

**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)*



<b>Meeting Date:</b> May 16, 2023
<b>LAC Members Present:</b> Dan Logan (Chair), George Marsh, Jim Love, Victoria Frankeny, Jerry Ward, Rich Hunter
<b>Reporting Time Frame:</b> Calendar years 2019-2022

**PROGRESS MEASUREMENT**

**Management Area**

Measurable Objective #1 (from the Willamette Mercury TMDL): By 2049, maximum instream total suspended solids = 4 mg/L.

Milestone: By 2019, maximum instream total suspended solids = 17 mg/L.

Current Conditions or Assessment Results: According to the DEQ's 2022 Status and Trends Report, most TSS samples exceeded the 2019 milestone, with a maximum of 998 mg/L.

**Focus Area: Dairy-McKay**

Measurable Objective: By June 30, 2021, decrease Class 4 from 132.2 stream miles to 123 miles.

Current Conditions: Class 4 = 124.1 miles.

Progress Toward Measurable Objectives and Milestones: Class 4 was reduced to 124.1 miles. The measurable objective was not quite met.

<b>Community and Landowner Engagement</b>	
# active events that target landowners/ operators	3
# landowners/operators participating in active events	98
Technical Assistance (TA)	
# landowners/operators provided with TA	91
# site visits	79
# conservation plans written	16
Ag Water Quality Practices Implemented in the Focus Area	
Tree and Shrub Establishment	75 acres
Conservation Cover	37.25 acres

Adaptive Management Discussion: The Tualatin SWCD did not reach its objective. The SWCD closed out the Focus Area because it exhausted outreach there, Focus Areas became optional, and it took on an SIA in a different subbasin and chose to focus its efforts there.

**Strategic Implementation Area (SIA): Lower Gales and Carpenter Creeks**

ODA Measurable Objective: By October 28, 2023, all 40 tax lots identified as a Potential Violation or Restoration Opportunity will be downgraded to Restoration Opportunity or Likely in Compliance through landowner engagement, technical assistance, and conservation actions.

SWCD Objectives: To be determined

Current Conditions: As of October 23, 2019, 40 tax lots were identified as either a Potential Violation or a Compliance Opportunity. PV = 4, CO = 36, RO = 39, LC = 497

<b>Management Area-wide Activities (Tualatin SWCD with its conservation partners)</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>Discussion</b>
Events That Actively Engage Landowners	21	
Landowners Participating in Active Events	526	
Landowners Provided Technical Assistance*	376	
Site Visits	314	
Conservation Plans Written	48	
Funding Applications Submitted	48	
Funding Applications Awarded	9	No data for 2019-2021

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

## LAC DISCUSSION

### Summary of Progress

- Agriculture has been changing its practices to reduce erosion and runoff, resulting in great progress in improving water quality.
- Vegetated Buffer Areas for Conservation (VEGBAC) program, partnerships, relationships, and communication among partners is good.
- Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) has been growing its program.
- Washington County and residents really support the SWCD.
- Outreach is working: website is helping reach out to large numbers of people.

### Impediments

- COVID severely restricted interactions with landowners and partners.
- It takes a lot of SWCD capacity to manage projects, especially federal projects, which have cumbersome application processes and long timelines before money is actually available.
- SWCD staff spends time on re-enrollment processes that take time away from new projects. Staff is maxed out.
- Natural Resources Conservation Service staff has had a large turnover; producers get frustrated when they have to work with new staff instead of staff who know them.
- Landowners have tried something in the past that didn't work for them, and then the community thinks it won't work for them either.
- Need a more comprehensive analysis of water quality data. For example, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality's Status and Trends Report only evaluates six parameters.
- Fields are still eroding into streams, although erosion rates are less than they used to be.
- Emerald ash borer is killing riparian trees.

### Recommended Modifications and Adaptive Management

- Increase incentives for landowners to enroll in programs.
- Make it easier to use federal programs (ease application process, increase financial incentives that are way out-of-date, decrease timeline between start of application process and project implementation).
- More face-to-face, targeted outreach.
- Comprehensive evaluation of all data, including those not provided to DEQ, and develop and implement a monitoring plan for determining agricultural water quality and identifying issues throughout the Management Area.
- Adopt more practices to reduce field erosion and prevent it from entering waterways.
- ODA staff work with the SWCD and other partners to reduce total suspended solids (TSS) in waterways by developing measurable objectives for land conditions other than streamside vegetation along perennial streams.

## 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	14	19	30	7	7	13	0	0
Within SIA	10	12	22	5	3	8	0	0