

SANDY SUBBASIN

Agricultural Water Quality Management Area

Biennial Review Report to the Board of Agriculture and ODA Director

Submitted by the Local Advisory Committee (LAC)



OREGON
DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE

Meeting Date: October 30, 2024
LAC Members Present: Roy Iwai
Reporting Timeframe: Calendar years 2021-2023

PROGRESS MEASUREMENT

Management Area

Measurable Objective #1 (South Fork Beaver Creek at 302nd): By 2029, water samples collected for bacteria monitoring from January 2019 to December 2029 will meet water quality standards or meet at least 91% of the time.

Milestone: By 2023, water samples will meet water quality standards or at least 83% of the time.

Current Status: Water samples collected in 2022-2023 met the water standard for bacteria 86% of the time.

Measurable Objective #2 (North Fork Beaver Creek near Division): By 2029, water samples collected for bacteria monitoring from January 2019 to December 2029 will meet water quality standards or at least 89% of the time.

Milestone: By 2023, water samples will meet water quality standards or at least meet 82% of the time.

Current Status: Water samples collected in 2022-2023 met the water standard for bacteria 80% of the time.

Focus Area: Lower Sandy (Beaver Creek)

Measurable Objective/Milestone: By June 30, 2021: Decrease Class II and Class III acreage by 12 acres (1% of Class II and Class III total acreage) to achieve 1,219 Class II and Class III acres; a decrease ~1% of the assessed area.

Current Conditions or Assessment Results: Reduced area in Class II by 45.5 acres ~3% of Class II and Class III total acreage) by June 30, 2021. Measurable objective achieved.

Status: Focus Area was closed on June 30, 2021.

Management Area-wide Activities (East Multnomah and Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation Districts)	#	Description
Events That Actively Engage Landowners	6	Workshops, displays at events.
Landowners Participating in Active Events	36	Estimate of landowners from Sandy Subbasin.
Landowners Provided Technical Assistance*	41	Landowners provided TA at a variety of venues, such as grange halls, public functions, and during site visits.
Site Visits	77	
Conservation Plans Written	11	Plans for grass waterways, compost facilities, microirrigation, riparian forest buffers, brush management, and woody residue treatment.
Funding Applications Submitted	3	
Funding Applications Awarded	3	

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

LAC DISCUSSION

Summary of Progress

Clackamas SWCD

Provided technical assistance to 15 landowners and eight site visits in the Sandy. Conducted several outreach events in the Sandy subbasin (workshops and field days). Clackamas and East Multnomah partner on many workshops and field days. Clackamas produces videos as a supplement to the events they have which benefits East Multnomah as well. Engagement with community growers' groups, Farm Bureau, etc. to get the work out about agricultural water quality.

East Multnomah SWCD

Displays, eat and greets with farmers (listening to them and their needs and tell them about what the district offers). The eat and greets results in a lot of projects. Soil health workshop and producing mailings to promote its StreamCare, a riparian enhancement cost share program on Beaver, Smith, Buck, Bonnie Brook, and Big Creeks. Conducted 85 site visits and implemented five cost-share projects. The interest is growing after a slowdown during the pandemic.

Impediments

- Bacteria may not be from agricultural activity and may be coming from the national forest or septic systems.
- Landowners don't always realize that water from irrigation ditches end up in rivers. They don't know the Area Rules.
- Agricultural operations often drag soil, mud, waste onto county roads and there is a lack of regulation on preventing that.
- In-stream ponds are sources of high temperatures, and they haven't been addressed in a meaningful way.
- Bacteria sampling on Beaver Creek ceased in August 2024 due to lack of staff time and resources, and due to uncertainties about data quality. Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) didn't accept East Multnomah SWCD's sampling and analysis plan (SAP).
- Meeting only every two years makes it difficult to form strong relationships and keep on top of issues in the area.

Recommended Modifications and Adaptive Management

- Need DNA *E.coli* sampling to determine where the bacteria is coming from.
- Inform landowners that wastes discharged into ditches end up in the river in most cases.
- More outreach is needed to inform agricultural landowners of agricultural water quality rules.
- Need more regulation on cleaning farm equipment of soil, mud and waste before taking it on county roads.
- Address in-stream pond contribution to heat loading of streams. Look at the effectiveness of the shade gap analysis on in-stream ponds (upper part of Beaver Creek, for example, dam up small tributaries in the headwaters where there are springs).
- Work with designated management agency partners to help conduct bacteria sampling in the future. Explore the use of eDNA analysis to determine the source of bacteria (agriculture, humans, deer, elk, etc.). Work with Multnomah County and DEQ to conduct an intensive study, if needed.
- Maybe do frequent meet and greets to keep things moving along more quickly.

ODA COMPLIANCE ACTIVITIES

Location	Cases		Site Visits	Agency Actions				
	New	Closed		Letter of Compliance		Pre-Enforcement Notification	Notice of Noncompliance	Civil Penalty
				Already in compliance	Brought into compliance			
Outside SIA	6	5	11	3	1	4	0	0
Within SIA	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A