

**Southern Willamette Valley
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): December 7, 2021
LAC Members Present: Alan Petersen (Chair), Garry Rodakowski, Jim Sly, Susan Fricke, Steve Houston
Reporting Time Frame: 2020-2021

PROGRESS MEASUREMENT		
<i>This was a Light Review; quantitative details related to Measurable Objectives are not reported at Light Reviews.</i>		
Activities (Upper Willamette SWCD, NRCS, and Pure Water Partners (PWP))	No.	Discussion
Events That Actively Engage Landowners	10	Workshops, tours, virtual information meetings
Landowners Participating in These Events	233	
Landowners Provided Technical Assistance	263	
Site Visits	150	
Conservation Plans Written	47	Covered 2,880 acres
Funding Applications Submitted	23	EQIP program (\$400,000)
Funding Applications Awarded	23	In addition, 5 projects funded by OWEB small grants (\$80,000) and 11 projects through (\$260,000)

LAC DISCUSSION
Summary of Progress
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The SWCD has provided high quality service to their clientele; voters approved a tax base in 2020! - Landowners have implemented a variety of practices to help protect water quality, including livestock manure and mud management, cover crops, riparian restoration, nutrient management, livestock fencing, soil erosion control, invasive weed control, tree/shrub establishment. - Most smaller streams are fairly-well shaded by riparian vegetation and topography. - Eugene Water and Electric Board (EWEB) has worked hard to prevent sediment-laden runoff from areas burned by the Holiday Farm Fire. - There are fewer cattle in streams than there used to be. - The EWEB Pure Water Partners (PWP) Program has been growing over the years and reaching more landowners. - Landowners want to keep the soil on the land and keep their lands from eroding. - Farm Bill Programs are available to landowners to help with their conservation goals.
Impediments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - COVID severely restricted contacts with landowners. - The catastrophic Holiday Farm Fire in the McKenzie River watershed resulted in staff being redirected to post-fire water quality issues and fire recovery. - It is hard to reduce stream temperature on wide rivers. - There is a lot of sediment from burned areas and it is affecting water quality in the downstream agricultural areas. - Many landowners are not aware of programs that can help them implement practices. - Hard to educate landowners, especially new farmers, when they are scattered across the Management Area. - Farm Bill programs have a daunting amount of paperwork. - Funding for project implementation is too competitive. - OWEB Small Grants don't go very far.
Recommended Modifications and Adaptive Management
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Go back to in-person meetings instead of virtual. - Create a liaison between USDA and landowners (maybe joint effort between SWCD and USDA) to help with Farm Bill Program paperwork. - Expand the OWEB Small Grant program (increase the total amount of funding and cap per grant).

COMPLIANCE ACTIONS				
Location	Letter of Compliance	Pre-Enforcement Notification	Notice of Noncompliance	Civil Penalty
Outside SIA(s)	1	5	0	0
Within SIA(s)	0	0	0	0