

Minutes

DATE	LOCATION	START TIME	END TIME
12/15/2021	Virtual meeting	9 AM	Noon

FACILITATOR	CONTACT EMAIL	CONTACT PHONE
Kathryn Rifenburg	kathryn.rifenburg@oda.oregon.gov	971.600.5073

WQPMT Members and Guests Present

Kathryn Rifenburg- Pesticide Stewardship Specialist, Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA)

Rose Kachadoorian- PARC Board Administrator, Program Manager (ODA)

Judith Callens- Policy Analyst, Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA)

Thomas Whittington- Water Quality Specialist, *Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF)*

Warren Hanson- Interim PARC Board Coordinator, Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA)

Kaci Buhl- Associate Professor PSEP, Oregon State University (OSU)

Todd Hudson- Public Health Toxicologist, Oregon Health Authority (OHA)

Colin Donald- Water Quality Analyst, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

Aaron Borisenko- Water Quality Monitoring Manager, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

Gene Foster- (Title Not Given: Manager Watershed Management Section), Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

Brenda Sanchez- Strategic Implementation Areas (SIA) Initiative Lead, Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA)

Introduction and PSP Update

Meeting called to order at 9:00 a.m. with housekeeping and an update provided by Judith Callens on the current standing of the 2021-2023 PSP agreements.

Judith Callens, Policy Analyst, ODA

We are working with nine applicants outside of any money considered for OSU. As of now we will not be moving forward a 21-23 agreement with the Pudding while they resolve staffing issues.

Note from Kathryn Rifenburg, PSP, ODA

“There will be no more collaborative work with the Pudding Watershed Council moving forward. I will likely take over monitoring for now. We have reached out to the SWCD in that area to see they will be able to pick it up in the future.” Sampling over the next two years is under discussion involving DEQ and laboratory needs.

We are considering payment of invoice for previous sampling. The rest of the agreements, except for Clackamas, are executed. We are waiting to receive a new statement of work from Clackamas. They had a \$95,000 ask. The recommended funding was \$29,000 since they had not completed a strategic plan. They are now resubmitting the \$29,000 recommended grant amount focused on water quality monitoring and completing a strategic plan.

Executed Agreements for SWCDs

- Yamhill, \$25,000
- Wasco, \$43,299
- Walla Walla, \$20,567
- Long Tom in Upper Willamette, \$36,804
- Jefferson in the Middle Deschutes, \$45,000
- Jackson in the Middle Rogue, \$32,539
- Hood River, \$5,000
- Clackamas, Pending

If the \$29,000 for the Clackamas is approved, total spent out of the account comes to \$237,261.22. We are also considering funding to create outreach materials for education through OSU extension. This has yet to occur.

PSP Partner Updates

PUDDING SWCD

Kathryn Rifenburg, PSP, ODA

Because of staffing resource limitations within the Pudding SWCD, a mutual agreement was made not to continue our partnership with the Pudding SWCD. Staff has been reduced to one individual who would not reasonably have the capacity to take on all duties and responsibilities. We are talking internally and with DEQ to determine the type of sampling to perform. The preliminary results we have received from this region were all above benchmarks. We have sent a request to the Marion SWCD for support. They will make the proposal to their board sometime in December. We are also considering creative means for communication and

outreach in that area.

Rose Kachadoorian, PM, ODA

ODA does have an Enforcement Program, and action on their part could be recommended. However, the emphasis of the PSP is education and technical assistance. There is a large contingency of berry growers in the area. I have performed several presentations in this area, and we have a relationship with the Raspberry Blackberry Commission. These interactions provided the opportunity to build relationships, and to assure the community that we are there to collaborate. If we further develop the relationship with the commission and get on additional meeting agendas, we will be able open the door to providing data to growers, and discuss pathways to progress. Statewide, language barriers continue to pose a significant issue. This is something that we have acknowledged and are currently working to address.

Brenda Sanchez, SIA Lead, ODA

I have worked with the Berry Commission as well. They are very good people, but they communicate differently. They are not avid users of social media. Most information is gathered through more traditional means such as radio. Prioritizing health as it pertains to the quality of food has been an effective approach for cultivating interest in for robust engagement. We will need to be more creative and explore options such as community gatherings for engagement. At ODA, we recently improved our reporting formats for progress reports. It could be that you want to look at that reporting process for the PSP to ensure accountability and that they are documenting their outreach.

Kaci Buhl, PSP, OSU

I have a form I ask attendees to fill out at the end of each of our webinars asking follow-up questions.

- Did you learn things that would help you apply pesticides more effectively?
- Did you learn things that enabled you to use fewer pesticides?

In keeping track of those metrics, I felt that it would be in the best interest that we share that information. This is something that I could potentially make a summary about. PSP season runs from October to March. Perhaps there is something we can do every March or April to get together and go over those data.

Jackson in Middle Rogue SWCD

Kathryn Rifenburg, PSP, ODA

There is some confusion concerning the location of their grant. There has been a multi week process of the Jackson SWCD claiming that a grant agreement was never signed, and our ODA Grant Department communicating that signature have been received. I have been addressing the communication issues concerning this. We are hoping to get a resolution for this grant funding soon.

Yamhill SWCD

Kathryn Rifenburg, PSP, ODA

Yamhill has requested that in the next biennium the PSP lead role goes over to the SWCD. Like the Pudding SWCD, Yamhill is staffed by but one individual who is performing all sampling, big scale restoration projects, and volunteer events for the council. One thing that was not considered in the past grant cycles was that we were funding the PSP partners to do the sampling work under the impression that those larger SWCDs have people doing outreach and education. The Long Tom SWCD has someone on staff that does the outreach and education, and it ties into many of their other programs. For the smaller SWCDs don't have the capacity or the bandwidth to do that work. All grant funding is very specific to do "on the ground" work. It could have been oversight to request the taking of samples and performing outreach and education without the funding in place for staffing. This is why the Yamhill received a

larger grant funding.

Aaron Borisenko, WQ Manager, (DEQ)

Periodically it would be good to invite all our partners with a meeting with us (WQPMT). Perhaps in the fall or winter, after season's end, we could talk about and share issues and concerns. This would offer the opportunity for an open conversation about the program. I am also interested to know what their awareness is of other SWCD activities and experiences. I wonder if this could serve as a valuable point of connection for SWCDs.

Kathryn Rifenburg, PSP, ODA

We sent out a PSP partner survey and one of the questions was, "Should we have regular standing meetings with everyone?". Everyone who responded said yes, at least once a year.

PSP Partner Survey

Kathryn Rifenburg, PSP, ODA

After meeting with all the partners, it seems that across the board, all PSP partner skill sets, needs, and accomplishments vary widely. To address this, I prepared and sent out a survey to gage strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and needs of all the partners. We had a total of six groups respond.

The first question addressed how beneficial seminar topics were to them. All groups found the topics beneficial to strategic planning. We asked what additional topics they would like covered. How to interpret water quality data skewed high in interest, but outreach and education strategy ranked the highest. There were also written suggestions concerning offering CEUs, information concerning successful actions taken by other partners, more technical training, and how to get research support from the state. We also discussed "check-in" frequency for PSP partners. There was interest across the board for check-ins one to two times per year. After asking what the biggest time restraints of PSP partners were, it came down to communication with landowners as well as creating and implementing outreach. Sampling was also considered a large use of time, although it is not listed as one of the biggest constraints. When asked who was responsible for most sampling in the region, we found that needs varied significantly based on who was performing the sampling. In Clackamas, Yamhill, and Pudding, the executive director is doing the sampling, which often results in a larger request for funding due to the high compensation associated with the position. Other partners used regular or volunteer staff to do the sampling. This also speaks to the training level of the person gathering the sample. Barriers to gathering WQ samples include unsafe sampling points, difficulty carrying/ moving samples or equipment, and inclement weather conditions. For example, in the Yamhill, one sampling site is just downstream from a large culvert that is about 12 feet. That area is closely adjacent to a correctional facility and a large, unhooded community. Sampling time can span up to 8-10 hours in some cases. The number of hours spent analyzing or interpreting the water quality data ranged from 1-16 hours.

WQPMT Meeting Conclusion and Special Presentation

Kathryn Rifenburg, PSP, ODA

Lastly, the Pendleton-Hermiston area was suggested as the location to hold the next pesticide collection event. The weekend of April 2nd, 2022 works really well. There is a moderate need for pesticides to be collected there. We are currently determining the final times and locations of the events. We would like to go ahead and set everything up for the year of 2022 so that we can begin outreach in a timely manner for the event.

Colin Donald- WQ Analyst, DEQ

Provided a presentation on the “Pesticide Stewardship Partnership Data Viewer”. This is an interactive tool that provides summaries of monitoring data and analyses for the PSP program. The tool allows users to input their desired parameters to see visual representations of the analyzed data in a manner consistent with current presentations to local groups within the program. It has taken a few years get the ability to publish the application externally.. The BETA version is currently on the server. Language has yet to be finalized for a fact sheet or FAQs to aid understanding of the tool when it is released publicly.