



Oregon

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Water Resources Department

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Water Resources Commission

FROM: Jerry Rodgers
Technical Services Administrator

SUBJECT: Agenda Item P, November 21, 2008
Water Resources Commission Meeting

Informational Report on OWRD and OSU Sea Grant Extension Cooperative Program: Neighborhood Ground Water Network

I. Issue Statement

At its November 30, 2007 meeting, the Commission directed the Department to develop a voluntary well measurement and education program within the Eola Hills Ground Water Limited Area near West Salem. This pilot program was put together in conjunction with Oregon State University Sea Grant Extension. This is an informational report only.

II. Background

On June 1, 2007, the Commission directed the Department to evaluate the available information in the Eola Hills Ground Water Limited Area to determine whether a serious water management problem existed. At the November 2007 Commission meeting, the Department presented findings that the existing information did not support the adoption of a serious water management problem area and recommended that additional information be collected in the Eola Hills. The Commission directed the Department to continue its monitoring efforts, develop special area well construction rules, and to develop a voluntary well measurement and education program to assist in the collection of ground water level and water use data in the area.

III. Discussion

Many well owners have expressed interest in knowing more about their ground water supply and having their wells monitored over time. With the limited resources at hand, the Department is constrained to focusing on those areas where long-term water supply concerns exist and, thus, are unable to commit to additional monitoring sites. A small number of neighborhoods have developed their own monitoring programs after working with Department staff on proper measurement methodologies.

Per Commission direction, the Department developed a landowner well measurement education program focused in the Eola Hills Ground Water Limited Area. This work was developed

through a cooperative agreement with Oregon State University Sea Grant Extension. This agreement extends to June 30, 2009.

The pilot program is titled *Neighborhood Ground Water Network* and is designed to provide interested landowners with a basic introduction to ground water hydrology and training on how to properly measure and document water level readings in a well. The Department is developing a web interface that will allow landowners that have completed the training to provide their water level data electronically. The goal is to add 25 additional wells in the Eola Hills area to supplement ongoing water level monitoring by the Department.

After considerable outreach for the pilot program, meetings were held on October 18 and October 25 for landowners in the Eola Hills area. Participants included nine attendees that were interested in learning about ground water and well measurement. The meetings provided a four-hour hands-on training in ground water science, well measurement, and documentation. The measurement equipment used for this training was purchased by OSU Extension and is available for checkout by participants of the neighborhood program.

As a pilot program, the *Neighborhood Ground Water Network* is an effort to develop a packaged program capable of serving multiple purposes: it can be presented to neighborhood meetings for general interest and water-use education or it can provide the tools necessary to landowners that are committed to measuring and sharing the data from their wells. In addition to the meeting presentation materials, the Department will develop educational information sheets as tools that can be shared through the Department website or in person.

IV. Summary

Per the Commission's direction, the Department and OSU Sea Grant Extension have cooperated in developing the *Neighborhood Ground Water Network*, a program that educates well owners on methodology and documentation of well measurement. The data collected will be shared with the Department to broaden the well measurement network.

Attachment:

1. Neighborhood Ground Water Network flier

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