NRCS Yamhill Local Work Group Meeting Notes

Date: Wednesday, February 9th, 2022
Time: 10:00 am – 12:00 pm
Location: Zoom Teleconference

Outreach prior to meeting:
- Posted in 3 local newspapers. McMinnville News Register, Newberg Graphic, Sheridan Bulletin
- Posted on FSA Service Center Newsletter
- Direct email to +300 invitees

Participants:

Chris Seal    USFWS
Moe Momtazi    Vineyard owner
Thomas Hoskins  NRCS/DC
Sergio Villasenor   NRCS/RC
Sarah Bartholomew   NRCS/ SC
Mark Lago    Yamhill Co
Lindsay McClary  Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde
Colby Drake    Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde
Betsy Emery    Senator Merkley’s Office
Marie Vicksta   Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde
Luke Westphaul Greater Yamhill Watershed Council
Ximena Orega    YSWCD/ Vitaculture
Larry Ojua YSWCD/ Executive Director
Keith Nasman    YSWCD/ Planner
Drew Donahue CREP Tech/ Clackmas SWCD
Jordan Anderson Yamhill Weed Board
Ramsey McPhillips Local Landowner
Patricia Faye Local activist for the houseless population
Leo Krick YSWCD/ Board Member
Pat Fitzgerald YSWCD/ Board Member
Michal Wert Local Landowner
Dani Aleshire NRCS Wetland Specialist
Sam Sweeney YWSCD Board Member
Ken Nygren Local Forester/ Technical Service Provider
Welcome & Introductions
- Review purpose of LWG (Larry Ojua)
- Introduction of SWCD and NRCS Staff (Larry Ojua, and individual employees)

Current USDA and SWCD Investment Strategy (See attachments)
- Partnership for Water Quality CIS Thomas intro_ Hand to Sarah to
- Erosion in Orchards CIS with District funds add-on Keith Nasman
- Equipment rental No-Till drill Keith Nasman
- Forestry and Forest Management Plans CIS Sergio V.
- CREP w/ Drew Donahue

Meeting Word Cloud

Word cloud was developed using notes from the roundtable discussion, and the Chat log from the Zoom meeting.
Zoom Polls:

- **Poll Question 1.** What are the most effective forms of Outreach?

  1. What are the most effective forms of outreach for you? Select all that apply. (Multiple Choice) *

     22/22 (100%) answered

     - yard signs (4/22) 18%
     - brochures at the USDA/SWCD service center (2/22) 9%
     - mail flyers (7/22) 32%
     - newspaper postings (5/22) 23%
     - newsletters (13/22) 59%
     - website postings (9/22) 41%
     - email (17/22) 77%
     - radio (1/22) 5%
     - social media (6/22) 27%
     - producer meetings (6/22) 27%

- **Poll Question 2.** Where do you get your reliable information?

  1. Where do you find reliable agriculture and natural resource information? Select all that apply.

     (Multiple Choice) *

     21/21 (100%) answered

     - OSU extension and outreach (16/21) 76%
     - USDA/SWCD service center (14/21) 67%
     - industry publications (4/21) 19%
     - producer meetings (5/21) 24%
     - consultants (3/21) 14%
     - agronomy dealers (4/21) 19%
     - commodity associations (3/21) 14%
     - friends or neighbors (9/21) 43%
• **Poll Question 3.** What resources do you need to address your natural resource or conservation goals?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resource/Issue</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Financial assistance</td>
<td>62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knowledge of conservation programs</td>
<td>62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineering design</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access to physical resources (equipment, seeds, etc.)</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access to technical resources (planting information, fertilizer guides, etc.)</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Awareness of developments in science and technology</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knowledge of vendors, suppliers, and consultants</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workshops and other knowledge-building opportunities</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connections with people with similar needs or interests</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Roundtable Question Notes:**

**Roundtable Question 1.** What conservation issues would you like us to prioritize? Why?

- Wildfire Prevention and Fuels Reduction
- Fire safety and inspection. Wildfire & Danger of volatile chemicals storage on rural properties for the distillation of marijuana products.
- Excessive tiling, and drainage water management. Valving systems as option? Luckamute Nitrogen problems as a result of tiling and required water treatment.

**Roundtable Question 2.** Who do you think YSWCD and NRCS should be working more closely with? Why?

- Future Farmers of America. Utilize their existing child centric educational models
- Yamhill Public Works Department. The YSWCD already has some interactions with Public Works, but there are more opportunities for Native plantings, ditch erosion.
- Attainable regenerative agriculture is important, and focus should be kept there. We should all consider how to accommodate our houseless neighbors. (YCAP?)
• OSU Extension. There is a lot of overlap, and we should be working very closely with them.

Roundtable Question 3. How can we encourage greater participation in conservation efforts?

• What would more incentives look like to you (Larry follow up question)? More meetings, more outreach?
• Funding is not sufficient, not enough money to cover the cost of getting the work done on the ground.

Roundtable Question 4. Are there any high priority issues NRCS and SWCD should be aware of?

• Climate Change, wildland fire protection, water storage for wildlife, water storage in general.
• Wildfire Funds are becoming available for fuels reduction projects. Possible opportunities in the pipeline.
• Limited Rainfall looks eminent. Fuels reduction, creating safe space/ defensible space.
• Expand the work that has been done with farmers and their existing wildfire equipment, tenders, and water storage. Small fires are easier to put out than larger ones. Create a wildfire book with resources that are available. Road’s assessments and road problems, including culverts. Ditch realignments and ensuring that riparian areas are not damaged.
• Stream crossings are becoming important. Not currently a cost-shareable option, but some funding for technical assistance should be sought out.
• A participant’s concerns were reiterated for drainage water concerns, and field tiling concerns.
• Local Advisory Committee Meeting, NRCS and YSWCD should include more cost share opportunities to get other people involved.
• There are many issues with culverts and fish passage on forest lands.
• Sustaining Forest health in the face of climate change, wildfire prevention, and species-specific conservation efforts.
• Concern expressed for ground water limited areas, and excessive water demand from rural users.
• Protecting farm and forest lands from development. We should all be trying to figure out a way to change the rules which allow the increase in the UGB. Cities need to live within their boundaries.
Chat from the Zoom Meeting.

09:55:14 From cseal to Everyone:
   I've got no audio on this end. Gotta try to figure it out.........

09:57:59 From Moe Momtazi to Everyone:
   moe@maysara.com

09:58:05 From Thomas.Hoskins to Everyone:
   Thomas.hoskins@usda.gov

09:58:26 From Mark Lago, Yamhill County to Everyone:
   lagom@co.yamhill.or.us

09:58:47 From cseal to Everyone:
   chris_seal@fws.gov

10:00:48 From Lindsay McClary to Everyone:
   Lindsay.mcclary@grandronde.org

10:00:49 From Colby Drake - CTGR to Everyone:
   Colby.drake@grandronde.org

10:00:51 From Mark Lago, Yamhill County to Everyone:
   lagom@co.yamhill.or.us

10:00:51 From cseal to Everyone:
   chris_seal@fws.gov

10:01:02 From Luke Westphal to Everyone:
   Luke@gywc.org

10:01:08 From Marie_CTGR to Everyone:
   marie.vicksta@grandronde.org

10:09:44 From Ximena to Larry Ojua YSWCD(Direct Message):
   Hi Larry - I already let Thomas Know but I can only participate for 45 minutes
   but happy to be here!

10:11:16 From Moe Momtazi to Everyone:
   My microphone isn't working, but my name Is Moe Momtazi and I am the owner
   of Maysara Winery and Momtazi Vineyard in Yamhill County.

10:11:47 From Drew Donahue to Everyone:
   one second mic is also not working

10:12:01 From Jordan Anderson to Everyone:
   anderjo9@oregonstate.edu

10:17:07 From Betsy Emery (Merkley) to Everyone:
   I think you might need to change the screen because we can't see the slide wih 3
   entities

10:17:59 From Patriciafaye Marshall to Everyone:
   Patriciafaye Marshall-Social and Environmental Justice, planning for housing
   for our houseless neighbors, Zero Waste McMinnville, Climate Change,Unitarian
   Universalist Fellowship of McMinnville

10:25:26 From Marie_CTGR to Everyone:
   There is also
   https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/water/?cid=stelprdb1047761

10:34:05 From Ramsey McPhillips to Larry Ojua YSWCD(Direct Message):
   So sorry I could not stay for the entire meeting. I just jotted down my concerns.
   Thanks. Ramsey. The file didn’t attach here so I am sending it to you via email.
CREP can be combined with OWEB Small Grants to help with costs and expand areas/practices. Keith (YSWCD) and Luke (GYWC) have done this before and Drew is great at helping coordinate that kind of funding combo.

10:43:28 From Drew Donahue to Everyone:
Thanks Luke!

10:47:39 From Moe Momtazi to Everyone:
I think that is important to think of the surface water quality, aquifers and erosion as being connected versus separate issues.

If the focus is to clean up the quality of the river and surface water by working with farmers/landowners along the designated problem areas, what happens when that problem is corrected but the same chemicals that were previously leeching into the river, start to leech into the aquifers. It seems like it’s all-encompassing and interconnected. If the aquifers become contaminated, how much more likely is it that the rivers continue to test at lower quality levels in the future?

10:50:30 From Leo Krick to Larry Ojua YSWCD(Direct Message):
I just saw one question, was that all?

11:02:44 From Sergio V. to Everyone:
Remember, even though we have talked specifically about a handful of financial assistance programs we are always available for technical assistance and site visits. Landowners may reach out to us with whatever concerns or questions they may have and we are happy to meet with them in the field to discuss. It is our job to help find solutions through our programs or to link you with other partners that may be a better fit or come to the table with other tools.

11:10:01 From Marie_CTGR to Everyone:
Sam, remember we met with Abigail in the field about erosion, valves and tiles might be up her alley. https://extension.oregonstate.edu/people/abigail-tomasek

11:10:02 From Luke Westphal to Everyone:
Fish passage issues could be tied to water quality/forestry practices. Replacing failed culverts often helps with reducing soil/creek erosion and lets the fish pass through.

11:11:34 From Michal Wert to Everyone:
Definitely. We were evacuated and had 5 acres affected by the Chehalem Mtn wildfire in 2020.

11:20:40 From Michal Wert to Everyone:
Not sure what your role would be, but research into the effects and protections needed for designated critical and limited groundwater areas because of increased ag and residential development is important.

11:20:58 From Patriciafaye Marshall to Everyone:
Such an informative presentation! Thanks to all for your excellent work!

11:26:42 From Marie_CTGR to Everyone:
Priorities: Oak upland habitats, wildlife corridors, wildfire prevention/fuels reduction, climate change mitigation

11:40:10 From Jordan Anderson to Everyone:
Could the relationship with Oregon State University and other research institutions be strengthened? Could some of these questions be addressed through collaborative research projects (ex. exploring tiling shut-off valves and impact on crop health and aquifer recharge)?

11:42:16 From Marie_CTGR to Everyone:
It is also hard being just far enough away from Corvallis that getting university research staff or grad students out here
11:48:44 From Sergio V. to Everyone:
    Post covid field demonstrations in the future should help provide showcase projects and allow land owners to talk to each other and see the work that has been done.
11:49:32 From Marie_CTGR to Everyone:
    Unrelated to this question...but if there is going to be open discussion: Is there any information on infrastructure bill and future NRCS funding?
12:01:28 From Colby Drake - CTGR to Everyone:
    Thanks for the meeting and all of the information provided today. I need to step away at noon. Have a great day.
12:02:11 From cseal to Everyone:
    Thanks for having FWS at the table today. Appreciate it.
12:03:19 From Marie_CTGR to Everyone:
    Thanks everyone!

Thomas Hoskins, District Conservationist (503)-376-7605
Email: Thomas.hoskins@usda.gov