Greater Harney Valley – Groundwater Study Advisory Committee Meeting
Tuesday, October 16, 2018
10:00am – 4:00pm
Harney County community Center – 484 N Broadway Ave, Burns, OR

October 16, 2018 - Meeting Summary

Participants

Advisory Committee Members
Angie Ketscher, Resident/Landowner
Brandon Haslick, Burns Paiute Tribe
Brenda Smith, High Desert Partnership
Fred Otley, Resident/Landowner
~~Herb Vloedman, Resident/Landowner~~
Tim Barara, US Fish and Wildlife Services (participating for Gary Ball)
~~JR Johnson, OWRD~~
Karen Moon, Harney County Watershed Council
Lorissa Singhose, Resident/Landowner
Mark Owens, County Commission and Landowner
~~Steve Rickman, Landowner/Business Owner~~
~~Tony Hackett, Downright Drilling~~
Wayne Evans, Resident/Landowner
Zach Freed, The Nature Conservancy

Groundwater Study Team
Amanda Garcia, USGS
Darrick Boschmann, OWRD
Hank Johnson, USGS
Jerry Grondin, OWRD
Justin Iverson, OWRD
Steve Gingerich, USGS
~~Nick Corson-Dosch, USGS~~

Others
Harmony Burright, OWRD (Facilitator)
~~Jason Spriet, OWRD~~
Samantha Phillips, OWRD
Jonathan La Marche, OWRD

Meeting Overview, Action Items, Recommendations, and Updates

The purpose of this meeting was to learn about key components of the groundwater study, provide updates on activities since the last Advisory Committee meeting, and brief the Committee on upcoming activities. This meeting officially recognized and welcomed two new members on the Advisory Committee. The meeting was largely dedicated to reviewing the lightening talks that will be given by members of the groundwater study team on October 25, 2018 during the Information Sharing and Community Gathering. After viewing each presentation the Committee members were able to ask questions and offer suggestions. This meeting marked the last update on the data collection phase. A timeline was shared with the Committee on when the final report would need to be completed and how the committee would be involved in that process. Ideas and suggestions were shared and concerns captured for future meeting topics.

Figure 1 and 2. Answering technical questions

Action Items

Who	What	When
Harmony	Send John a timeline of events leading up to the study	October 25
Samantha/Justin	Send Technical information out two weeks in advance of January meeting for the technical team to review.	End of December
All Committee Members	Share any questions/information with the Study Team in advance of meeting so that the Groundwater Study Team can adequately prepare. If Advisory Committee members have a different interpretation of data, they are encouraged to provide evidence for the Study Team to consider.	Before the next meeting
Harmony	Pair up each Committee member with Groundwater Study Team to help field questions at tables	October 23
Harmony	Check with Nick about presenting at the open house on the subject about the Data Mapper.	October 24

Decisions/Recommendations

- Mark Owens was appointed as Committee Chair for 2019-2020.
- Lorrisa Singhose, Resident/Landowner replaces Erin Maupin as an Advisory Committee Member
- Zach Freed, The Nature Conservancy replaces Allison Aldous as an Advisory Committee Member

Proposed Future Discussion Topics

- Groundwater Levels/Contour Maps will be the focus of the January meeting.

Updates

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 17, 2019 from 10am - 4pm at the Harney County Community Center. The chair (Mark Owens) and facilitator (Samantha Phillips) will develop and distribute an agenda for review prior to the next meeting. If you would like to propose discussion topics, email them to: samantha.j.phillips@oregon.gov.

Detailed Meeting Notes

LIGHTING TALKS – PRESENTATIONS AND FEEDBACK

The Groundwater study team presented their 7 minute presentations that they will show at the open house on October 25. The Committee gave feedback on content and format.

Justin Iverson – Groundwater Study Overview.

For full presentation, click here

Key Discussion Topics/Questions:

- Committee members gave feedback on presentation. Most felt the content was useful. Recommendations included: to orient the audience and give them a chance to understand the graphs; concentrate on what is ahead do not dwell on past. People will want to know what it means for them now and in the future. It is important to think about the audience. Some will genuinely want to learn while others may view whatever is said as negative.

Amanda Garcia – Water Budget

For full presentation, click here

- Next steps refine estimates, evaluate distribution

Key Discussion Topics/Questions:

- Committee members gave feedback on presentation. Some suggested that more time should be spent on the graphs specifically why there is a wide range of estimates for discharge. Share 3 main points. Add more simplified details.

Jordan Beamer and Mellony Hoskinson – Agriculture Evapotranspiration

For full presentation, click here

Key Discussion Topics/Questions:

- Committee members gave feedback on presentation. Some suggested that presenters need to be careful to not use too many technical terms without defining what they mean. This presentation makes a connection to the water budget. Make sure to use revised numbers and mention that number will change as more data is collected. Define that there are different components and more clearly identify them

Darrick Boshmann – Geologic Framework of the Harney Basin

For full presentation, click here

Key Discussion Topics/Questions:

- Committee members gave feedback on presentation. Basin fill is complicated. Not just one fill pockets of clay and basalt. Describe generically what is in the basin and connect information to the model that is coming in phase two of the project

Jonathan LaMarche - Surface Water/Groundwater interactions in the Harney Basin

For full presentation, click here

Key Discussion Topics/Questions:

- Committee members gave feedback on presentation. Move presentation before Jordan's irrigation discussion. Stress why it is important to understand the geology in relation to water budget. Recharge and seepage may be happening in areas where data has not been collected.

Jerry Grondin – Groundwater Levels

For full presentation, click here

- Look at groundwater flow –one place to another
- How water is connected flowing or not
- Groundwater for municipal/ Stock usage
- How system with natural process are responding
- Synoptic Wells
- Wells measured Quarterly 109,
  Recorder wells measured every 2-3 hours
- First Impressions – 3 water sheds flow common to slump; identify where flow is exiting
- Changes after 1969 more notable declines in specific areas

Key Discussion Topics/Questions:

- Committee members gave feedback on presentation. Bring in more information on wells, more about problem areas in cone of depression.

Hank Johnson – Water Chemistry

For full presentation, click here

Key Discussion Topics/Questions:

- Committee members gave feedback on presentation. Presentation seems long, but riveting, Orient audience before the presentation as this is the roadmap to everything. Refine map - show information that differentiate information that is still to come and inconclusive information as different color dots.

Steve Gingrich – Groundwater Model

For full presentation, click here

Key Discussion Topics/Questions:

- Committee members gave feedback on presentation. Presentation is a good connection to the other presentations. Be prepared with questions that are on the minds of audience – they want the answer now but must help them to see the need to base conclusion on all the data.

FEEDBACK TO STUDY TEAM ON LIGHTNING TALKS

A round table discussion from the Advisory Committee members gave constructive criticism for improving presentations.

Tie the talks together and be prepared for more than one question. Need to engender public buy-in. Mention independent peer review process. There will be vetting from OWRD, USGS, Advisory Committee and others. Someone should make clear that this study is a water quantity issue not a quality issue.

Introductory slides makes it easier for people to connect. The concluding slides should tie it all together and let people know what we know so far.

The Agricultural water use/evapotranspiration presentation should make a stronger tie to the water budget.

Public will have questions, some will not agree with the data, expect a lot of technical questions.

Good start. There are still questions that need to be answered. Just sharing the data that has been collected to-date and initial findings. This is an important point to be engaging community members.

Important to stress that this is preliminary just the end of the first phase. The Harney basin GW study and its components are consistent with how basin GW Studies are conducted. Conducting this study includes using technology-tools now available (not previously available for other studies).

We need to see what the data is saying and answer questions based on the data. Start conservations to understand the data. Be clear that the data is leading the way – not preconceived ideas.

Study is coming along still any questions and concerns about how many will be hurt before management happens. While waiting some are caught in the middle need provisions for those hurting now.

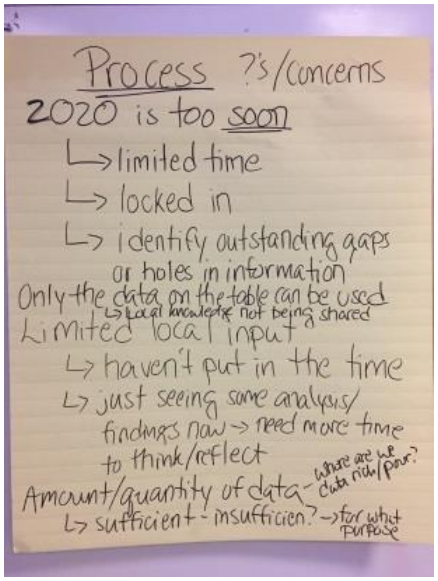
Remember that this is a unique event. This is a great opportunity and we are grateful for OWRD and USGS work to make this happen – it's been a big effort.

STUDY REVIEW TIMELINE AND PROCESS

A timeline of where the study is and where it is going over the next two years was shared. The study team intends to analyze data and share near-final analysis products (maps, graphs, tables, etc.) with the Advisory Committee in 2019. The study team intends to complete the Phase I study analyses by March of 2020 and to use the rest of 2020 to peer review and publish the final report. The deadline in rule to publish the final report is December 31, 2020.

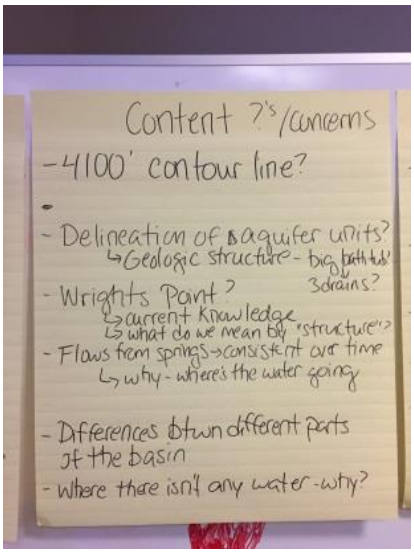
Key Discussion Topics/Questions:

Process questions/concerns



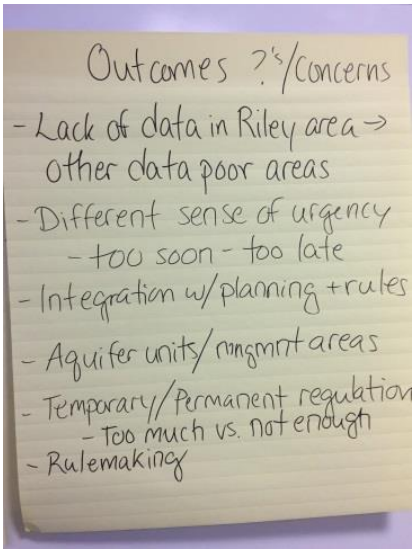
- 2020 is too soon
  - Limited time
  - Locked in
  - Identify outstanding gaps or holes in information
- Only the data on the table can be used
  - Local knowledge not willing to be shared in some instances
- Limited Local input
  - Haven't put in the time
  - Just seeing same analysis
  - Findings now- need more time to think and reflect
- Amount/Quantity of data
  - Where are we data rich/poor?
  - Sufficient –Insufficient – For what purpose

Content questions/concerns



- 4100 contour line?
- Delineation of Aquifer unites?
  - Geologic structure – big bathtub three drains?
- Wrights Point
  - Current knowledge
  - What do we mean by "structure"?
- Flows form springs-consistent over time
  - Why – where is the water going?
- Differences between different parts of the basin
- Where there is not any water – why?

Outcomes questions/concerns



- Lack of data in Riley area
    - Other data poor areas
- Different sense of urgency
    - Too soon – too late
- Integration with planning plus rules
- Aquifer units/management areas
- Temporary/permanent regulation
    - Too much vs not enough
- Rulemaking
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Proposed Future Discussion Topics:

- At next meeting discuss water contour maps. Committee and team will bring input and all will closely scrutinize in order to make recommended changes. Discussions and recommended changes need to be based on evidence.
- Each meeting for 2019 will continue to build on analyzing data together – this is the analysis that will be included in the Study Report. Groundwater Study Team will share information two weeks before the meeting. Advisory Committee members will share questions/information with the Groundwater Study Team one week before the meeting.