

# Curry County Agricultural Water Quality Management Area

Biennial Review Report to the Board of Agriculture & ODA Director

Submitted by the Local Advisory Committee (LAC)



<b>Meeting Date(s):</b> January 28, 2021
<b>LAC Members Present:</b> Robert McKenzie, Tooz Wahl, Mary Wahl, Joe Pestana, Scott McKenzie
<b>Reporting Time Frame:</b> November 2018-2020

PROGRESS MEASUREMENT			
<i>This was a Light Review; quantitative details related to Measurable Objectives are not reported at Light Reviews.</i>			
Activities	No.	Activities	No.
Landowners Provided Technical Assistance	53	Site Visits	139
Conservation Plans Written	12	Funding Applications Submitted	16

SUMMARY OF PROGRESS AND IMPEDIMENTS
<p><b>Progress Measurement:</b> <b>SWCD</b> Focus Area: Morton Creek <b>Condition of 192.41 agricultural acres within 35 feet of a stream</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2015: [Grass-Ag + Bare-Ag] = 44.80 acres</li> <li>2017: [Grass-Ag + Bare-Ag] = 44.66 acres</li> </ul> <p><b>Focus Area Milestones</b> By June 30, 2021: Reduce [Grass-ag + Bare-ag] by 2.5 acres to 42.16 acres</p> <p>The Focus Area milestone is based on completing a relatively large project on one property. The project has been in development for several years, with an OWEB Technical Assistance grant providing funding for project design, and the footprint has expanded considerably from the original project idea. Preliminary designs for a channel re-meandering and riparian reserve are currently being shared with stakeholders to solicit their input. The current design would increase the riparian area by approximately five acres.</p> <p>The development of the project has taken longer than expected. Partially responsible for the long timeline is the fact that the landowner is new to working with the SWCD and considerable time and effort are required to develop the relationships necessary to endeavor into projects of this scale. The other factor that has resulted in the long timeline is the complexity of the project design; engineering has been required for the channel realignment, which has required surveying, the development of design alternatives, and selection of an alternative. At this time, we expect implementation funding will be sought in the spring of 2021.</p> <p><b>SIA: Pistol River</b> Properties classified as “Opportunity Identified”: 6 “Opportunity Identified” landowners contacted: 6 “Opportunity Identified” landowners willing to work with SWCD: 5</p> <p>ODA classified six properties in the Pistol River SIA as “Opportunity Identified.” The properties are owned by four landowners. Curry SWCD has contacted all four landowners, three of which have been willing to work with the SWCD toward addressing potential concerns. The fourth landowner did not want to work with the SWCD, but did not respond to ODA attempts to contact them.</p>

Although the majority of landowners have expressed a willingness to address potential concerns, the complexity of the lower watershed, coupled with both agricultural and non-agricultural land use on the floodplain, warrant a cautious approach to project implementation. As such, Curry SWCD is working with US Geological Survey and an engineering firm to develop a two-dimensional hydraulic model of the lower watershed. The model is intended to inform the identification and design of projects that improve water quality, fish habitat, and preserve agricultural land use. The model is expected to be completed in early 2021.

**CREP**

CREP Plans--Participation in Curry County as of 1/28/2021: 471 acres, 25 contracts.

New CREP projects developed 2019-2020: 4

**NRCS:** Brush Management: 13 acres, Conservation Cover: 1 acre, Fence: 44,150 ft., Heavy Use Area Protection: 3,389 sq. ft., Riparian Forest Buffer: 36 acres, Irrigation Pipeline: 4,871 ft., Irrigation Water Management: 219.7 acres, Livestock water pipeline: 30,903 ft., Pumping plant: 2, Sprinkler system 65 acres, structure for water control: 2, Structures for wildlife: 18, Tree/shrub establishment: 6 acres

**Summary of Impediments:**

Complex riverbank erosion problem exists in lower portion of Sixes River system. Hydrologic modeling may assist in informing potential solutions.

**RECOMMENDED MODIFICATIONS AND ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT**

Ensure SWCD and partners have capacity for new SIA. Align SIA with existing efforts and resources.

**COMPLIANCE ACTIONS**

Location	Letter of Compliance	Pre-Enforcement Notification	Notice of Noncompliance	Civil Penalty
Outside SIA(s)	0	1	0	0
Within SIA(s)	0	1	0	0