

AGENDA ITEM FOR ADMINISTRATIVE MEETING ( ) Discussion only  
( X ) Action

FROM (DEPT/ DIVISION): Planning Department

SUBJECT: DEQ Support Request

<p>Background: Umatilla and Morrow Counties, with the support of Randy Jones from Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), have been working together on the reorganization of the Lower Umatilla Basin Groundwater Management Area (LUBGWMA) committee. The counties request that DEQ support the continued involvement of Randy Jones in the LUBGWMA through 2023.</p>	<p>Requested Action: Approve Umatilla/Morrow County Letter of Support to be Sent to DEQ</p>
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ATTACHMENTS: Umatilla/Morrow Support Letter

Date: ( 11/09/22 ) Submitted By: Robert Waldher

\*\*\*\*\*For Internal Use Only\*\*\*\*\*

Checkoffs:

- ( ) Dept. Head (copy)
- ( ) Human Resources (copy)
- ( ) Fiscal
- ( ) Legal (copy)
- ( ) (Other - List:)

To be notified of Meeting:  
Robert Waldher

Needed at Meeting:

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Scheduled for meeting on: November 9, 2022

Action taken:

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Follow-up:



Via EMAIL

November 16, 2022

Shannon Davis, Region Administrator  
Oregon Department of Environmental Quality

RE: Support for Lower Umatilla Basin Groundwater Management Area (LUBGWMA)

Dear Ms. Davis:

As you know, the Lower Umatilla Basin Groundwater Management Area (LUBGWMA) recently re-organized more formally and is now chaired by Dr. Salini Sasidharan, professor of Sustainable Groundwater Management Engineering at OSU. Leaders from the two counties, Umatilla and Morrow, have been working closely together to demonstrate a renewed commitment of moving the committee forward to seek solutions aimed at reducing groundwater nitrate levels in the LUBGWMA.

We would like to praise Randy Jones, DEQ Regional Solutions Team for all of his efforts over the past couple months. His understanding of the basin's technical, procedural, regulatory, policy and political issues has been stellar!

The counties would very much benefit from Mr. Jones' continued involvement in the LUBGWMA. We believe consistency is extremely important moving forward at least in the short term, through 2023, with all of the recent changes and political perspectives. We understand Randy will officially retire at the end of this year but we hope he and DEQ are willing to support his continued employment, at least part time, to the LUBGWMA.

We have high hopes for the future of our basin and with Randy's help we believe we will be closer to realizing progress.

Sincerely,

**Morrow County Board of Commissioners**

**Umatilla County Board of Commissioners**

Jim Doherty, Chair

John Shafer, Chair

Melissa Lindsay, Vice Chair

Dan Dorran, Vice Chair

Don Russell, Commissioner

George Murdock, Commissioner

C: Courtney Warner Crowell, RST Coordinator