

UMPQUA BASIN

SOURCE WATER PROTECTION WORKSHOP May 23, 2018

SUMMARY Final

Key Messages from Presentation Sessions

- Important to establish partnerships to set goals and priorities for the Basin. Partnerships can bring about creativity and collaboration, ensure effective strategic planning, and lead to funding opportunities.
- Water systems do not own a lot of land in their supply areas; they need partners to assist with protection.
- Many overlapping problems in the Basin, as well as overlapping solutions.
- Water providers have a wide range of issues including low flow in the summer, impacts from land use practices in the winter. Networking can help address issues.
- Grant funding available through DWPP and OHA, but other sources are out there, too
- Basin has legacy water quality issues; some associated with poor and old infrastructure.
- In watersheds with diverse ownership and complexity, partners are key to management improvement. Partners can be essential in ensuring effective communication between landowners and government. Watershed councils, for example, can serve as important link between stakeholders, landowners, and agencies.

Key Points from Small Group Discussions

1. Priorities

Common within Basin (* = high priority for some or all)

- Cyanobacteria*
- Better external communication including emergency communications*
- Turbidity *
- Monitoring gauges – funding to maintain*
- Nutrients*
- Fire risk/forest management*
- Repairing roads/infrastructure
- Releases (logging ponds, water control districts, ACOE)

Others (* = high priority for North Umpqua group)

- Temperature/riparian zone management*
- Algae*
- Livestock management
- Water flow
- Superfund sites
- Sediment

- Funding

2. Relationship Opportunities and Collaboration

Common within Basin:

- Emergency response communication (Auto-calls, Oregon Hazards, County, etc.)
- Umpqua Basin Collaborative/Work more with current partners

Others:

- Beaver Advocacy Committee
- HEAL – use for communication re agriculture and pesticides (contact/info on this group?)
- Research Forest Practices Act
- Communicate with ODF and landowners re past and future pesticide sprays
- Sign up for ODF forestry operations and spray notifications system (see link under “Resources Available”)
- Use personal connections and face-to-face communication when possible with landowners
- Sharing knowledge and use of forestry impact analysis tools (e.g. Geomorphic Road Analysis and Inventory Package –GRAIP)

3. Next Steps

Common within Basin:

- Increase partnering and communication
 - Expand communication channels
 - Regular communication between utilities and partners
 - Partner with others on known risks (i.e. infrastructure is an issue for everyone)
 - Identify new funding with partners
 - Use open-source data when possible
- Review emergency response/preparedness plans to ensure they are adequate
- Septic improvements/septic system projects

Others:

- Identify opportunities for beaver restoration projects
- Find new ways to work with landowners and ranchers (e.g. incentives, cultural mind shifts)
- Complete Updates to Source Water Assessments and connect these with Umpqua Basin Collaborative’s Action Plan.
- Engage more sectors of the community (e.g. private forestry, water systems, Douglas County) in the Collaborative.
- Discuss further--forest practices, land acquisition, conservation easements, (others?).

4. **Resources Available**

- Results from Trees to Tap Survey (possible presentation from Jon Souder/OSU Extension)
- OAWU Assistance (free for smaller water systems with under 5,000 population served); cost share for larger systems
- Contact list of invitees/attendees; sharing other contact info (e.g. major landowners, agency staff) (*to be distributed electronically*)
- Guidance documents for utility emergency response planning
- Funding (Drinking Water Providers Partnership, OHA, Homeland Security, foundations)
- OSU Extension “Managing Woodland Roads” -
<https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/pnw641>
- Workshops for small forestland owners on roads management
<https://extension.oregonstate.edu/sites/default/files/documents/8571/summer-2018-woodlander.pdf>
- Monitoring data in Basin from Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers, USFS, and DEQ
- Link for signing up for ODF forestry operations and spray notifications system:
<https://ferns.odf.oregon.gov/e-notification>