

LOWER WILLAMETTE
Agricultural Water Quality Management Area
Biennial Review Report to the Board of Agriculture and ODA Director
Submitted by the Local Advisory Committee (LAC)



Meeting Date(s): December 1, 2022
LAC Members Present: Marty Mitchell, Roy Iwai, Chris Foster (two of the five LAC members were unable to attend)
Reporting Time Frame: Calendar years 2021-2022

PROGRESS MEASUREMENT

This was a Light Review; progress toward Measurable Objectives will be reported at the next Full Review.

Activities (West Multnomah, East Multnomah, Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation Districts)	#	Discussion
Events That Actively Engage Landowners	5	Horse keeping and land management workshop; small farm school; cover crop workshop; two soil school events
Landowners Participating in Active Events	85	
Landowners Provided Technical Assistance*	63	Discussions of potential water quality protection measures, operational needs
Site Visits	46	Farm planning; hill slope erosion; riparian buffers; soil health; manure storage; irrigation water management to reduce irrigation induced erosion; managing runoff to prevent sediment movement
Conservation Plans Written	2	Two for 20 acres, farm plans with various practices
Funding Applications Submitted	3	Replacement of culvert causing ag erosion
Funding Applications Awarded	3	Irrigation water management; nursery strip till trial

* Number reported likely double counts some landowners due to tracking methods.

LAC DISCUSSION

Summary of Progress

East Multnomah SWCD: Included irrigation water management on 17 acres and an erosion control strip till trial at a nursery. Eight locations on Johnson Creek and Beaver Creek have water quality monitoring stations; data now being accepted by DEQ (not bacteria data). Forty-six properties enrolled in the Johnson Creek Streamside Revegetation Program with seven active participants.

Clackamas SWCD: Worked with Tualatin SWCD to offer a six-week horse keeping and land management workshop that was well attended (246 registrants). Co-hosted a small farm school. Also co-hosted a cover crop workshop (28 attendees). Seven hundred fifty trees and shrubs were planted in the upper Johnson Creek watershed riparian areas. Thirteen riparian projects are in the maintenance phase in the upper Johnson Creek watershed.

West Multnomah SWCD: Conducted two soil school events. Water quality monitoring program for the Tualatin Mountains (West Hills) watersheds continues.

(No Focus Areas or SIAs in the Management Area)

Impediments

- Extreme thunderstorms or rainstorms that overwhelm road ditches.
- Landowners who are not aware of the agricultural water quality rules.
- Funding (lack thereof) is always an impediment to practice implementation as well as landowner engagement (such as paying landowners to take surveys).
- LAC consists of only five members; LAC members asked that people recommend candidates who might be good members to serve on the LAC.

Recommended Modifications and Adaptive Management

- More outreach by Oregon Department of Agriculture and partners directly to producer associations to promote awareness regarding the rules.
- More easily accessible funding.

- Seek partners to help with awareness.
- Continue to look at pond and ditch vegetation improvements.
- Promote soil health.
- Look at bare ground as an indicator of improved conditions over time. Mapping ponds could also be useful to track improvements.
- Look at construction prescriptive requirements for erosion control.
- Continue collaboration on erosion control.

ODA COMPLIANCE ACTIVITIES (Jan. 1, 2021, through Sept. 30, 2022)

Location Lower Willamette	Cases		Site Visits	Agency Actions				
				Letter of Compliance		Pre- Enforcement Notification	Notice of Noncompliance	Civil Penalty
	New	Closed		Already in compliance	Brought into compliance			
Outside SIA	5	3	8	2	1	5	0	0
Within SIA	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A