

WQPMT Committee Meeting Notes

DATE	LOCATION	START TIME	END TIME
04/15/2025	Virtual	9:00 am	11:00 am

FACILITATOR	CONTACT EMAIL	CONTACT PHONE
Kathryn Rifenburg	Kathryn.Rifenburg@ODA.Oregon.Gov	971.600.5073

Attendees

Kathryn Rifenburg – Oregon Department of Agriculture
Gilbert Uribe Valdez– Oregon Department of Agriculture
Todd Hudson - Oregon Health Authority
Colin Donald – Department of Environmental Quality
David Gruen – Department of Environmental Quality
Thomas Whittington- Oregon Department of Forestry
Paul Measeles – Oregon Department of Agriculture
Rebecca Anthony- Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

Introduction

- Meeting is called to order by **Kathryn Rifenburg**.

Basin Management

- Reviewed outcomes of previous meeting and scope of current meeting. Question to answer this meeting is: What are the metrics that the WQPMT wants to use to evaluate the effectiveness of the PSP basins?
 - If there isn't voluntary action, how does the PSP manage these watersheds?
 - PSP is an alternative to addressing impaired waters
 - The data is public and if we look through the data and don't see measurable improvement, look at more traditional methods
- PSP data is part of the ecosystem of data that DEQ will be evaluated to protect the state's water resources.
- PSP is a more labor-intensive method of control, compared to a TMDL.
- Is it unreasonable to improve water quality from pesticide pollution in large basins given the PSP's resources? Are there examples of watersheds being delisted from TMDL for non-point source pollutants?
- The PSP is only a portion of the Pesticide Management Plan for Water Quality Protection- how are the State agencies working towards filling the plan's objectives outside of the PSP?

- Part of the initial success of the PSP program was due to a bottom-up approach where the growers requested a chance to take voluntary action. In other basins, it's a top-down approach and the program doesn't appear to be as successful.
- DEQ stressed its obligations to continue meeting the requirements of the Clean Water Act, where one of the options has been to compel actions through regulations.
- Should PSP basins be allowed to set their own metrics or do we establish it for them?

Grant Proposal Review

- Kathryn noted timing issues that made the grant process challenging this cycle: delays with DEQ lab and data reporting, tight turnaround time for grant reviewers timed with ODA conference schedule.
- EPA grant money allows the overall funding amount to be more flexible. Total available funds this biennium is approximately \$508,000.

Action Items

- Kathryn will send out options for metrics of evaluation.
- Consider having DEQ TMDL staff at future meetings.

Adjourn

- Kathryn Rifenburg adjourned the meeting.