

**Benton County Riparian and Wetlands Advisory Group (RWAG)**  
**Meeting #4**  
**February 23, 2010 4:38 – 6:09 p.m.**

**All Notes, Figures, Slides, and other meeting materials are updated and available on the Project Website at: <http://www.co.benton.or.us/cd/riparian> . If there are items that you would like to have available contact Adam Stebbins at [adam.stebbins@co.benton.or.us](mailto:adam.stebbins@co.benton.or.us) or 541-766-6085.**

**Meeting Attendees:**

Karen Fleck-Harding (Marys River Watershed Council, Outreach and Education Coordinator), John Gaylord (President of Corvallis Audubon Society), Denise Kalakay (Lane Council of Governments) (left ~5:30 p.m.), Ken Kenaston (Benton County Planning Commission), Steve Klein (EPA), Cindy McCain (Benton County Environmental Issues Advisory Committee Chair and US Forest Service), Bill Percy (Landowner), Bruce Priddy (Landowner), Dan Rosenberg (Wildlife Biologist), Donna Schmitz (Benton Soil and Water Conservation District); Rich Sumner (EPA Wetlands Scientist), Adam Stebbins (Benton County Water Projects Coordinator), Kristin Anderson (Benton County Planner), Diana Sharps (Benton County GIS Intern), Doug Sackinger (GIS Coordinator), Greg Verret (arrived 5:45 p.m.) (Benton County Community Development Director).

**Meeting Notes:**

- Adam and Greg reported on project progress to the Board of Commissioners (BOC). The BOC wanted more community involvement in the project, but approved of the progress to date. Ken asked: Will the BOC fund educational outreach, if that is what is deemed necessary by the group? Ken thought it would be helpful to ask the BOC for financial support early, so that the BOC can plan ahead to set aside funds. Donna stated that cooperation between agencies can help reduce financial costs.
- Adam reiterated that the project will focus on streams and associated riparian corridors. Wetland assessment will be a focused discussion at a future meeting.
- Adam asked Denise (as lead of the current multi-city riparian and wetland assessments—two of which are City of Monroe and City of Adair Village in Benton County) to elaborate on City of Springfield using Statewide Planning Goal 6 to inventory and protect these areas. Denise explained that Springfield utilized Goal 6 (water quality) first then saw what the “gaps” were (information, protection), then applied Goal 5 (natural resources).
- Ken asked why the Willamette River didn’t show up in the table of watershed areas that are part of the inventory, as he thought it was appropriate to include it. Adam said this will be added and reviewed.
- The focus of inventory work will be in residential areas, where development will occur at greater density than on resource lands, affecting riparian and wetland functions and values.
- Diana showed high resolution (LIDAR) maps, showing various potential streams and spring/seep areas. Doug and Diana field-verified the streams a few days ago.

- Karen Fleck-Harding said what the Advisory Group and residents deem important, determine what level of stream/drainage should be protected. For example, the techniques for responding to water turbidity are different than for water temperature.
- There were questions on: How should streams be defined? When is a ditch by the side of the road a stream? Diana suggested designating “stream” or “ditch” in the GIS layer, so that we can group them together or separate them as needed.
- Steve stated that ditches are important to map, as they are part of the built hydrology. Also important to designate on GIS some streams as “ephemeral” versus “year round.”
- Karen Fleck-Harding reported that they are finalizing their rapid biological assessment right now. She wants to stop flow from ditches from going into streams below, as the water flows too quickly into the streams. She said in this case it’s better when ditches/streams aren’t connected, because if it is stored elsewhere water quality will improve and groundwater will be recharged.
- Diana discussed how in some cases it is difficult to determine the DLCD-required “distinct break in slope” for where the top of bank is for streams.
- Dan thought e should have a large buffer around streams, since streams move and the top of bank is difficult to determine. Goal 6 allows wider areas to be protected, so perhaps that is better? Adam will research buffer size recommendations for various stream functions including stream channel migration.
- Karen said that the depth of the stream incision affects temperature, so in cases where the earthen banks shade the stream, perhaps the riparian buffer doesn’t need to be as wide. Ken pointed out that riparian buffers have other benefits besides stream shade/temperature.
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#### **Action Items:**

- The Willamette River will be added to the Inventory Outline and become part of the final report.
- Adam will provide an update on the riparian and wetland assessment to date including:
  - Updated maps showing perennial and intermittent streams determined by USGS, BLM, and Benton County
  - Field photos used for checking LIDAR maps/methods and
  - Updated list of definitions
- Adam will continue with field verification of mapping data.
- Updated Inventory and definitions will be formed.
- Adam will research buffer size recommendations for various stream functions including

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