Management Area: Upper Deschutes

Meeting Date(s): March 22, 2018

LAC Members Present: Mark Thalacker (Chair), Todd Cleveland, Rex Barber, Bill Grafton

Progress Measurement:
The SWCD has strategically selected a Point of Delivery (POD) within the Central Oregon Irrigation District (COID) and a POD within the Swalley Irrigation District (SID). The POD consists of a headgate where water is delivered throughout several properties in earthen ditches, primarily to flood-irrigate fields. The SWCD will work with landowners to implement on-farm water efficiency projects to help reduce the amount of water delivered to each POD through on-farm irrigation improvement or modernization practices.

COID Pod
Current Status: 1,120 Acre-Feet delivered to POD
Milestone: By June 30, 2019, reduce acre feet delivered to POD from 1,120-acre feet to 795-acre feet (71%)

SID Pod
Current Status: 880 Acre-Feet delivered to POD
Milestone: By June 30, 2019, reduce acre feet delivered to POD from 880-acre feet to 624-acre feet (71%)

Implementation Summary outside Focus Areas

Outreach and Education:
- Distributed 350 Rural Living Handbooks
- Developed display board to utilize project activity, manure composting, streamside vegetation management strategies
- Booth at Living on a Few Acres landowner workshop in 2015 and 2016
- Held 5 workshops with OSU Extension on pasture management and irrigation and held 2 workshops on irrigation efficiency
- Developed contact list of landowners bordering 45 miles of the Little Deschutes River
- Sent information to landowners eligible for CREP along the Little Deschutes River (no responses)
- Wrote and submitted a grant for composting manure – rejected by the reviewers because they were not convinced that landowners in the La Pine area would make use of it
- Three classroom discussions at La Pine Middle and High Schools on water quality
- Three landowners agreed to eliminate grazing livestock along Indian Ford Creek for 2 miles of the creek

Planning and Projects:
- Planned and funded fencing off 1,000 feet of Little Deschutes River from livestock damage
- Developed grazing plan that was implemented on 46 acres
- Planned the Strategic Implementation Strategy for IWM with NRCS and with ODA on Indian Ford Creek SIA or Strategic Implementation Area to improve water quality – temperatures exceed WQ standards

Monitoring:
- Monitoring conducted by SWCD was of landscape conditions in Focus Area and Strategic Implementation Area

Funding and Grants:
- Leveraged funding from OWEB, US Fish and Wildlife Service, NRCS, and other sources

Summary of Impediments:
- Projects are being denied from OWEB for not legally protecting the conserved water with instream water right certificate. This is not required by statute but required by OWEB policy.
- Funding for on-farm irrigation improvements.
- Projects are being held up by permitting and NEPA. Permitting needs to be completed in a timely manner (streamlined).
- Local land use permit approvals are holding up projects and are increasing in price.

Recommendations for Modifications:
- Capacity funding for SWCDs

DEQ Recommendations:
- None received

Compliance:
- Letter of Compliance -0
- Water Quality Advisory -0
- Letter of Warning -0
- Notice of Noncompliance -0
- Civil Penalty -0
- Alternative Measures -0
- Total New Investigations: 0

Notes: