YAMHILL RIVER SUBBASIN
Agricultural Water Quality Management Area
Biennial Review Report to the Board of Agriculture and ODA Director
Submitted by the Local Advisory Committee (LAC)

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Meeting Date: February 26, 2025
LAC Members Present: Allan Holstein, Tim Pfeiffer, Lucien Gunderman, Steve Jones, and Rich Blaha
Reporting Timeframe: Calendar years 2022–2024

PROGRESS MEASUREMENT

Strategic Implementation Area (SIA): Deer Creek and South Yamhill River SIA (2020–2025)

Evaluation Results: As of June 30, 2021, 29 tax lots were identified as either a Potential Violation or a Compliance Opportunity. PV = 7, CO = 22, RO = 187, LC = 631

Measurable Objective: By June 30, 2025, all 29 tax lots identified as a Potential Violation or a Compliance Opportunity will be downgraded to Restoration Opportunity or Likely in Compliance.

Progress to Achieving Measurable Objective: With the exception of one Potential Violation, all other Potential Violations and Compliance Opportunities have been downgraded to Restoration Opportunity or Likely in Compliance.

Monitoring Trends: With high flows, total suspended solids (TSS) levels tend to be high; at low flows, TSS levels are generally low. Water temperature peaks above tolerable levels for salmonids during the summer.

Management Area-wide Activities (Polk and Yamhill Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs))	**#**	**Description**
Events That Actively Engage Landowners	13	Booths at partner events, native plant sale, nut growers society, local work group meetings; two local events on water quality for Chehalem area and Grand Island area residents; February 2024 Polk SWCD with OSU Extension hosted an event with landowners to hear about water quality monitoring results, mercury TMDL, and agricultural practices and funding opportunities that reduce sediment.
Landowners Participating in Active Events	340	
Landowners Provided Technical Assistance*	296	
Site Visits	215	
Conservation Plans Written	73	
Funding Applications Submitted	5	OWEB small grants that focused on riparian restoration.
Funding Applications Awarded	5	

* Number reported likely double counts some landowners due to tracking methods.

LAC DISCUSSION

Summary of Progress

- Districts maintain good relationships with landowners.
- Cooperation between the county roads department and Yamhill SWCD is good and needed for roadside ditch problems.
- The Agricultural Drainage Channel Maintenance Program is good and needs to be better advertised and promoted.
- Roadside seeding is helping reduce erosion.
- Erosion is collectively recognized as a serious problem and landowners are open to finding solutions.
- The Area Plan contains good information and guidance on voluntary measures. It just needs to be made more accessible to landowners.

Impediments

- Roadside ditches are full. Ditch maintenance is not getting the attention it needs.
- Landowners are not using the Area Plan or they are too afraid to know whether their current practices are in compliance.

- Need a management-area wide measurable objective for reducing erosion. Focused Ag Solutions project could help build that.
- Need more/better data and information exchange between districts and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).
- Conservation objectives can't keep changing; if they do, then reporting agencies don't capture the good work is happening for objectives that are no longer a priority.

Recommended Modifications and Adaptive Management

- Need to make the Area Plan more accessible for landowners because they are not reading it as it is.
- Need to better pair solutions to area rules.
- More funding, attention, and equipment (i.e., brush mower) is needed for roadside ditch maintenance.
- Need to match objectives with available capacity, resources, and funding.

ODA COMPLIANCE ACTIVITIES

Location	Cases		Site Visits	Agency Actions				
				Letter of Compliance		Pre-Enforcement Notification	Notice of Noncompliance	Civil Penalty
	New	Closed		Already in compliance	Brought into compliance			
Outside SIA	14	8	37	1	6	18	5	0
Within SIA	7	5	12	0	3	8	2	0