

Oregon Technical Advisory Committee Meeting

Reference documents from this meeting are posted at:
<http://www.or.nrcs.usda.gov/partnerships/otac/index.html>

Next OTAC Meeting, October 24, 2012

Welcome & Introduction of Drenda Williams, Acting Oregon State Conservationist	Drenda Williams, Acting NRCS State Conservationist Lynn Voigt, FSA Director
<p>Drenda Williams – I have only been in your beautiful state for three days and there is a strong partnership and commend your conservationist activities.</p> <p>Lynn Voigt – Many of you know that the secretary proposed the consolidation of 131 county offices across the nation. There will be three in Oregon (Grant with Baker – Tillamook with Washington County in Hillsboro; Polk county with our Marion County operations. Driven by the requirements of the Farm Bill. May 29 the secretary announced the implementation of the plan to close the three offices and merge with offices nearby. This process doesn't happen immediately. We notified the landlords and three employees will be affected by the closure and we are making sure that they are taken care of properly. Every employee that has a job with FSA will have a job with FSA. Probably this transition will happen by the End of the Fiscal Year.</p>	
National Nutrient Management, Standard and Policy with Q&A	Denise Troxell
<p>Handout: Nutrient Management Code 590 – Power Point Presentation. Standards are revised every four to five years. Link: http://www.or.nrcs.usda.gov/partnerships/otac/index.html</p> <p>National Water Quality Challenges Agriculture is a major contributor of nutrients to local water along with erosion and Goals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • plans that are understandable and helpful • Fair balanced of production with healthy environment • More effective nutrient plans • Defensible plans • Incorporate the latest science and technology • Better guidance to the planners <p>Nutrient Management – Managing the amount (rate), source, placement (method of application) and timing of plant nutrients and soil amendments. Point of Contact: Denise Troxell, USDA/NRCS Agronomist; E-Mail denise.troxell@or.usda.gov; Phone: (503) 414-3232.</p>	
WaterSMART & USBR & 3 Sisters	Marc Thalacker, Three Sisters Irrigation District
<p>Handout: Bureau of Reclamation – Five Oregon Irrigation Districts received the Water SMART Water and Energy Efficiency Grants.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Central Oregon Irrigation District, Malott Tail Water Recovery Project 2. North Unit Irrigation District – Water and Energy Conservation Initiative Phase II North Unit Irrigation District – Lateral 58-11 Piping Projects 3. Ochoco Irrigation District, Ochoco Main Canal Multi-purpose Screen and Automation 4. Owyhee Irrigation District, Lower Owyhee River Rehabilitation Project Phase II 5. Three Sisters Irrigation District, Watson-McKenzie Main Canal Pipeline Project <p>The Three Sisters Irrigation District in Oregon will pipe 14,000 feet of the Watson-McKenzie Main Canal and will install meters at farm turnouts. The project expected to result in water savings of approximately 1,850 acre-feet annually. Contact Information: Marc Thalacker, (541) 549-8815, e-mail: manager@tsidonline.org</p>	
Listening Sessions	Lauri Aunan- OWEB
Grant program manager at OWEB	

<p>Handout: OWEB Listening Session Information and Agenda – Roadmap to a Long-Term Investment Strategy. Finished the last of six sessions around the state. Baker City; John Day; Bend; Pacific City; Salem; and Grants Pass Measure 76 created a long term funding horizon for OWEB investments. Measure 76 provides dedicated funds with no end date. This long-term funding horizon makes it important for OWEB to consider its Long-Term Investment Strategy. Contact Information: Lauri Aunan; Phone: (503) 986-0047; e-mail: lauri.g.aunan@oweb.state.or.us</p>		
<p>CRP mid-Contract Management: Juniper Removal</p>	<p>Lois Loop</p>	<p>Decision from the OTAC Committee: Approved recommendation below.</p>
<p>Power Point: Mid Contract Management Activities Link: http://www.or.nrcs.usda.gov/partnerships/otac/index.html Shall be designed to ensure plan diversity and wildlife benefits, while ensuring protection of the soil and water resources. Management activities are site specific and are used to enhance the wildlife benefits for the site. Must be completed 6 of a 10 year contract or 9 of a 15 year contract. Developed by FSA NRCS FWS ODF and approval of /FSA State Committee and inputs from OTAC. Proposed Addition: Removal of juniper from established stands to enhance areas where juniper were not removed during site prep or have become established after practice completion. Three letters of Request presented to the staff.</p>		
<p>Soil Health and NRCS</p>		<p>Ron Raney</p>
<p>PowerPoint: The Case for Healthy, Productive Soils Link: http://www.or.nrcs.usda.gov/partnerships/otac/index.html NRCS Soil Quality Kits have been around for 20 years. Working with farmers one on one with conservation. <u>Benefits of no till</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased soil carbon and remove CO2 • Save energy • Save water and increase drought tolerance. • Improve sustainability • Improve Plan health • Nutrient rich food production increase • Improve wildlife habitat and estuarine food production • Reduce disease and pest problems. <p>Major area of concern with this program will be cropland. Ultimate goal Increase the numbers of producers</p>		
<p>National Water Quality Initiative</p>		<p>Loren Unruh</p>
<p>Handout – National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI) Fact Sheet NWQI, NRCS is offering financial and technical assistance to farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners interested in improving water quality and aquatic habitats in priority watersheds with impaired streams. NRCS chose Little Willow Creek-Willow Creed and Poison Creek; Brandy Creek Pudding River; Upper Fifteenmile Creek</p>		
<p>Lynn Voigt, FSA, Drenda Williams, NRCS</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Next Meeting October 24, 2012 12:30 to 4:00 at the OSU North Willamette Research Extension Center in Aurora, Oregon</p> <p>Drenda Williams - Thanks for coming out and listening and learning about the strong partnerships. While I am here want to see the conservation on the ground. Contact Cec Cullison to schedule an appointment. (503) 414-3200 Lynn Voigt – The Secretary want to appoint people to county committee with his authority. Interim rule was published yesterday. Comment period open for 60 days and please submit your comments.</p>		

Micro loan program was announced and the focus is on small producers. These are simplified loans and small. Rule being published on that micro loan. Want to help get these people credit established. Conservation loan guarantee program and dependent on practices and things needed in a conservation plan and not being utilized like it should.

Attendees: Lynn Voigt, FSA; Drenda Williams NRCS; Jerry Nicolescu, OACD; Lois Loop, FSA; Karma Anderson, US EPA via phone; Bill Braunworth, OSU, Cooperative Extension Service; Marc Thalacker, Three Sisters Irrigation District; Joe Holmberg; Steve Vaught, ODF; Oregon Tree Farm; James Johnson, OSU College of Forestry; Josh Seeds, DEQ; CalLee Davenport, USFWS; Wym Matthews, ODA; K.C. VanNutta, VanNutta Brothers; Matt Keenan, ODFW; Lauri Aunan, OWEB; April Snell; Jon Lea, Ron Raney, Kaluna Carter, Kendra Moseley, Thor Thorson, Tom Makowski, Heather Medina Saucedo, Denise Troxell, Bill White, Ron Smith, Loren Unruh, and Cec Cullison