

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

FROM (DEPT/ DIVISION): Planning Department

SUBJECT: Support Letter for LUBGWMA Nitrate Study Funding

<p>Background: Co-chairs of the Lower Umatilla Basin Groundwater Management Area (LUBGWMA) Subcommittee, Commissioner Dan Dorran and Morrow County Commissioner Melissa Lindsay, request county approval to send attached letter to Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA). The letter requests that ODA review and process funding from Oregon Legislature that was secured for purposes of studying nitrates in the LUBGWMA. There have been staffing and other delays and the partnership with the Subcommittee and Oregon State University Institute for Water and Watersheds cannot begin until ODA releases the funds. The letter also requests that ODA add a budget note or other necessary language that would allow extension of time to spend funding if necessary, beyond the current biennium.</p>	<p>Requested Action: Approval of joint Umatilla County/Morrow County letter of support and authorize Chair to sign</p>
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ATTACHMENTS: Proposed Joint Umatilla/Morrow County Letter

Date: (02/08/22) Submitted By: Robert Waldher, Director

*****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: Robert Waldher

Scheduled for meeting on: February 9, 2022

Action taken:

Follow-up:



**Morrow County
Board of Commissioners**



**Umatilla County
Board of Commissioners**

February 9, 2022

Isaak Stapleton, Director
Natural Resources Program
Oregon Department of Agriculture
635 Capitol Street N.E.
Salem, OR 97301
Via Email: isaak.stapleton@oda.oregon.gov

Dear Mr. Stapleton,

The Board of County Commissioners for Morrow and Umatilla Counties would like to thank you for your efforts in facilitating the hiring of a researcher using the \$250,000 of one-time funds authorized by the Oregon Legislature in House Bill 5006 (2021), to fund research through Oregon State University related to nitrate levels in the Lower Umatilla Basin Groundwater Management Area. Morrow and Umatilla Counties are supportive of this research effort so that historic groundwater contamination in the Basin can be comprehensively understood and addressed effectively and efficiently.

It is our current understanding that the procurement documents related to the hiring of a researcher are currently under review. As you are aware, time is of the essence regarding the use of these one-time funds provided by the Legislature, as the funds are set to expire in June 2023. We appreciate your efforts in furthering the review of this procurement and the hiring of a researcher.

We also understand that the Department of Agriculture is developing its 2023-2025 Agency Request Budget. As the funds identified above are one-time funds, set to expire in 2023, we respectfully request the Department of Agriculture include a placeholder (or any other vehicle the Department deems appropriate) to preserve or renew these funds in case the research work is not completed by June 2023.

Morrow and Umatilla Counties appreciate the support of the Legislature, the Oregon Department of Agriculture, and Oregon State University in addressing this very important issue.

Morrow County

Umatilla County

Jim Doherty, Chair

John Shafer, Chair