

WQPMT Committee Meeting Notes

DATE	LOCATION	START TIME	END TIME
02/20/2025	Virtual	1:00 pm	3:00 pm

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

Renita McNaughtan – Oregon Department of Agriculture

Todd Hudson - Oregon Health Authority

Wade Peerman – Department of Environmental Quality

Colin Donald – Department of Environmental Quality

Steve Mrazik – Department of Environmental Quality

David Gruen – Department of Environmental Quality

Thomas Whittington - Oregon Department of Forestry

Paul Measeles – Oregon Department of Agriculture

Kaci Buhl - Oregon State University

Rebecca Anthony - Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (late arrival)

Rob Hibbs - Oregon Department of Agriculture

Introduction

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

Program and Basin Management

- Program Strategic Plan completed in 2024; roadmap for WQPMT focus areas was shared in 2022.
- Five key questions were proposed to guide 2025-2026 planning:
 1. How do we determine if a basin is meeting objectives?
 2. What role do PSP local leads play in supporting WQPMT?
 3. How do we define state vs. local responsibilities?
 4. What level of engagement is expected from local partners?
 5. Are there additional key questions to consider?
- Local partners' roles were discussed, with varying levels of comfort in engaging with landowners.
- Steve raised concerns about local partners not seeing landowner outreach as part of their role.
- Gilbert emphasized the voluntary nature of the program and recognizing partners' capacity differences.

- David asked about past meeting minutes.
 - Gilbert responded that they would be posted as time allowed, and asked the group if there was interest in running the meetings more formally. The group was not interested in having a formal review and approval of minutes.

2025-2026 Roadmap & partner engagement

- SWCDs generally take the lead on landowner engagement.
- SWCDs provide quarterly reports, covering activities like monitoring and compliance.
- Kaci questioned whether these discussions might lead to changes in the [Pesticide Management Plan for Water Quality Protection](#).
- Kathryn clarified that while PSP is part of the plan, no direct changes are planned.
- OSU Extension was suggested as a resource where SWCDs have policy restrictions on pesticide recommendations.
- Paul inquired about the availability of Extension agents for support.
- Kaci noted that agent specialties vary but county research offices offer additional expertise.
- Gilbert suggested more targeted messaging and trusted peer communication.

Grant funding and implementation

- Kathryn noted feedback that significant grant funds go toward staff time rather than projects.
- Rob explained that in the AgWQ program SWCD funding is divided into monitoring, staffing, and projects.
- Discussion on revising grant requirements to encourage formalized connections between SWCDs and OSU Extension.
- Kathryn cited an issue in Yamhill with OSU Extension's involvement in a hazelnut orchard project due to industry pressures.
- David emphasized OSU Extension's role as a neutral information source but acknowledged industry pressure concerns.
- Discussion on expanding roles for partners, with focus on implementation rather than just outreach.
- Gilbert noted that updating grant agreements may not be possible mid-cycle, but guidance could be provided.

Sampling and monitoring updates

- Walla Walla Basin requested relocating a sampling site to a historic location over the Washington border for accessibility.
- DEQ suggested finding an alternative site within Oregon's border.
- Colin confirmed last detections at the site were in 2014; location alternatives will be explored.
- Wade reported that 2024 data would be available by March 7.
- Adjustments in DEQ's sampling procedures will result in a slight reduction of spring sampling but should not affect summer sampling.
- Wade and David highlighted DEQ's overspending on sampling due to current budget constraints.
- Planned field audits in 2025 for nine statewide groups, focusing on process improvement.
- Safety and flow measurement audit sections were removed from checklists for efficiency.

Next steps and scheduling

- Proposal to reschedule meetings to accommodate attendees' availability.
- Next meeting planned for April, aligning with grant review timelines.
- Volunteers for grant review: David Gruen, Todd Hudson, Becky Anthony, Warren Hanson.
- PSP Annual Partners Meeting planning ongoing.

Action Items

- Clarify partner roles and expectations for PSP participation.
- Finalize 2025-2026 roadmap questions and seek partner feedback.
- Review grant agreements for potential adjustments in future cycles.
- Plan and conduct DEQ field audits in Spring 2025.

Adjourn

- **Kathryn Rifenburg** adjourned the meeting.