



Oregon
Department
of Agriculture

Umpqua Basin Agricultural Water Quality Management Area

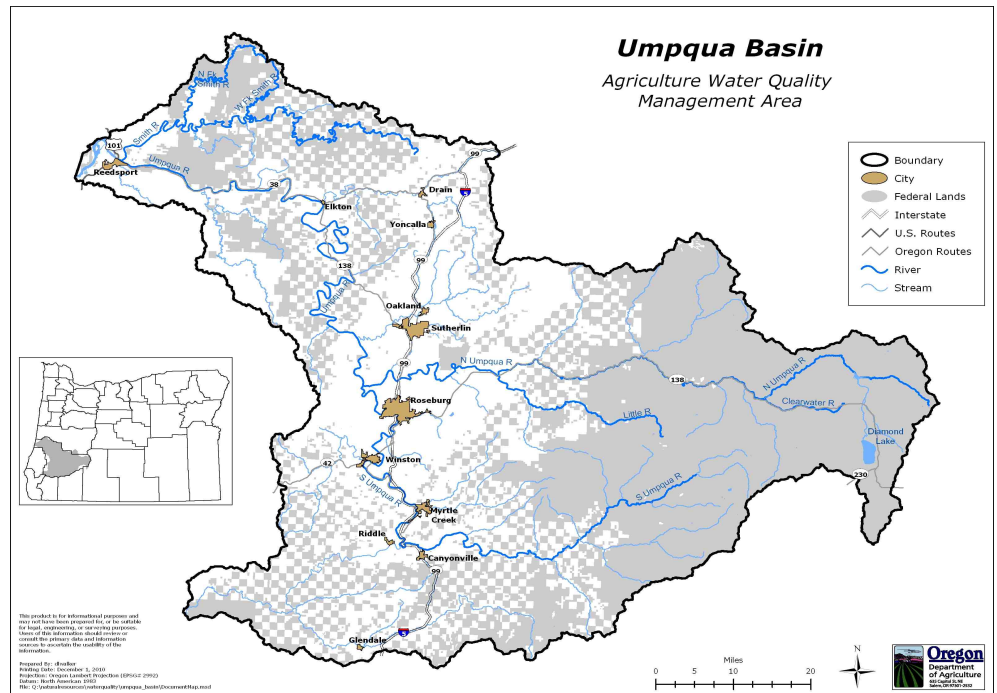
June 2010

Local Advisory Committee Meets

Meeting summary

The Umpqua Basin Local Advisory Committee (LAC) met to evaluate the implementation of the Umpqua Basin Agricultural Water Quality Management Area Plan and Rule and further develop the Area Plan to incorporate the Umpqua Basin Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL).

The LAC listened to a report on water quality monitoring and compliance cases from the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) and summaries of implementation accomplishments from the Douglas and Umpqua Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs).



Map of the Umpqua Basin

Compliance summary

From January 2008 to December 2009, there were seven complaints filed with ODA in the Umpqua Basin area. One compost and chemical storage complaint resulted in a Letter of Compliance. One manure management complaint resulted in a Water Quality Advisory and the case was closed. A second manure management complaint resulted in a Letter of Warning followed by a Letter of Compliance after a follow-up visit. A third manure and riparian management case has resulted in a Letter of Warning. ODA continues to work with the landowner. Three additional complaints were filed. One was outside the jurisdiction of ODA while the other two had insufficient information to investigate.

Summary of Accomplishments

Progress as reported by Douglas and Umpqua Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

Douglas SWCD:

- 683 landowner contacts
- 203 site visits
- 24 agricultural projects
- 20 forestry projects
- 26 environmental projects
- 60 projects with a direct water quality benefit
- 60 proposals developed for funding
- 17 plans written on agricultural land to address water quality
- 1 workshop sponsored or co-sponsored: Topic included: Best management practices.
- 14 presentations at public events: Topics included: Riparian restoration, forest management, native plants, soils, geology, and pasture management, weeds and erosion control.
- 2 tours: One tour was on riparian management, the other on woodland management.
- 14 displays manned at events: Douglas County Fair, Weed day, Glide Wildflower Show, Earth Day, Migratory Bird Day, Douglas County Spring Livestock Conference
- 2 demonstrations: One on equipment for weed control, the other on alternative energy.
- 19,400 newsletters mailed
- 1,113 fact sheets distributed
- 308.8 acres trees planted
- 108,090 trees planted
- 600 feet of streambank protected
- 9 water facilities installed
- 48,449 feet of fencing
- 3 ponds installed
- 7 hardened stream crossings installed
- 2 culverts installed on agricultural land
- 0.3 acres wetland created
- 2.0 acres wetland enhanced
- 25,530 feet of fish stream habitat enhanced
- 228.7 acres of livestock exclusion
- 16.7 acres of critical area seeding

Umpqua SWCD:

- 30 landowners contacted by Umpqua SWCD
- 34 landowners provided technical assistance
- 1 water quality presentation with 7 attendees
- 2 student events at 37 schools with 120 students attending
- 3,000 newsletters distributed
- 9 farm evaluations for water quality concerns
- 1 water quality project implemented

LAC Plan Review: *continued*

Background

From 1997 through 2001, ODA and the LAC developed an Area Plan and associated Administrative Rules for the Umpqua Basin. In January 2001, ODA adopted the Area Plan and Rules. In 2003, 2006 and 2008 the LAC met for reviews of the Area Plan and Rules. The SWCDs have served as the Local Management Agencies for the development and implementation of the Area Plan and Rules.

Monitoring

The Umpqua Basin watershed has only three monitoring sites listed on the DEQ’s Laboratory Analytical Storage and Retrieval (LASAR) database that are currently monitored and are at least partially influenced by agricultural lands. These sites are at Elk Creek at Elkton, the Umpqua River at Elkton Bridge, and Calapooya Creek at the town of Umpqua.

As of June 2010, water quality has improved at the Elk Creek monitoring location. E. coli, pH, and turbidity concentrations have all lessened from 2008. One low Dissolved Oxygen value was reported for a sample taken in January 2010. The Umpqua at Elkton Bridge site had one elevated E. coli concentration in March 2009, but no other apparent problems. Data for the Calapooya Creek at Umpqua was

included in the LASAR database for 2009 and 2010, and these results showed some elevated total phosphorus.

To assess baseline riparian conditions and to monitor expected improvements, ODA developed a method using aerial photography to quantify the extent of different land cover types within riparian areas. Each Agricultural Water Quality Management Area is being photographed on a five-year rotation. These 11 reaches will be re-photographed in 2011 and evaluated for changes in the riparian conditions if funding is available.

Eleven different stream reaches were evaluated in the Umpqua Basin in 2006. These streams had a wide-range of characteristics and riparian conditions. All the streams surveyed, except Marsters Creek, had a high percentage of trees in a 30-foot band along each side of the stream. Days Creek and Elgarose Creeks had the highest percentage of trees (83percent) in a band within 30 feet of the stream. None of the streams had large percentages of bare land. The



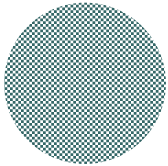
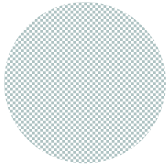
LAC Members Present at Meeting

Don Kruse, Chair
Janice Green
Carol Whipple

LAC Members Not Present at Meeting

Web Briggs
Dave Harris
James Mast
Kathy Panner
George Sandberg
Jan Tetreault

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LAC Plan Review: *continued*

greatest percentage of bare land was around 5 percent along South Myrtle Creek.

Of the stream reaches examined, Days Creek and Yoncalla Creek had the most stable channels; all the other streams had areas with visibly eroding banks. Three gullies starting in pastured ground leading into the channel were visible on Calapooya Creek. The upper section of this stream had some unstable banks, with a few large sandbars visible. Champagne Creek's upper 15percent showed significant bank erosion, and about half the reach observed showed indications of excessive sediment in the channel. Elgarose Creek had relatively minor amounts of eroding streambanks, with few mid-channel bars. Flournoy Creek's channel conditions were much like Elgarose, except that there was a mid-channel pond in the upper section and one area with active rill erosion. The lower 50percent and upper 10percent of Marsters Creek showed severe bank erosion.

LAC recommended that ODA and the SWCDs work with the Partnership for Umpqua Rivers (PUR) to improve the exchange of monitoring data through their technical committee and the use of the Umpqua Explorer. The LAC believes that better communication and use of existing data can help direct effective and targeted education, outreach, and technical assistance. The LAC also recommended that funding to monitor landscape and water quality changes be pursued.

Impediments and Recommendations for Plan Implementation

The LAC identified several impediments to implementing the management Area Rules and Plan and made recommendations to improving its implementation. The LAC identified the need to use monitoring data in the Umpqua Explorer and the expertise of the PUR technical committee to help direct targeted education, outreach, and technical assistance. The LAC also felt that the Area Plan should be added to the Umpqua Explorer and information about the Umpqua Explorer should be added to the Area Plan.

Providing information to small acreage rural landowners continues to be a concern of the LAC. The LAC recommended that through the use of targeted watersheds, more direct communication with landowners would be possible. The LAC recommended that ODA and the SWCDs work with the county to develop a method of providing information on the Area Plan and Rules to new landowners when there are changes in land ownership. Finally, the LAC encouraged ODA and the SWCDs to work more closely with all the basin watershed councils to coordinate their water quality improvement activities.

Oregon Dept. Of Agriculture

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