



Oregon
Department
of Agriculture

Coos and Coquille Agricultural Water Quality Management Area

June 2010

Local Advisory Committee Meets

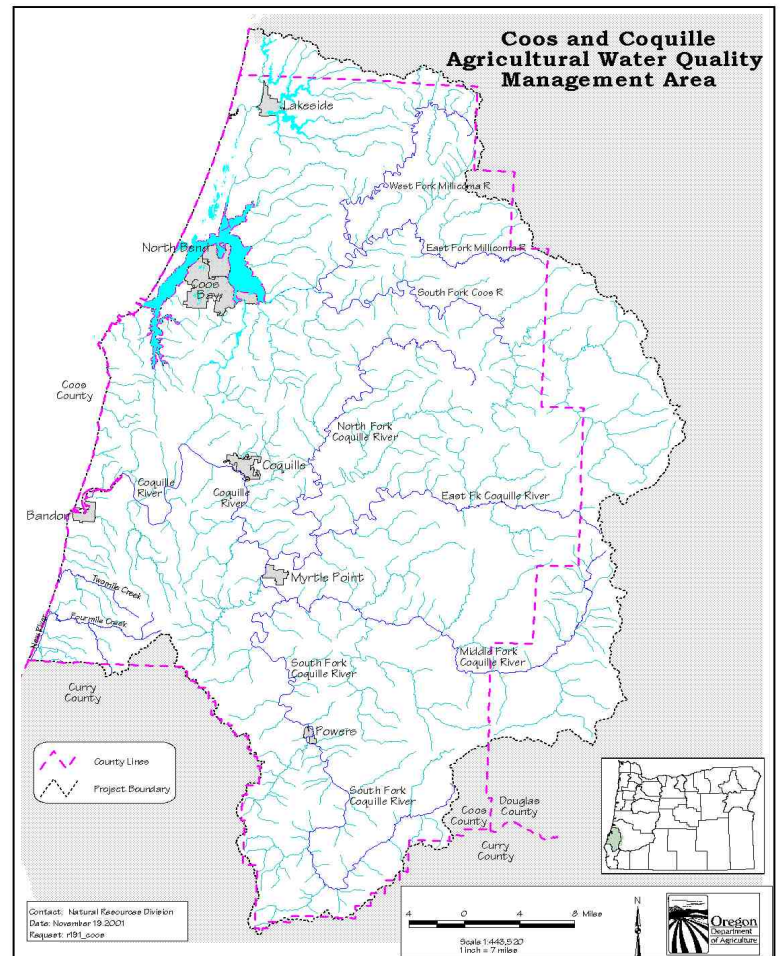
Meeting summary

The Coos and Coquille Local Advisory Committee (LAC) met to evaluate the implementation of the Coos and Coquille Agricultural Water Quality Management Area Plan and Rule and further develop the Area Plan to incorporate the new Tenmile Lakes Watershed Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL).

The LAC listened to a report on water quality monitoring and compliance cases from the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) and summaries of implementation accomplishments from the Coos Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD).

Compliance summary

From January 2008 to December 2009, four complaints were filed with ODA in the Coos and Coquille area. One manure and riparian management complaint resulted in a Water Quality Advisory and the case was closed. A manure management complaint resulted in a Letter of Warning. ODA and the Coos SWCD continue to work with the landowner to improve water quality. One complaint resulted in a referral to the Confined Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) program while the remaining case was not an agricultural related water quality issue.



Summary of Accomplishments

Progress as reported by Coos Soil and Water Conservation District, Coos and Coquille Watershed Associations and the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service occurring on agricultural lands.

Coos SWCD:

- 166 landowners contacted
- 93 landowners provided technical assistance
- 3 water quality workshops with 93 attendees
- 6 water quality presentations with 158 attendees
- 10 events with displays visited by 670 people
- 2 classroom events with 52 children
- 2 new fact sheets developed
- 1,239 fact sheets distributed
- 2,011 newsletters distributed
- 11 newspaper articles
- 79 on-site visits
- 2 sites monitored for water quality
- 9 grants submitted for funding
- 7 water quality projects implemented

NRCS:

- 1,846 acres conservation plans written
- 3,004 acres conservation practices applied to improve water quality
- 2 comprehensive nutrient plans
- 14 irrigation improvement projects
- 115 acres wetland enhancement

Coquille Watershed Association

- 9 miles riparian restoration
- 12+ miles in-stream fish habitat improvement
- 5 culvert replacements on farm roads

Coos Watershed Association

- 18,220 feet riparian fencing
- 1,605 feet riparian restoration
- 42 acres riparian plantings

LAC Plan Review: *continued*

Background

From 1998 through 2002, the ODA and the LAC developed an Area Plan and associated Administrative Rules for the Coos and Coquille Area. ODA adopted the Area Plan and Rules in January 2001. In 2004 and 2006, the LAC met for reviews of the Area Plan and Rules. The LAC elected not to meet in 2008, although a report to the Board of Agriculture was developed with the assistance of ODA. The Coos SWCD has served as the Local Management Agency for the development and implementation of the Area Plan and Rules.

Monitoring

The Coos and Coquille watersheds have multiple monitoring sites listed on the DEQ's Laboratory Analytical Storage and Retrieval (LASAR) database. The LASAR database has nine monitoring stations listed that met ODA's criteria for tracking changes to water quality related to agricultural activities. Six stations are apparently still being monitored. The six stations that are still being monitored provide sufficient data to characterize water quality trends in the basin. These sites are the mainstem Coquille River at Sturdivant Park; the Middle Fork Coquille River at Hwy 42; the North Fork Coquille River at Hwy 42, the South Fork Coquille

River at Broadbent, the Millicoma River at a boat ramp around River Mile 3, and the South Fork Coos River at A. Rogers Bridge.

As of April, 2010 the Millicoma River site did not have any low Dissolved Oxygen (DO) readings since the last review of data in 2008 when review of the water quality data showed low DO readings. No other water quality concerns were noted at this site. One high turbidity value was observed in the South Fork Coos River site in October 2008. One high E. coli count exceeding water quality standards was reported on the North Fork Coquille River. Two high E. coli counts were reported for the Coquille River at Sturdivant.

To assess baseline riparian conditions and to monitor expected improvements, ODA developed a method using aerial photography to quantify the extent of different land cover types within riparian areas. Each Agricultural Water Quality Management Area is being photographed on a five-year rotation.



LAC Members Present at Meeting

Dave Messerle
Chair

Jeff Cochran

Bonnie Joyce

Joan Mahaffy

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http://egov.oregon.gov/ODA/NRD/water_quality_front.shtml



LAC Plan Review: *continued*

Five streams in this basin were monitored in 2003. Four of these – Bear Creek, Catching Creek, Palouse Creek, and Twomile Creek – were also monitored in 2008. The South Fork Coquille River was photographed both years, but the air photos from 2003 were not analyzed because the file size was too large for ODA's GIS system to process smoothly. In 2003, ODA also monitored Middle Creek, but results of the image analysis showed that very little of this stream could be considered agricultural land, so it was not monitored in 2008.

All four of the streams in this basin had significant changes in their riparian index scores from 2003 to 2008. Bear and Catching Creeks had increased scores indicating an increase in riparian vegetation, while Palouse and Twomile Creeks had decreases in their scores. An analysis of the riparian scores and the changes in riparian vegetation are available from ODA.

Impediments to Plan Implementation

The LAC identified impediments to implementing the management area Rules and Plans. The LAC members agreed that the biggest impediment to implementing the Area Plan was the lack of knowledge of the Plan and Rules. The LAC discussed options for additional and more effective outreach and education. The LAC also felt that the Coos SWCD has a lack of resources to develop and implement water quality improvement projects.

Of serious concern to the LAC was that the Plan and Rules are reliant, to a large degree, on neighbors turning in neighbors for water quality issues. This can lead to ill feelings, and often, serious repercussions for neighborhood relationships. Finally, the LAC believes the Plan should portray a "how we can help you stay in compliance" feeling and objective.

Oregon Dept. Of Agriculture

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The Coos SWCD sponsored a "Manure Day" to help a landowner remove excess manure from her horse boarding operation.