priority areas
 - Red – Agencies
 - Green - Producers
- Discussion on folks that are not here that should be invited in the future
 - Industrial Forestry
 - Rural Land owners
 - Grass Seed Organizations
 - Farm Bureau
 - Local County Officials

Break Out Session – * Areas to consider - Red Dots (RD) – Green Dots (GD)

Breakout 1

Forest Management

- * Fire/slash management – fear, lack of education – prescribed fire GD -6 RD -7
- * Bio Char – Fire hazards,
- * Alternative to slash burning
- Air Quality – Forest Management, smoke management

Climate Change – Expectations/Preparations

- Thinning
- Higher mortality
- * Decrease of forest/increase in crop
- * Ground water recharge
 - Riparian Restoration
 - Wetland restoration
 - Beavers
- *Permaculture

GD - 1
GD - 3 RD - 3

Breakout 2

1. Where is there an issue
2. Who
3. Follow-up

Adding/Tiered system County Wide

- Adjacent Landowners
- Rural Residential
- H2O Councils
- Ag related Organizations
- Livestock Production
- Local Government

Focus Area's

*Forestry

- Bio Char/Alternatives to slash treatment
- Fuel
- Drought – Mortality
- Habitat/Native
- Balance Ecology/Production

GD – 1 RD - 1
GD - 1
GD – 2 RD - 1

*Assessor/Farm – Linn/Benton

- Loss of Forest land to -land use change
- Homes replacing forest
- Ground water use

RD - 1
RD - 2
RD - 2

*Irrigation/hazelnuts/filberts

- Ground cover/establishment
- Slugs
- Style
- Erosion

*Soil/Quality

- Carbon
- Credits

Breakout 3

Hazelnuts

- Hazelnuts – irrigation, erosion RD - 1
- Drought Management – Forestry & Crops wild habitat, water quality/quantity – transition areas – natural GD – 1 RD - 4
- Soil erosion – beyond hazelnuts, channel management GD – 3 RD - 2

Forestry Resilience – Thinning stand diversity management

GD – 1 RD - 4

- Irrigation management
- Storage – snow melt & rain, H2O

Invasive Species

GD – 2 RD - 3

- New shiny geranium
- Other new species – spurge laurel
- False brome
- CA – Bark beetle
- Swiss Needle Cast

6:00pm Meeting

Welcome – Kathy Ferge – Welcome participants, introductions around the room

FSA Program Report – Heather Tritt - handout

- Livestock – drought payments
- Emergency Forest Restoration Program (EFRP) – Timber – Summer 2019 signups
- Farm Bill – approved, still waiting on additional info of the bill

NRCS Progress Report – Kathy Ferge – Where we've worked & where we're currently working

- New Farm Bill – waiting on policy & further guidance
- Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) – taking application till April 2019
- Conservation Innovations Grants (CIG) – National – should be in Spring with Oregon following
- Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCP) – Announcement Spring 2019
- Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) – changes to come
- Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) – Funding has been set

Amy – PowerPoint – Benton & Linn Counties focus areas – Maps discussed with group

- Forest resilience and resistance conservation practices
 - 9 Conservation Practices within 2018
- Filbert/Hazelnut micro irrigation conservation practices
 - 7 Conservation Practices within 2018

Donna – PowerPoint – Benton County

- Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) – Riparian restoration
- 2005 Declaration of groundwater management area
- Jackson Frazier watershed focus area – possible new watershed, target – water quality
- Surface water sediment
- GWMA and Jackson Frazier focus area
- Upper Muddy Creek strategic implementation area – open house set for March 2019
- Cleaned out drainage ditches

Debbie – PowerPoint – Linn County

- Bear Branch
- Walker/Stout – Clean-up – completed Monday 2/4/2019

Conservation Strategies – Kathy Ferge – What are emerging natural resource issues that need to be addressed for the next generation of NRCS activity? Partners in conservation – National Issues or concerns

- Forestry – Ash trees – Invasive concern – insects, Elm trees – alternate site for seeds – contact Plant Material Center
- Fire, Disease, Drought
- Carbon – Incentives? Roll for small woodland
- Invasive species
- Critical issues and what to move on from here
- Native Nursey Stock – Disease
- Concern with previous generations with cleaning out of ditches
- Give & take a little
- Slugs – no till options, tansy
- Not all farm management issues
- Education
- Forestry Practices – Concerns -smoke, air quality, bio char
- Affordable – under rated on practices – review and measured on Washington, Oregon & California – forward receipts on to Economist – additional feedback from producers to ask for more info
- Expand Forestry area for counties- planning ahead to change focus areas to ensure funds are used. Outreach, other agencies to assist with NRCS
- Small woodlands – tour events – Benton County tour Jun 21 -23rd – Pre-site visits available
- Farm Ag- Water Study – Ryan Haze

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