



# Southern Willamette Valley Groundwater Management Area

Committee Meeting  
September 25, 2014 8:00-10:00 AM  
The Old Harrisburg City Hall  
354 Smith Street

## 10 YEAR ANIVERSARY AGENDA

1. **Announcements, Introductions, Adjustments to Agenda** 8:00 - 8:05 AM  
*Lanny Zoeller, Chair*
2. **Public Comment** 8:05 - 8:10 AM  
*Lanny Zoeller, Chair*
3. **Approval of Last Meetings Minutes** 8:10 - 8:15 AM  
*Lanny Zoeller, Chair*
4. **What is Happening in the GWMA-Hood?** 8:15 - 8:25 AM  
Short updates on the GWMA news and what different groups and communities are doing or have experienced. Tom Snyder (NRCS) and Donna Schmitz Benton (SWCD) may have some information of their latest funding. Susanna Pearlstein will share the lysimeter project updates. Audrey and Chrissy often have interesting news too. We will have a surprise visitor who will share his thoughts on the groundwater protection work in the Southern Willamette Valley.
5. **Tim Bunnell Community - Hero Recognition Program** 8:25 - 8:40 AM  
Tim was a vital member of his community, and the SWV GWMA Committee is establishing a memorial recognition program in his honor.  
*Lanny Zoeller, Chair*  
*Jerry Marguth, Vice Chair*
6. **Private Well Grants Updates** 8:40 – 8:50 AM  
Benton County's Domestic Well project will be highlighted, and Oregon Health Authority will update the Committee on their work with local public health departments and communities to develop and implement educational outreach about domestic well water hazards. A second round of grant funding is imminent, and communities with projects such as local advertising, placing public interest articles in local publications, developing brochures for local stakeholders, and community meetings, are encouraged to apply.  
*Gene Biggs, Benton County Environmental Health*  
*Tara Chetock, MHA, Domestic Well Safety Program, Oregon Health Authority*
- BREAK** 8:50 – 9:00 AM
7. **Water Isotopes in the Southern Willamette Groundwater Management Area: A tool for determining water sources** 9:00 - 9:25 AM  
In the GWMA, nitrate levels have varied from well to well, and within a well over time, but the reason for these variations are not always known. Using stable isotopes of water, we can determine if and when source water is changing and how this influences the nitrate. The stable isotopes of water in the Willamette Basin vary with the elevation of precipitation. As such, groundwater that originated as precipitation in the valley bottom is distinct from high elevation water that feeds the Willamette River. Evaporation adds another unique signature to water. We can use this isotopic tool to detect the influence of river water and evaporated sources of water on nitrate variation within and between wells.  
*Dr. J. Renée Brooks, EPA, Ecohydrologist*

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**8. Willamette Partnership**

**9:25 – 9:50 AM**

Willamette Partnership will be presenting their modeling efforts to understand the effects of farm level practices on nutrient contributions to groundwater in GWMA. They will assess the historic data from the John Selker study, develop a model, and then use the current lysimeter information to validate that model. One of the ultimate goals is to understand how various cropping systems and innovative management practices (precision agriculture, Veris mapping, etc.) correlate to groundwater quality.

*Carrie Sanneman, Willamette Partnership*

**9) Mystery Well of the Meeting**

**9:50-9:55 AM**

If time allows, this will be the first of a regular topic, where the results of one well are shared with the Committee and the other attendees, and the reason why it was selected as the “mystery well”.

**Audrey Eldridge, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality**

**10.) Wrap-up and Suggestion for Future Meeting Topics**

**9:55 -10:00 AM**

Schedule next meeting, present training opportunities, recommend future meeting topics.

*Lanny Zoeller, Chair*

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