



Tillamook County Local Work Group Meeting February 19, 2019 POTB Conference Room

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by Mitch Cummings at 10:10 a.m.

Welcome and Self Introductions

There were 19 participants in attendance representing:

NRCS	ODFW/NRCS Liaison
ODA	OSU Extension
ODF	TBWC
Tillamook Co. Commissioner	Stimson
Tillamook SWCD	NNSLWC
NW Ag Consulting	TBFCD
ODFW	TEP
ODFA	

Mitch welcomed everyone to the meeting and stated that the purpose of this meeting is to provide a forum for NRCS to work collaboratively with our partners and landowners, so we can develop a plan that strategically utilizes limited resources in a way that benefits all of us. This is an annual meeting to gather input on the future direction of our NRCS programs.

Mitch gave an overview of the current CIS's available for Tillamook County. March 16, 2019 is the tentative cutoff date for applications for FY19 EQIP funding – however, we can take applications all year long.

- Salmon Super Hwy Project - funded by Two Chiefs funding. Set up to fund forest practices, forest management plans, fish passage, and additional practices associated with water quality and riparian work. The handouts provide information about this CIS along with practices included. In 2018 we contracted with 13 people out of 15 applicants, expending \$444,920. This year we have 1 application to date and additional in process but not turned in. This is the last year for this CIS.

In addition, there are two older CIS programs we are just finishing up contracts on.

- Water Quality Nutrient Management CIS/CNMP: the last year for applications in this CIS was 2016. We have one year left in the implementation of those contracts. We were able to contract 43 out of the 55 total applications. We used \$739,245 in this CIS.

- Nestucca Water Quality CIS: This was short-lived. Mostly fish passage projects; 8 culverts and 2 bridge installed. Contracted 6 out of 8 applications, totaling \$339,349.

NRCS Statewide Initiatives Available in Tillamook County:

- EQIP Seasonal High Tunnel Initiative – This program has been continuous since 2013. This year we have 1 application so far. In previous years we have contracted with 11 landowners for high tunnels, totaling \$67,069.
- Organic Initiative – We had 2 applications in 2015 that were both contracted, but no applications since.
- AFO Initiative - 12 applications last year, some applications were deferred, others fell out due to ineligibility and remaining applications were screened/ranked and competed for the limited state-wide funding. We contracted 1. So far this year, we have received 9 applications.
- Energy Initiative - Last year we received 7 applications and contracted all of them. This year, we have received 1 application so far.

Historical Tillamook Program Participation Summary

Water Quality Nutrient Management CIS/CNMP (included Nut Mgmt. and CNMPs)

		Applications	Contracts	Dollars
2011 - 2016	FINAL TOTAL	55	43	\$739,245

Nestucca Water Quality CIS (Fish Passage/WQ)

		Applications	Contracts	Dollars
2013 - 2016	FINAL TOTAL	8	6	\$339,349

Nestucca/Tillamook Watershed Function (Two Chiefs/Salmon Super Hwy)

(Fish Passage/WQ)

		2017	2018	2019	TOTALS	Applications	Contracts	Dollars
		17	15	1	32	15	28	\$237,216
		15	13			13		\$444,920
Taking Applications		<u>1</u>						
	TOTALS	32	28			28		\$682,136

High Tunnel Initiative

	Year	Applications	Contracts	Dollars
	2013	5	3	\$ 9,485
	2014	2	0	0
	2015	3	3	\$19,606
	2016	1	1	\$ 7,732
	2017	2	1	\$ 7,080
	2018	4	3	\$23,166
Taking Applications	<u>2019</u>	<u>1</u>		
	TOTALS	17	11	\$67,069

Energy Initiative

	Year	Applications	Contracts	Dollars
	2018	7	7	\$22,720
Taking Applications	2019	1		

Organic Initiative

	Year	Applications	Contracts	Dollars
	2015	2	2	\$34,447

AFO Initiative

	2018	12	1	\$ 8,930
Taking Applications	2019	9		

Tide gate Progress - last year there was a great deal of interest in tide gates throughout the county. The challenge NRCS is facing is adequate available funding for tide gates. How much would the average cost be for each tide gate? There is no definitive answer because each tide gate is unique. Permitting is unique for each one as well, which becomes challenging. We have great partners we can work with. Ray Monroe (TCSWCD) asked if NRCS could pay for a portion of a tide gate such as relining pipes. NRCS Oregon has a working group that is discussing what pieces we can do/provide funding for and developing the framework for a potential funding pool. We are still going to need partners for permitting. Need engineering that is current on tide gate designs. Possibility of using a TSP for engineering. Gus Assoc Director (TCSWCD) asked if there are emergency funds available to assist farmers in emergency situations to protect their land. Mitch stated that FSA has had disaster relief funding available for that when a disaster has been declared. They may have loan program funding available as well. County Commissioner Yamamoto suggested that NRCS focus on farm-operated tide gates that are not used for fish-passage. Engineering and Permitting support – OWEB/AOC task force are working on creating a program that will help with this and provide assistance. Looking at NRCS to be one of those partners in the task force. Tami Kerr (ODFA Exec Director), mentioned that ODFA is partnering in the task force as well and is very optimistic about the progress they are making. Mitch mentioned there was a field trip to Coquille where NRCS saw several muted tidal regulator (MTR) tidegates. Tillamook County has high value farmland that needs to be protected year-round. Tilda Jones (TBFCDD) asked if there were funds available for the smaller projects for tide gate replacements, each project costs approximately \$30,000 which would also address fish passage and help with flood and drainage control. Wym Mathews (ODA) mentioned that on the CAFO/AFO perspective, these need to be permitted properly. Could these tide gate repairs be defined under the AFO program? We could identify it in a local funding pool, but as long as it's a tide gate, we still need to address the permitting and engineering issues. Local county people have been saying year after year that tidegates are a crucial resource concern that needs to be addressed. It is the hopes that farm bill funding will become available to help address this issue in the future. NRCS in Oregon is in the process of looking at how we can be involved to help address this, which is a step forward. Ray stated that permitting needs to be included in the funding because the landowners can do the work, but they cannot do the permitting. Hydro-dynamic modeling is also a high dollar piece of the puzzle when doing the engineering.

It was mentioned that The Tillamook Bay Flood Control District (TBFCDD) is having their quarterly meeting today at 11:30 a.m. at the Five Rivers Roasters.

Garshaw (NNSLWC) stated that they are going to conduct a tidegate inventory in their watershed including location, type, condition, etc. Landowner permission is one of the biggest hurdles. A referral was made by one of the participants that Garshaw contact Meta at OWEB to get a copy of the existing inventory maps.

AFO state wide Initiative - identifies a handful of practices – trying to add additional practices this year to address storage. In all cases there is a prerequisite to have a current updated CNMP prior to addressing structural storage practices. This initiative is state-wide, so we don't have local control over the ranking or practices.

We are working on developing a separate AFO CIS program for the North Coast/Lower Willamette basins – we will have some of the same practices as the state-wide initiative with the addition of a few that would be tailored and beneficial for Tillamook County landowners. This may be available in 2020. Concentrates on updating CNMP's and Nutrient Management Plans, but there are other non-management and structural practices planned as well.

One challenge we face in our programs is to get potential participant landowners to maintain eligibility through FSA. What is the best way to get the word out to all the landowners? In many areas landowners contact FSA at the beginning of each Fiscal Year October 1st to update their eligibility for any available programs offered that year.

Michele (ODFW/NRCS) stated that she is seeing an increase of hobby farmers in the county – and asked how we could get them involved in these meetings. People are diversifying operations beyond dairy animals to include sheep, chickens, etc. These folks may still need to comply with CAFO regulations or Clean water requirements.

Question as to why landowners are missing at these meetings? How do we get landowners to the table? Discussion followed. Landowners can't easily get away from the farm.

Wym (ODA) asked about the CStP program in the county. No CStP signups in this county last year. CStP is included again in the new farm bill, will pay for maintenance enhancements vs structural practices for highly functioning operations who want to go to the next level. They must implement 2 additional practices or enhancements.

Odor control – still a high priority but it is challenging to find practices that would address odor control that fit program criteria. It is important for some products to have Oregon Land Grant University recognition in order to add them to the Practice Payment Schedule.

Forest Management Plans (FMP) – we have funding for the development of FMP's, but fewer landowners are signing up. Why? Is it possible to have a broader CIS's that can hold a pot of money for a broader range of practices so the money can be utilized? It continues to be a challenge to create CIS's and programs that local landowners will participate in.

Looking at what types of roof or covers for manure storage are available that will hold up in the Tillamook weather.

Troy (OSU Ext) encouraged Mitch to reach out to the various partners at the table to get help with what is needed, what will work, and what needs to be addressed.

Wym mentioned that he appreciates all the work that NRCS has done to assist with AFO/CAFO issues in the county.

Two-Chiefs - there has been quite a bit of forestry interest in this program. However, the challenge has been to get the landowners in the door early enough to get their FMP so they can sign up for implementation the next year. This is only a three-year initiative and we are in the final year – so this has been challenging. It is a prerequisite to have a Forest Management Plan in place before you can apply for implementation assistance. Mark (ODF) mentioned there is an ODF program that can assist landowners outside of the CIS area to get FMP's developed. Mitch talked about the basin Forestry CIS that we have available for a small portion of the county. Looking at possibly expanding the area so we can assist more people.

RCPP – possibility of bringing this program into the county. The Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) is a comprehensive and flexible program that uses partnerships to stretch and multiply conservation investments and reach conservation goals on a regional or watershed scale. RCPP projects last up to five years. For each RCPP project, NRCS invests federal dollars and project partners match the federal award with private or local funds or in-kind services. Mitch mentioned that RCPP is a possible program that might work for tidegates. A group can apply, but they would need to bring matching funds plus the people/clients/projects.

The Governor's main objective right now is clean water. We need to stay aware of this.

Partner and Landowner Projects – Mitch invited attendees to talk about projects they are currently involved with and what opportunities there might be to come up with other implementation strategies for the future.

Troy Laws (ODFW) – state forest land is being clear cut now and trying to figure out where/how to get logs in the future that can be used for in-stream work for fish habitat and restoration when logs are no longer readily available. It's a challenge to reach all the small landowners that live along waterways that don't manage their property ideally for stream health.

Tom Thomson (NW AG Consulting)– suggested one possibility is to work with private landowners that would agree to grow trees that are targeted for the in-stream restoration work.

Scott Bailey (TEP) – watershed council is done with data collecting and working on analysis phase. Will be starting the process of engaging teams in monitoring. OWEB dollars are being more widely distributed and spreading thinner. Will need to find additional sources to fund existing programs.

Michele (ODFW/NRCS) – if anyone is working with landowners that show interest in working with NRCS to explore what enhancements could be done on their property, please send them our way.

Rob Russell (TBWC) - looking for federal match money on projects, especially for the \$200 million being requested from state funds. Need technical and financial assistance with culvert and tidegate replacement projects. Looking for a pathway for watershed

council to apply CAFO/AFO dollars to culvert and tidegate solutions. Looking for continued forest stewardship money.

Gus (TCSWCD) – stream erosion control. Abandoned forestry roads are causing sediment in streams. During the 2007 storm, huge sediment loads dumped into the Wilson River. How can we be more concerned and involved in maintaining forestland roads to reduce sediment and runoff in streams? Engineered stream barbs can be used to protect farmland from continuing streambank erosion. Water in our rivers is far below normal which causes low oxygen and kills salmonids. Stream water storage – floodgates allow water to flow out of the area. Aquifer catch basins – very little effort in establishing catch basins for bird and wildlife habitat. Off stream storage impoundments need to be addressed by all groups. Expand the Barney and McGuire Dams for fish release.

Meeting adjourned at 12:20 p.m.
Dee Robinson