

Commercial Industrial Working Group
June 27, 2005 Meeting
Marathon Coach, Coburg

Present

Mike Warner

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This meetings discussion focused on the uses of fertilizers by commercial, industrial and governmental entities.

- Coburg Public Works indicated they use a slow-release fertilizer.
- Benton County Parks Department is reportedly “pretty green”, and Gordon will be checking to determine if fertilizers are even used on Benton County Parks. The Public Works Department does have a spray program, and may be maintaining the Parade Grounds.
- A mention was made to contact Yard Maintenance Companies as a way to get some information regarding what is being used in the GWMA, as well as developing contacts for future information decimation.
- A suggestion was made to develop a brochure for the entire GWMA. This is something that could be given to entities like Yard Maintenance Companies as well as residents or other interested parties.
- Eugene WWTP would be agreeable to being included in the brochure. Their current monitoring program indicates the treatments used are very effective in protecting the environment. The Environmental Management System will look at how to further reduce nitrate loading to soils.

- This triggered a discussion of the Corvallis WWTP. It was reported that the WWTP recently changed the Combined Sewer Outflow to a big pipe, and now has coverage for up to the 100 year storm. Sludge is dewatered taken to Coffin Butte landfill. A question was asked regarding how the sludge was treated.
- A mention was made that Monaco Coach will soon be employing at least 3,000 people. They have a large, complex on-site system.
- A suggestion from the Public Drinking Water group was brought to this working group – that the group that the Working Groups act as an intermediates with the governmental entities and the public.
- A recommendation followed that the working groups be distilled down to a manageable level (~ 6 members) and this new group used as a tool for outreach.
- Suggestions were also given that there should be outreach events held at local fairs and events, such as DiVinci Days, Golden Years, 4th of July in Harrisburg, County Fairs, Home Shows and Energy Fairs.
- Focused discussions in small communities might be a good way to get information out to the residents. The Coburg Café, Schools, Granges, Green Island Trust, Tri County News and local newspapers (i.e., Our Town – Coburg) were recognized as venues to communicate with residents and businesses.
- Farmers Market in Coburg soon Saturdays may be a good way to target Coburg residents.
- GWMAC should help with getting the messages out, and working to overcome the fear of ‘compliance.’
- Discussion regarding the Action Plan identified questions that should be asked, such as “How is our group part of the problem” and “What can we do to be part of the solution.”
- The draft list of Commercial/Industrial Strategies seemed to be acceptable to the meeting participants. Everyone will review these

and offer comments over the next few months, as the Action Plan is finalized.

- Above and beyond the Commercial/Industrial issues, partnering with the Watershed Councils and Granges might be a good way to get testing done and information out. Teaching others how to test and facilitating self-testing was also mentioned as a viable option to raise awareness.

The following strategies were approved at this meeting, and there was a recommendation that the Action Plan should evaluate these options for Governmental, Commercial and Industrial Facilities:

Commercial/Industrial Strategies

- Investigate the types of on-site systems that provide the best groundwater protection for the soils in the Groundwater Management Area and work with local civic groups to disseminate this information. (Research and Outreach)
- Work with County Sanitarians and/or OSU Extension Service to make voluntary site visits to help property owners determine potential risks to groundwater. (Outreach)
- Develop outreach materials for Commercial/Industrial facilities, including golf courses and publicly-owned properties in the GWMA on how to prevent over-fertilizing and over watering of lawns. (Outreach)
- Establish an overlay zone that requires new development (discharges from large on-site systems, septic systems, and private wells) to meet a GWMA water quality standard for nitrates (7 mg/L). (Planning)
- Develop a recognition program from property owners who manage lawns and landscaping in a manner that protects groundwater (Promotion)
- Promote and/or require new technology for large on-site systems that contribute less nitrate than traditional systems, to be installed at time of new development within the Groundwater Management Area. (Planning)
- Provide information through presentations and/or written material to professional organizations in the turf and grounds maintenance business about nitrate issues and potential ways to reduce nitrate

contributions from turf and grounds maintenance practices.
(Research and Outreach)

- Support the development of alternate treatment technologies for sewerage; (i.e., the use of subsurface irrigation of treated effluent to provide nutrients for the grass & tree areas) and ensure that effluent is no greater than 7.0 parts per million. (Planning and Financial Assistance.)
- Encourage the installation and monitoring of passive capillary sampling (PCAPS) stations at large on-site facilities within the Groundwater Management Area. (Research and Outreach)
- Through a soil and plant tissue sampling and analysis program, account for all nitrogen sources (residual nitrogen in soil, nitrogen in irrigation water and nitrogen in supplemental organic materials) available for beneficial use prior to applying fertilizer. Time nutrient inputs to coincide with grass/crop needs by including plant tissue analysis and other testing. (Research and Outreach)
- Ensure that existing lagoons and wastewater conveyance systems are designed to meet state standards for storing wastes, leachate and effluent runoff. New lagoons and wastewater conveyance facilities should be designed to protect groundwater quality. Evaluate the use of Tax Credits for these redesigns and/or construction. (Financial Assistance, Research and Outreach)
- Educate operators of the requirement to only apply biosolids and wastewater at agronomic rates that are protective of the groundwater. Seek funding to assist landowners with determining these rates. (Financial Assistance, Research and Outreach)

Strategies that would be useful for all SWV GWMA groups

- Inform residents, commercial and industrial business owners, and farmers of their location within the Groundwater Management Area, the depth to groundwater, and the importance of their assistance in protecting groundwater for their own and the community's drinking water supply (Outreach)
- Raise awareness of the importance of Groundwater by erecting signs to identify the Groundwater Management Area or "Groundwater Sensitive Area". (Outreach and Promotion)
- Increase awareness among community members about the vulnerability of groundwater to contamination, residence-based sources of contamination, and how to reduce the potential for nitrate contamination. Use a variety of information channels such as: classes, fact sheets, newsletters, meetings, schools, groundwater protection tips in utility bills. (Outreach and Promotion)
- Encourage community wastewater treatment for cluster development. (Planning and Outreach)
- Establish a program of on-site system inspection at the time of sale. (Planning)
- Build and implement an incentives/recognition program for businesses (agriculture, commercial, industrial, etc.) that will encourage and recognize "groundwater friendly" practices. (Outreach and Promotion)
- Acquire property or establish conservation easements with willing landowners near the mainstem of the Willamette River and Muddy Creek integrating surface and groundwater protection. (Financial Assistance, Outreach and Promotion)
- Provide residents, public water systems, and business owners with information about water treatment options to reduce the level

of nitrate discharges and associated costs. (Research and Outreach)

- Establish a volunteer monitoring network to track nitrate levels and changes over time throughout the region. (Outreach and Promotion)
- Establish criteria and set up a “groundwater friendly” recognition program for rural residents, urban residents, businesses, and farmers in the region. (Outreach and Promotion)
- Encourage and build private-public partnerships, such as working with home and hardware stores to allow displays about groundwater protection. (Outreach and Promotion)
- Develop and implement a comprehensive groundwater monitoring program. (Research)
- Encourage intergovernmental coordination and coordination of surface and groundwater protection and restoration. (Outreach and Promotion)
- Create a “Groundwater Management Area Special District” to continue working on and addressing groundwater protection in the Groundwater Management Area. (Outreach and Promotion)