



Agriculture Workforce Housing Facilitation Team
Meeting Notes

Thursday, March 27, 2014
10:00-12:00 PM Room 124B
Oregon Housing and Community Services

FACILITATOR: Diana Koppes, OHCS
RECORDER: Greg Current, OHCS Admin

ATTENDEES:

Brett Sheehan, CASA	Claudia Cantu, CASA	Don Herman, OHCS
Jacob Cruser, ODA	Janet Byrd, Neighborhood Partnerships (by phone)	Jean Godfrey, CFG
John McCulley, CFG & BMG	Kathleen Kincade, OSHA	Mallory Rahe, OSU
Marc Overbeck, OHPR (by phone)	Maria Elena Castro M., OHA (by phone)	Natasha Detweiler, OHCS
Rich Malloy, Bienstar	Shay Kahl, SIMPLICITY	Shelly Wilkins-Ehenger, MCHA
Sherryl Gleason, USDA	Stephanie Page, ODA	Teri Watson, OSHA

WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS: Introductions made. Four members attended by phone.

GIS MAPPING OF AGRICULTURAL LAND USES IN OREGON

Stephanie Page and Jacob Cruser (ODA) provided a presentation relating to geographic information system mapping of agricultural land uses in Oregon with an emphasis on how this information can help support the team's work. Below is a synopsis of the questions and answers generated from the presentation.

- GIS utilizes different layers to provide spatial data entry, management, and retrieval, analysis, and visualization functions. It is often driven by jurisdictional (such as a city), purpose, or application requirements. This application has tools that allow users to create interactive queries, analyze spatial information, and edit data in maps.
- This project has been in effect for one year with eight counties equipped with agricultural information; however, only five are completed. The process is thorough and time consuming. An exact time for the completion of this project is not known but the more interest it is given will greatly enhance its success.
- The last step is "ground truthing," which can be done in a number of ways including, site visits, investigating discrepancies, pesticide investigators reports, and farmers

registering their fields. ODA is open to other ideas this group might have to ensure accuracy.

PRESENTATION Q & A

- What defines a “field”? **Answer:** An assessment is made off the satellite imagery provided. A fence line boundary is one of the most common distinctions.
- At what point would this tool be available for use by those involved in the agriculture and housing industry? **Answer:** It will be some time before the whole state is completed. Information can be made available for the eight counties previously mentioned. The diversity of the county is one of the primary factors in determining how labor intensive it will be to completely map it.
- In relation to the level of detail provided, is there a way to distinguish between different types of crops, i.e. sweet corn versus field corn given most have varying degrees of labor requirements? **Answer:** Yes. It is the CDL layer, which is 88% accurate. This is where the ground truthing comes into play, with the goal of 100% accuracy. Nurseries for example will not show up on the CDL layer.
- How frequent are the flyovers of these areas? **Answer:** GIS is not in charge of the flyovers. What has been observed is once a year, the CDL will perform a flyover which will affect the information gathered based on the season.
- What about vineyards? Can they be tracked as well? **Answer:** Yes.
- Would it also be possible to add a layer to track processing plants, fishing industries? **Answer:** Yes. If this group has access to that kind of information, it would be simple to add.
- Would this project tell us when seasonal migrant farmworkers would be in the area? **Answer:** It would be another layer added but this group would have to develop that information and determine how to use it effectively.
- When does the flyover happen? **Answer:** Usually during the summer due to minimal cloud cover. The USDA National Agriculture Statistic Service is the one who performs the service.
- Could the base data tables be used as summary tables? Would it be feasible to send this table to partners to access the farms they know and identify when farm labor is intensive? This would allow this group to grow this information and send it out to community groups. **Answer:** Yes.
- Are there privacy issues with this information? **Answer:** There may be. This information is not public at this time.
- If this group has other information that would be helpful to add to the data that is mapped now, depending on workload, GIS could add information.

For further information relating to GIS mapping and this presentation both Stephanie and Jacob can be reached via the following contact information:

Stephanie Page, spage@oda.state.or.us or 503-986-4558

Jacob Crusier, jacob.A.crusier@state.or.us or 503-986-4700

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Is this being presented as general information or does this group intend to use it in a more intentional way? **Answer:** A little of both. This is fairly new information for the group, while the Needs and Research subcommittee spoke about it briefly a year ago. Today’s presentation is designed to highlight the information so the group can decide how to use it in the future.

REGIONAL WORKFORCE HOUSING NEEDS

Stephanie provided clarity between the GIS information recently presented by Jacob and a letter referencing the Dr. Alice Larson study stipulating they are two distinct pieces of information – they are not related to one another.

In the letter referencing the Alice Larson study, the desire is to contact agricultural organizations and share Dr. Larson's study with them given it highlights farmworker populations in each county and ask them if the study reflects this population accurately. The hope is to find out from these agricultural organizations what they are hearing from their members as to where the workers want to live, i.e. on farm housing or community based housing. Because there are a number of agriculture groups on this task force, it would be good to hear what their workers are saying and to discuss what is in the works for housing development in areas where farmworker housing is really needed.

The group discussed a number of points that focused on how to go about gathering this information and how to format the letter referencing Dr. Larson's study properly so the questions posed to these agricultural organizations would be clearly understood. Below is a summary of the discussion.

- In relation to the enumeration study:
 - The Primary Care Office and other partners paid for the original 2002 Enumeration Study. Dr. Larson was tasked to perform this study. Dr. Larson was asked by the Primary Care Office to produce an update of this report in 2012; the PCO paid the full costs of the update. It is important that people recognize the limitations of the study, i.e. it is not intended to be comprehensive study or a census report—although it is the most comprehensive work to date to estimate the population. Dr. Larson based her research on survey data, interviews with people who willingly accepted to meet with her, along with other data from the Oregon Employment Department and other state and local sources, and acceptable statistical methodologies.
- In relation to the letter referencing Dr. Larson's study:
 - Ensure Dr. Larson is aware the letter will be sent out attached to the Enumeration Study. There should be some re-phrasing for clarity.
 - We could add the title and author of the study to the letter? **Answer:** Yes.
 - The letter should be reformatted with help from this group and send Stephanie the update version.
 - Rather than say, "verify and improve," it should say, "add to existing information available"? **Answer:** Correct.
 - Providing a small amount of information and link to the study should be sufficient. It needs to be short and simple.
 - What was the goal of the letter? **Answer:** The intent was to link together what crops were used, how many workers were used and housing.
 - Should state the benefit of responding to the letter – there should be some type of reciprocal benefit.
 - The letter could be used to provide information as well, e.g. information relating to agricultural workforce tax credit.
- Taking the input into consideration, Stephanie summarized the objective of the Ag. letter:

- What crops are in the region
- Labor needs for each crop
- Timing of those needs
- Types of housing needed
- Year round housing needs
- Labor demographics

The group decided that a Survey Monkey, with roughly five questions, would be a more effective way to gather information and maximize the number of responses received rather than sending a letter. Stephanie will draft an introductory paragraph, survey questions, and a list of groups that would receive the survey for the group's review. She will provide a deadline for feedback and suggestions.

OUTREACH

Has there been outreach to the expanded group of people associated with this group to participate in process discussions? Initially this was discussed at the January 2014 meeting as to who the group could reach out to bring in new members. No list has been developed although phone calls have been made to the wine industry and processing plants in Eastern Oregon. So far there have been no responses.

STREAMLINING SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT

A meeting is in the works between HUD and Rural Development to discuss alignment and streamlining, i.e. environmental assessment. It appears there may be a way to streamline the RD and OHCS HUD reports. There should be more information available by the next meeting.

INFORMATION SHARING

- April 4, Farmworker Supervisor Training in Spanish (Salem). Stephanie will email the link to the training for those who are interested.
- The Bureau of Labor and Industries (BOLI) conducts similar trainings and will do customized trainings on site.
- Would like a representative from the Employment Department attend these meetings? Fernando Gutierrez attended in the past.
- The group was asked to share specific topics that may be of interest to the group.
- There is some interest in scheduling guest speakers.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Stephanie will draft, and send, an introductory paragraph, a list of survey questions, and a list of the groups who will receive the survey to the group for review.
- Stephanie will email the link to the Salem training for those who are interested.

NEXT MEETING:

Agriculture Workforce Housing Facilitation Team
Tuesday, May 27, 2014
10:00 AM- 12:00 PM
OHCS/North Mall Office Building
725 Summer St NE, Room 124A
Salem, Oregon