Middle Willamette
Agricultural Water Quality Management Area
Biennial Review Report to the Board of Agriculture & ODA Director
Submitted by the Local Advisory Committee (LAC)

Meeting Date(s): October 21, 2020 (via Zoom; delayed from April 2020 due to COVID)

LAC Members Present: Eric Horning (Chair), Frank Bricker, Madeline Hall, Frank Nusbaum, Scott Setniker, Mark Taratoot, George Ice

Reporting Time Frame: 2018-2020

PROGRESS MEASUREMENT

Management Area
Measurable Objective: ODA is working with the SWCDs and LAC to establish long-term measurable objectives to achieve desired conditions. Currently, ODA and the Benton SWCD are using Focus Area milestones and the Upper Muddy Creek SIA to show progress in this Management Area.

Focus Area: Benton SWCD’s Jackson-Frazier Focus Area
Measurable Objective: A measurable objective was not developed for this Focus Area.

Milestone: During 2017-2019, increase Tree + Shrub by 10 acres; reduce Bare ag + Grass ag by 10 acres.

Current Conditions:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th># of Acres</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Trees + Shrubs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>153.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>154.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grass Ag reduced by 1 acre and Tree increased by 1 acre.

Activities and Accomplishments: Outreach and site visits with landowners were encouraging, however, people did not follow through with projects. Workshops with native plants were very popular and drew lots of people outside the watershed. Landowners in the Focus Area received information about the Agricultural Water Quality Rules and Area Plan. The SWCD is choosing a new Focus Area for the 2019-2021 biennium.

Strategic Implementation Area (SIA): Upper Muddy Creek
ODA Measurable Objective: By 2022, 100% of evaluated agricultural tax lots in the SIA are in compliance with the streamside vegetation and water pollution Area Rules.

SWCD Objectives: All interested landowners have received technical assistance and an opportunity to seek potential funding to help with projects to improve water quality.
Objective 1: Provide outreach to 75 landowners. (completed)
Objective 2: Conduct site visits to interested landowners (underway; technical assistance provided on 10 acres and 1 landowner site visit).
Objective 3: Develop conservation plans, which address limiting water quality concerns. (in progress)
Objective 4: Implement conservation practices. (1 so far)
Objective 5: Develop a monitoring proposal to assess before and after practice implementation. (approved by state)

Current Conditions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tax Lots Evaluated</th>
<th>Limited Opportunity</th>
<th>Low Opportunity</th>
<th>Opportunity for Improvement</th>
<th>Potential Violations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>454</td>
<td>247</td>
<td>247</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Management Areawide Activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Discussion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Active Events (e.g. workshops, tours)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landowners Participating in Active Events</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landowners Provided Technical Assistance</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**SUMMARY OF PROGRESS AND IMPEDIMENTS**

**Progress**
1. SWCDs are doing a great job of outreach. They are confident about meeting ambitious goals.
2. Research/monitoring studies are providing more information now on which to base decision-making.
3. Research in the Management Area is being carefully done. Great to use OSU students.

**Impediments**
1. Lack of data on condition of riparian vegetation throughout the Management Area, especially invasives, beyond just shade.
2. WQ data are inadequate to identify which WQ issues are related to human activities (ag and non-ag) and which ones are natural.
3. Lack of data about how management strategies have affected land conditions (riparian and uplands) and WQ.
4. Beaver numbers are increasing. Beavers benefit the health of riparian areas but also kill trees that could provide shade.
5. Hard to show improvements in stream temperature when it takes 20 years for a tree to grow large enough to provide shade.
6. Inadequate time and money for research on riparian vegetation and water quality and how they are being affected by ag practices over time.
7. ODA keeps changing the focus of the LAC meetings and Area Plan, for instance, asking for different things to be addressed.

**RECOMMENDED MODIFICATIONS AND ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT**
1. Develop monitoring project to establish baseline and track riparian vegetation conditions (this is a challenging request).
2. Develop more monitoring projects that track project implementation in conjunction with land condition/water quality (in addition to Focus Areas and SIAs).
3. Develop WQ monitoring project that can measure trends and identify sources.
4. Track beaver activity as part of monitoring riparian vegetation conditions.
5. Track weather as part of tracking riparian vegetation/WQ over time.
6. Track economic variables (e.g. price of fertilizer or grass seed) as part of tracking riparian vegetation/WQ over time to better dynamics of implementation of practices.
7. Keep the LAC focused over time on addressing specific items, e.g. SWV GWMA and monitoring possibilities.
8. Implement more creative ways to provide landowners with technical and financial assistance to meet WQ goals.

**COMPLIANCE ACTIONS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Letter of Compliance</th>
<th>Pre-Enforcement Notification</th>
<th>Notice of Noncompliance</th>
<th>Civil Penalty</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Outside SIA(s)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Within SIA(s)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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</table>