

TUALATIN RIVER WATERSHED

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: April 2, 2025

LAC Members Present: Dan Logan, George Marsh, and Rich Hunter

Reporting Timeframe: Calendar years 2023 – 2024

PROGRESS MEASUREMENT

This was a Light Review; progress toward Measurable Objectives will be reported at the next Full Review.

Activities Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD)	#	Description
Events That Actively Engage Landowners	26	Collaborated with Clackamas SWCD in Horsekeeping and Land Management Masterclass series; shared outreach letters and packets to landowners for stream enhancement program (ECREP); provided on-farm information sessions with farmers on agricultural water quality Rules and the Agricultural Drainage Channel Maintenance Program; promoted the Soil Testing Program; held a pesticide collection event; hosted Soil School, Hillsboro Hops Ag Night, and Land Steward Field Day; sent out soil testing postcards and shared soil health and erosion information packets at library; presented ag water quality information at Small Farms School, OSU workshops on reduced tillage, and at farmers markets; held a Sustainable Horsekeeping Workshop; provided local water quality information to rural residents at Gales Creek Nation Night Out, Clackamas SWCD Small Farms School, and Tuality Plains Outpost.
Landowners Participating in Active Events	1,528	
Landowners Provided Technical Assistance*	185	
Site Visits	123	
Conservation Plans Written	7	Conservation cover; riparian tree and shrub establishment; heavy use area management; exclusion fencing; manure compost facilities; microirrigation; grazing plans; gutters.
Funding Applications Submitted	18	
Funding Applications Awarded	18	

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

LAC DISCUSSION

Summary of Progress

- Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) continues to grow its program and provide valuable service to the agricultural community
- Tualatin SWCD's Vegetated Buffer Areas for Conservation (VEGBAC) program continues to add stream miles with vegetation.
- Great connections are being made with small producers, less so with larger producers.
- Trends for dissolved oxygen, *E. coli* and total suspended solids are improving, although temperature continues to decline.

Impediments

- Miles of added streamside vegetation is not leading to improvements in water temperature.
- Getting large producers to the table continues to be challenging.
- Loss of federal partners and programs will hurt progress.
- Growers are not aware of all the programs and funding opportunities that are available.
- Water quality data needs to be made more available. The water quality improvements are not being made known.

- Old habits are hard to break, particularly for large growers who don't feel that conservation partners and programs don't offer them anything. They are not aware that the rules apply to everyone.
- Key question: Is regulation a motivator or a turnoff for engagement?

Recommended Modifications and Adaptive Management

- Lead engagement efforts by talking about benefits to producers and their bottom-line, not with agricultural water quality.
- Identify conservation-minded and well-spoken producers who can provide in-field demonstrations to other producers.
- Highlight and celebrate producers who embrace conservation in their practices. Provide them with public recognition for their work, perhaps at the Tualatin SWCD Board Annual Meeting.
- Present conservation programs at commodity group meetings.
- Develop a comprehensive guide of programs and funding opportunities provided by all partners that can be shared with landowners.

ODA COMPLIANCE ACTIVITIES

Location	Cases		Site Visits	Agency Actions				
				Letter of Compliance		Pre-Enforcement Notification	Notice of Noncompliance	Civil Penalty
	New	Closed		Already in compliance	Brought into compliance			
Outside SIA	7	4	16	2	1	9	0	0
Within SIA	N/A							