

United States Department of Agriculture



NRCS Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service

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January 10, 2014

Local Work Group Interested Parties,

I am writing you to announce the USDA-NRCS Local Work Group (LWG) planned for January 29th, 10:00am to 12:00pm, at the Port of Tillamook Bay Office Conference Room located at 4000 Blimp Blvd, off of Long Prairie Road south of Tillamook, Oregon.

These meetings are open to the public and I want to encourage you to participate. The LWG is the place where local Tillamook resource issues are discussed and prioritized to determine development of financial assistance to address them.

Historically the LWG has provided input that allowed for Cost Shared dollars to be made available to producers for the proper storage and utilization of manure, and land management practices affecting forest, wetland and stream.

Currently program dollars are available through Conservation Implementation Strategies (CIS) to;

Help producers in most Tillamook County watersheds better utilize the nutrient value of their manure by working with consultants specializing in soil and manure sampling, equipment calibration, monitoring and tracking proper nutrient application based on crop needs, forage produced and computer program based record keeping (facilitating ODA reporting).

Improve water quality and fish passage in the Nestucca, Neskowin and Sand Lake areas through a CIS there to improve watercourse function, processing of sediments and reduction of habitat fragmentation. The CIS is being considered for expansion to the Tillamook Bay watershed in the future.

I have included an agenda with additional detail and we will build upon that with discussions as we go.

I hope to see you there,

Sincerely,

Mitch Cummings
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USDA-NRCS
Local Work Group
Purpose

Provide a forum for NRCS to work collaboratively with our partners so we can develop a plan that strategically utilizes limited resources in a way that benefits all of us.

Agenda

I. Welcome and Introductions

How the EQIP program works; application, land eligible, client eligible, ranking, planning, job sheets discussed and signed, contracting (no practice can be started except with prior approval of State Conservationist and only under special circumstances) based on payment schedule, pre-implementation meeting, implementation, certification and checkout that the practice is completed as agreed, payment application completed.

II. Present Conservation Implementation Strategies (CIS)

- A. Tillamook WQ Nutrient Management CIS
- B. Nestucca WQ/ Fish Passage CIS

III. Discussion of the 2014 EQIP sign ups

IV. Discussion of future CIS for Tillamook County

- A. Nestucca forestry
- B. Tillamook WQ and Fish Passage
- C. Other potential focus areas

V. Announcements and additional discussions

Refreshments provided