

OTAC Minutes

November 10, 2009

OSU Agriculture Experiment Station, Aurora

NOTE: The next OTAC meeting will be held on February 16, 2009

Check the following link for presentations identified below:

<http://www.or.nrcs.usda.gov/partnerships/otac/index.html>

9:00-9:15 – Welcome and Introduction of Lynn Voigt	Ron Alvarado, NRCS Lynn Voigt, FSA	Information
<p>Lynn Voigt is the new FSA State Executive Director. He provided a short background and introduction. (see attached biography)</p> <p>NRCS recognized Bruce Taylor with Defenders of Wildlife – for the USDA-NRCS Excellence in Conservation award. This is the highest award USDA provides to conservation partners.</p> <p>NRCS also recognized Lois Loop with FSA with the Legend in Conservation Award for her contributions to the conservation partnership.</p>		
Conservation Stewardship Program Update	Kevin Conroy, NRCS	Update on signup and Conservation Management Tool
<p><i>Check link for the Conservation Stewardship Program Chart</i></p> <p>Kevin Conroy provided an update on the Conservation Stewardship Program. Oregon had a goal established of 202,162 acres, and applications exceeded 650% of that goal. As other states are unable to meet their acreage goals for the program, Oregon has had an opportunity to pick up additional acres. The final acreage amount for Oregon is not yet known, but it is assumed that contracts will be finalized in January. Payments per acre have not yet been established, but are expected to be released in late December. It is expected that the FY10 signup will be held in January.</p>		
Biomass Crop Assistance Program	Lois Loop, FSA	Program Information; Phase I and Phase II implementation
<p><i>Check link for background documents on the FSA Biomass Crop Assistance Program</i></p> <p>Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP) provides financial assistance to producers or entities that deliver eligible biomass material to designated biomass conversion facilities for use as heat, power, bio-based products or biofuel. Initial assistance will be for the Collection, Harvest, Storage and Transportation (CHST) costs associated with the delivery of eligible materials</p> <p>BCAP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assists agricultural and forest land owners and operators with matching 		

payments for the amount paid for the collection, harvest, storage and transportation (CHST) of eligible material by a qualified Biomass Conversion Facility (BCF).

- Supports establishing and producing eligible crops for the conversion to bioenergy through project areas and on contract acreage up to 5 years for annual and non-woody perennial crops or up to 15 years for woody perennial crops. This provision will be implemented in the future.

The CHST Matching Payment Program will provide eligible material owners matching payments for the sale and delivery of eligible material to a CHST-qualified BCF. These payments will be available to eligible material owners at the rate of \$1 for each \$1 per dry ton paid by the CHST-qualified BCF to the eligible material owners, limited to a maximum of \$45 per dry ton and limited to a 2-year payment duration.

Website:

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=ener&topic=bcap>

Point of Contact: Lois Loop, FSA, (503) 692-6830 Ext 223; E-Mail:

lois.loop@or.usda.gov

Climate Change Initiatives

Oregon Ag Carbon Working Group

[Stephanie Page, ODA](#)

[Information - Working group report](#)

Check [link](#) for Power Point on Offsets – Overview

The Oregon Agricultural Carbon Working Group met several times in 2008-2009 to evaluate the potential for Oregon agriculture to benefit from offsets as part of a regional or national cap and trade program. Agriculture is a relatively small portion of national greenhouse gas emissions and will most likely not be regulated as part of a cap and trade system, meaning that there is the potential for producers to sell “offsets” or carbon credits for certain practices. While there are many things that Oregon’s agricultural producers can do to reduce emissions, most of these practices will probably not be eligible for “offsets.” Oregon’s producers would benefit more if existing incentive programs for activities that reduce greenhouse gas emissions are maintained and enhanced.

Stephanie worked with Meta and several other NRCS staff to create a “climate friendly FOTG practices” list. The next step will be to group practices into systems to help compare the emissions reductions/sequestration benefits between conservation systems. Several OTAC members volunteered to participate on a group to develop the systems and comparisons.

Contact Information: Stephanie Page, ODA , Phone: 503 986-4565

Climate Friendly Nurseries Initiative	Allison Hensey, Oregon Environmental Council	Information - Program update
<p><i>Check link for paperwork on the Climate Friendly Nurseries Project</i></p> <p>The Oregon Environmental Council (OEC) and the Oregon Association of Nurseries have launched a unique partnership –the Climate Friendly Nurseries project. This is a common sense initiative to demonstrate operational efficiency and the wise use of resources. We hope to show that the very steps that lead to long-term costs savings in nursery operations also reduce greenhouse gas emissions.</p> <p>The Climate Friendly Nurseries project will help nurseries use energy and other resources more efficiently, reduce costs, and lower greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions while achieving greater economic efficiency and profitability. The project started in August and will run through 2012.</p> <p>Contact Information: Allison Hensey – Phone: 503 222 1963 X 116 E-Mail: allisonh@oeconline.org Web site: www.climatefriendlynurseries.org</p>		
NRCS Soil Carbon Analysis	Chad McGrath, NRCS	Research update
<p>There are extremely large amounts of carbon stored in the soils of the Pacific Northwest. The numbers are much higher than those of the soils of the tall grass prairies of the Midwest which are normally thought of as having high amounts of carbon. The map developed from the General Soils Map for Oregon (STATSGO) depicts the general relationships of the amounts of carbon stored in the soils of Oregon. As can be readily observed from the map, the amounts of carbon stored in the soils west of the Cascade Mountains is generally much higher than to the east.</p> <p><i>Check link for Power Point on NRCS Soil Carbon Analysis.</i></p> <p>Contact Information: Chad McGrath, NRCS; E-Mail: chad.mcgrath@or.usda.gov Phone: (503) 414-3003</p> <p>Based on the discussion and presentation of resource management systems that may fit for climate change, a subcommittee was established to look at the existing systems and determine what would make sense for producers and field planners, along with potential incentives for system implementation.</p> <p>Climate Change Review Group: Bill Braunworth – Oregon State; Allison Hensey – OEC; Jim Johnson – OSU Extension Forestry; Lanny Quackenbush – ODS; Gail Greenman – Farm Bureau; Bruce Taylor – Oregon Habitat for Join Venture; Tom Obrien – Oregon Watershed Council; KC VanNetta – Oregon Tree Farm Society; Chris Schreiner – Oregon Tilth; Kay Tiesl – Oregon Cattlemen; Mace Vaughn – Xerces; Michael Pope – State; Sara O’Brien – Defenders of Wildlife; Anthony Barber – EPA; Lynn Voigt – FSA; Stephanie Page – ODA; Bill White – NRCS.</p>		
Working lunch CIG Presentation	David Primozych Willamette Partnership	Information

David Primozych presented a primer on Ecosystem Service markets and the specific work of the Willamette Partnership focusing on Ecosystem Services. The Willamette Partnership is a successful recipient of both national and state Conservation Innovation Grants. *Check [link](#) for the Ecosystem Credit Accounting presentation.*

Contact Information: David Primozych, Willamette Partnership, primozych@verizon.net

OR Department of Forestry State Forest Stewardship Committee	Lanny Quackenbush, Oregon Department of Forestry	Recommendation: The group representative will be present at the OTAC meetings and present topics as needed.
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Check [link](#) for PowerPoint documents

State Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee – Provides recommendations to the State Forester regarding the development and implementation of USDA Forest Service Cooperative Programs for private forestland owners and recommendations to the USDA Secretary of Agriculture regarding the USDA Forest Service Forest Legacy program. In previous years, this committee served as a subcommittee for OTAC. ODF is requesting that the link be re-established and utilized again as the forestry subcommittee. Because the group will serve two distinct purposes, it is proposed that OTAC representation still be requested as OTAC issues arise that would be referred to a forestry subcommittee.

OTAC concurred to reconnecting the two groups (State Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee and OTAC), including the caveat that OTAC member participation be requested on issues that are referred from OTAC.

Coordinating Partner Investments Training Proposal	Meta Loftsgaarden, NRCS	Decision: Approved to created a sub group of OTAC
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In discussions with field staff (NRCS, SWCD, watershed council), a consistent theme has been presented – the need for a way to better coordinate investments amongst state-level partners. NRCS will be leading an effort over this year to bring together major conservation investors to provide field training on funding ‘dos and don’ts’ along with a discussion about how to sequence funding amongst agencies. To move this project forward, an OTAC subcommittee was requested.

Committee Members:
[Lois Loop – FSA; Sara O’ Brien – Defenders of Wildlife; Gene Foster – DEQ; TOM O’Brien Network of Oregon Watershed Councils; Lanny Quackenbush – Oregon Department of Forestry.](#)

EQIP Funding Pools – District Conservationist resource concern questions	Kevin Conroy, NRCS	Information
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Check [Link](#) for PowerPoint on Local Funding Pool

Kevin provided an update to OTAC on the requirement that NRCS has for every county district conservationist (DC) this year. Each DC is required to put together

their EQIP funding pool recommendations based on a series of questions that helps to better define the priority resource concern they are addressing and to define a geographic area of interest if applicable. The questions asked will be expanded next year, based on additional information, including the sideboards established by OTAC for priority resource concerns (see next agenda item) and the development of field office long range plans.

The questionnaire provided can be found at the link above.

Contact Information: Kevin Conroy, NRCS; E-Mail: kevin.conroy@or.usda.gov;

Phone Number: (503) 414-3235

State EQIP Priority Questions	Meta Loftsgaarden & Kevin Conroy, NRCS	Recommendation: Created a sub committee to address EQIP priority
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NRCS nationally has an increased emphasis on state-level EQIP priority questions. OTAC has provided resource priorities a number of times, including for CIG and other programs. Rather than setting a specific state-wide priority by program, it was requested that a subcommittee be established to look at side-boards that can be created for all resource concern areas so that field offices know when they are investing in a priority resource concern (established at the local level) a defined area within which to operate. We have basic data but would like to do between now and April and get your feedback how we set the side boards. What are the resource concerns and the areas they need to fix.

Committee:

Allison Hensey – OEC; Lanny Quackenbush – ODF; Tom O’Brien – Network of Oregon Watershed Councils; KC VanNetta – Oregon Tree Farm System; Chris Schreiner – Oregon Tilth; Mace Vaughn – Xerces; Sara O’Brien – Defenders of Wildlife; Anthony Barber – EPA; Dalton Strauss – Oregon Cattlemen’s Assn; Koto Kishida - DEQ

OTAC Member Updates

All OTAC members in attendance provided an update. Those listed below are only those updates that provide meeting information, or specific membership updates, timelines, etc.

Mace Vaughn – Offered to provide a demonstration for an upcoming OTAC meeting on Organic Blue berry pilot. Check our website for more details:

<http://www.xerces.org/>

Kay Tiesl – Annual Convention and Trade Show for the Oregon Cattlemen’s Association and Oregon Cattlemen’s will be in Bend at The Riverhouse on 3-5 December, 2009.

K.C VanNetta – The Oregon Tree Farm is undergoing new standards for certification. Check the following web site for more information.

<http://www.otfs.org/news.html> We have a new Chairman of the Board for Oregon which is Clint Bentz from Scio.

Dalton Straus – The Beef Council has a new Executive Director, Will Wise. Also noted is that we need representatives from the Potato Industry and the Wheat League at our OTAC meetings on a regular basis.

Wrap-Up	Ron Alvarado, NRCS Don Howard, FSA	
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Next Oregon Technical Advisory Committee Meeting is scheduled for February

16, 2009.

Members Present:

In attendance: Co-Chair: Ron Alvarado, **NRCS State Conservationist; Co-Chair:** Lynn Voigt, FSA; **Livestock Producer Representative:** Dalton Straus; **Oregon Department of Forestry,** Lanny Quackenbush, **DEQ:** Koto Kishida, Gene Foster, Joshua Seeds; **OSU, Cooperative Extension Service:** Bill Braunworth; Amy Grotta, **OSU College of Forestry:** Rick Fletcher, **Oregon Tilth:** Chris Schreiner; **Oregon Tree Farm Society:** K.C. Van Natta; **USDA- Oregon Cattlemen's Association:** Kay Teisl; **Bureau of Land Management:** Robert Hopper, **Oregon Farm Bureau:** Gail Greeman, **Oregon Department of Agriculture:** Michael Powers, Stephanie Page, **Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife:** Michael Pope, **West NTSC:** Russ Hatz, Curtis Flammil; **Willamette Partnership:** David Primozich, **Defenders of Wildlife:** Sara O'Brien, Gene Foster, **Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife:** Eric Rickerson, Michael Pope, **Oregon Environmental Council:** Allison Hensey, **Network of Oregon Watershed Councils:** Tom O'Brien, **US EPA:** Anthony Barber, **Oregon Habitat for Joint Venture:** Bruce Taylor, **Oregon Water Resources Department:** Ruben Ochoa, **The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation:** Mace Vaughan, **NRCS:** Meta Loftsgaarden, Sara Magenheimer, Kevin Conroy, Chad McGrath, Bill White, and Cec Cullison.