

**NRCS**  
**Local Work Group Meeting Minutes**  
**February 12, 2019**

Jessica Wells, NRCS District Conservationist for Hillsboro, opened the session at 3:35pm.

Introductions were made.

Jessica told a little about herself, how long she has been in Hillsboro and some of the challenges she has encountered. She also gave a brief description of the NRCS programs that are available in Washington County. Brochures were available about the programs. On display were map boundaries for Structural Diversity in Forests Initiative, Tualatin Valley Irrigation District – Irrigation Efficiency, and Dairy-McKay Degraded Riparian – Ecosystems RCPP for us to review.

Danni Aleshire, NRCS Wetlands/Easement Specialist, talked about the different types of easement programs that NRCS has available to landowners.

Jessica turned the session over to the mediator, Cory Owens, NRCS State Soil Scientist.

Cory explained what she wanted the Local Work Group session to accomplish and the exercise the group would be participating in. She asked all the attendees to write down their conservation concerns on the post-it notes that were provided. She then asked them each to pick their top three concerns and post the concerns under the topic that is relevant to the concern. Topics: Soil, Air, Water Quantity, Water Quality, Plants, Invasive Species, Animal-Aquatic, Animal-Terrestrial, Human.

After grouping the concerns under the different topics:

**Soil** had Soil Health and Erosion

**Air** had Burning, Pesticide Spray/Drift and Climate Change

**Water Quantity** had Water Supply/Storage

**Plants/Tree/VEG** had Forest Diversity, Forest Health, Wildfire, Forest Adaptation to Climate Change, Riparian, and Oak

**Invasive Species** had Invasive! Weeds!

**Animal-Aquatic** had Habitat

**Animal-Terrestrial** had Habitat, Pollinators, Manure Management

**Human** had Farmland Protection and Beginning Farmers

The group received four post-it dots to put on the concerns that matter the most to them. When the dots were counted, four conservation concerns came out on top. They were Erosion, Forest Health, Forest Diversity, and Oak. The group was then given another dot to put on the one concern out of the top four concerns that they felt was the most important. Erosion was considered the top conservation concern in this session with Forest Health a close second.

There were also several conservation concerns that were emailed in by people who could not attend. Cory reviewed emailed concerns and the extra concerns from the group that did not make someone's top three. Cory read five concerns that had not been addressed in this session. They were Connectivity in Wildlife Habitat, Supporting Instream Monitoring, Reconnecting Flood Plains, Energy, and Access to Forest Stands.

Cory explained Jessica will be looking at all the conservation concerns that were written down with the top 10 conservation concerns being her top priority to consider when creating a new Conservation Implementation Strategy (CIS).

Questions were answered.

The Local Work Group adjourned at 5:00 pm.