



**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Mid-Coast Basin TMDL Bacteria Technical Working Group Members and Alternates  
**FROM:** Megan Kmon and Turner Odell, Oregon Consensus (OC)  
**SUBJECT:** DRAFT Action Items from July 15 Meeting  
**DATE:** August 17, 2015

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This memo follows up on the 16<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Mid-Coast Basin Implementation Ready (IR) Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Bacteria Technical Working Group (TWG), held at the Newport Recreation Center in Newport, Oregon, on July 15, 2015. The memo includes proposed future meeting dates, identified action items, meeting attendance, and summaries of key topics discussed.

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

Meeting	Date	Location
Sediment TWG 13	TBD; not likely to be held before late October (pending progress on literature review)	TBD
Newly formulated/coordinated Temperature & Dissolved Oxygen (DO) TWG meetings <sup>1</sup>	November 19, 2015 ( <i>tentative</i> )	TBD
Bacteria TWG 17	December 9, 2015	TBD
LSAC 11	First quarter 2016 (date will be identified in November)	TBD

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<sup>1</sup> Although LSAC/TWG members and the project support team previously discussed creating a combined Temperature/Dissolved Oxygen TWG, the project team ultimately concluded that for clarity and efficiency, it was preferable to identify two separate TWGs. However, the project team recognizes there is likely to be substantial overlap between these two working groups and is committed to holding joint or closely coordinated meetings of these two groups as appropriate in order to ensure that participants are able to participate as efficiently as possible.

**ACTION ITEMS**

Action Item	Who	Date
1. <u>Action Items</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prepare draft Action Items memo and distribute to TWG members for review</li> </ul>	Megan and Turner (OC with DEQ)	Complete
2. <u>Documents to Website</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Post presentations and meeting documents to project website</li> </ul>	David (DEQ)	By Aug 15, 2015
3. <u>Monitoring</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop and distribute menu of options to TWG members</li> <li>Distribute a list of community-based organizations for potential collaboration</li> </ul>	David (DEQ) David (DEQ)	Mid-August Mid-August
4. <u>Beach Results</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete and distribute summary documents</li> <li>Complete and distribute survey questions on how to use results</li> <li>Develop WLAs and LAs</li> <li>Identify DMAs</li> </ul>	Kevin (DEQ) Kevin (DEQ) Kevin (DEQ) Kevin (DEQ)	By Sept 1, 2015 By Sept 1, 2015 Ongoing Ongoing
5. <u>Watershed Models</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Send updates as they happen</li> </ul>	Kevin (DEQ)	Periodically, as necessary

**ATTENDANCE**Project Team Members

Kevin Brannan (DEQ), David Waltz (DEQ), Alan Henning (EPA Region 10)

Facilitation

Turner Odell (OC), Megan Kmon (OC)

Bacteria TWG Members/Alternates

Paul Robertson (Devils Lake WID), Melissa Newman (Lincoln SWCD), Joe Steere (private landowner), Jim Welsh (Oregon Cattlemen's Association), Stephen Hager (Siuslaw Watershed Council), , Una Monaghan (Salmon-Drift Creek Watershed Council)

Other Attendees

Jo Morgan (ODA), Elizabeth Daniel (Devils Lake WID), Al Doelker (BLM), Seth Barnes (OFIC)

## MEETING NOTES

### Opening Remarks/Meeting Objectives

Turner Odell (OC) welcomed the group and gave a brief refresher on OC's role, including an explanation of OC, its mission, and its process. OC is funded by EPA through its contractor Tetra Tech to provide facilitation support to the Mid-Coast Basin's TMDL development process. Turner has replaced Peter Harkema as OC's primary facilitator for the Bacteria TWG, though Peter may still be involved in the future. Jessie Conover is no longer with OC, as she has moved on to a new opportunity; Megan Kmon is now providing facilitation support.

Turner reviewed objectives for the meeting, which were to provide updates on the partners monitoring program, beach results, and Big Elk Creek and Upper Yaquina modeling work. He reminded the group that an LSAC meeting would follow in the afternoon.

### Summary Of Key Themes

#### Update on Partner Monitoring Program (David Waltz, DEQ)

David explained that the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) is becoming more rigorous in their monitoring requirements for grant funding, and that community-based monitoring organizations should be aware of this in their future grant proposals. To help align with the increased specificity OWEB will be looking for, David proposed a "menu of options" that monitoring groups might consider. He will send an email to the TWG members with these options as a starting point for evaluating monitoring locations and parameters to fill gaps in knowledge (e.g., on status and trends) and provide information for tracking TMDL implementation. David will include collaborative opportunities with other local groups that he can identify. He mentioned that that this is time critical because the next round of grant proposals is to due to OWEB on October 19, 2015.

Kevin explained the status of the databases housing data used for load duration curves (LDCs). LASAR, DEQ's externally available database, stopped accepting new data in late 2012 and there is not a replacement yet. One solution being examined is to transfer existing data and submit new data into an EPA system called STORET. A primary consideration is to make the data publically available.

#### Load Duration Curves (Kevin Brannan, DEQ)

Kevin summarized the activities for the freshwater bacteria TMDLs. DEQ will continue work on developing TMDL documents for each watershed using the LDCs approach. DEQ will be contacting DMAs regarding implementation strategies and plans as the TMDLs are developed and will keep the TWG members informed.

#### Beach Results Review (Kevin Brannan, DEQ)

Kevin discussed preliminary results from a round of data collected from volunteer participants on a variety of beaches to help identify pollutant sources for LDCs and TMDLs. The data was collected between February and May of this year from 18 beaches (87 stations). Kevin has been in the process of analyzing the data and putting it in a usable electronic format that interfaces with Google Earth. While the data still needs to be analyzed further, key sources examined were water discharges, animals, debris, odors, activities, and the number of people on High Use Days. This data helps to make connections between pollutant sources and concentrations that are above the criteria so that strategies/measures can be developed to address the exceedances. Kevin will propose specific ideas, and solicit responses and any further ideas, from the TWG on how this data might be used. Kevin will also seek input on what publically available site might be used to house the data. He proposed the Oregon Health Authority as a possible option.

Watershed Modeling (Kevin Brannan)

Kevin reviewed the status of the watershed models for Big Elk Creek and the Upper Yaquina. He reiterated the benefits of this type of model: it can help understand the system better; it is one approach to linking sources with effects; it can work in conjunction with direct monitoring; and it can help make better management decisions. The simulation period for the Big Elk Creek model was recently extended from 2010 to 2014 in order to include new bacteria data. The bacteria component of the model is currently under review by a third party contractor and should be completed by the end of this year. The Big Elk Creek model is now being adapted and applied to the Upper Yaquina River. The project is intended to build on the work already done in Big Elk Creek and to work on different river segments in order to eventually develop an integrated model for the entire basin. The model will supplement LDCs and help support implementation with DMAs. Contract work for the Yaquina River model began in June. (DEQ is working with the Water Resources Department to reestablish a stream flow monitoring station at Trapp Creek on the Yaquina.)