

# Central Coast Local Workgroup Meeting

Wednesday March 20, 2019

10-12

Siuslaw Soil and Water Conservation District Office  
1775 Laurel Way #4 Florence, OR

10:00 Introductions

***Nathan Adelman called meeting to order and Seth Mead did the welcome and introductions.***

10:10 Objective of the Local Workgroup Meeting and description of NRCS's Strategic Approach to Conservation.

***Thomas Snyder explained the purpose of the local workgroup process and NRCS's Strategic Approach to Conservation. Thomas also talked about Conservation Implementation Strategies (CIS). CIS are priority areas identified by the local workgroup to treat a specific resource concern by a limited number of practices within a certain time. These strategies are set up to better coordinate work between partners and landowners to show outcomes/results. As an example, instead of having one group bring \$1 to solve a problem, working with other partners \$3-\$4 could be brought to solve the resource concern.***

10:20 Siuslaw SWCD and Lincoln SWCD Programs and Priorities

***Seth Mead with the Siuslaw SWCD talk about the priorities of the District. They are currently focusing in the Silt Coos.***

***Emily-Bell Dinan with the Lincoln SWCD talked about the priorities of the District. They are currently focusing in the Siletz Watershed.***

10:40 Existing Funding Opportunities

***Nathan gave an update on the 2018 Farm Bill. There is a delay in program obligations until the rules are finalized. Also, programs are being updated and as new information comes out, Nathan will provide the information to the group.***

- Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)
  - Agricultural Land Easements (ALE) Wetland Reserve Easements (WRE)
 

***The ACEP program has an application deadline of April 19<sup>th</sup>. There were a few questions about some of the details on ALE. ACEP covers the two above easement programs and ALE is more for working lands while WRE is for restoring degraded wetland and could be used in restoring estuary systems (including removing tide gates).***
- Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)
 

***CREP is used to install riparian buffers on degraded systems. There were some comments about some of the challenges of the programs such as not being able to use it to extend good buffers. Due to the new Farm Bill, new applications are on hold. We did talk about other programs that could be used in these examples.***
- Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)
  - Initiatives (Organic, High Tunnel, Energy, Dairy/Livestock)
 

***Thomas talked about the EQIP initiatives that are available. These programs are available throughout the state and have limited dollars available, so they are pretty competitive. There were some comments on what the Organic Initiative was. The Organic Initiative is for farms that are either converting to organic or those that are already certified. This Initiative has a wide variety of practices including cover crops, pollinators, livestock management, etc.***
  - General EQIP Strategies
    - Forestry Resistance and Resilience
 

***Thomas talked about this strategy. It is available in Lincoln, Lane, Linn, and Benton Counties. There was a gap in the county that needed to be address, so this strategy looks at making forest more resistant and resilient to change.***
    - Siletz Strategy
 

***Nathan talked about this strategy. The objective of it is to improve active farm and forest management on approximately 1000 acres of land in the Siletz watershed. The expected outcome is to improve water quality parameters. This strategy is important to have because it is also where the Lincoln SWCD and the Mid-Coast Watershed Council is focusing efforts.***
    - Siuslaw Salmon Sanctuary
 

**Thomas spoke about this strategy. Actions associated with the projects will restore or enhance forest health, water quality, fish and wildlife habitat, reduce risk of catastrophic fire, or reduce negative effects of agricultural activities. It includes treating forestland to agricultural lands. This strategy also overlaps efforts with the Siuslaw SWCD and the Forest Service.**

11:00 Group discussion of resource concerns and future funding priorities

***Below is a list of items that were discussed as part of the open discussion. While Thomas and Nathan are only Acting District Conservationists, this conversation is important to help set the stage for 2021 and to help the New DC have priorities to run with.***

- ***Thinning for forest health in stands that are less than 10" DBH and there is no economic value left in the material. It would be better for the forest stand to lop and scatter to retain the nutrients.***
- ***Climate-As weather patterns leave more extreme or drier events, there is an increasing need to leverage State funds and look at more fire wise communities.***
- ***There are limited dollars for monitoring toxins for drinking water and salmon. There was some discussion about contributions of lead to the water and health issues that fish face. While NRCS is not able to help out with monitoring directly, Farm Bill Programs could be looked at for match.***
- ***Water Quality on Siuslaw streams (Maple/Fiddle/Lower North Fork) and lakes for salmonids***
- ***Reconnect floodplains to riparian areas for the benefit of salmon and water quality.***
- ***Establishing riparian buffers to promote water quality in agricultural systems.***
- ***Geographical areas are not matching up with land that the Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians of Oregon. Look at developing or modifying a strategy to address those lands.***
- ***Continue with forest treatments for forest health.***
- ***There is drought stress showing up in Douglas Fir stands. These stands are not completely suited to growing Douglas Fir. Look at diversifying these stands and being more resilient to changes in the climate.***
- ***Diversify forest riparian zones both in size and quality.***
- ***More agroforestry opportunities on neglected pasturelands.***
- ***Healthy Forests Reserve Program should be funded again. This was a great program to have.***

12:00 Adjourn

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