

Place-Based Planning – Letter of Intent
Eola Hills and Amity Hills-Walnut Hill Groundwater Limited Areas –Polk and Yamhill Counties

Attachment C-1: List of Partner Organizations with Letters of Support

Kevin Chambers and Cameron Smith have a meeting scheduled for Dec. 16th with Polk County Commissioner Craig Pope to discuss this project and determine whether Polk County will sign onto support it. The initial conversations have been favorable.

We will also contact Polk County SWCD and any relevant watershed councils.

Letters of Support from Yamhill County Board of Commissioners and Yamhill County Soil and Water Conservation District are below.

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BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

STAN PRIMOZICH • ALLEN SPRINGER • MARY STARRETT

535 NE Fifth Street • McMinnville, OR 97128-4523
(503) 434-7501 • Fax (503) 434-7553
TTY (800) 735-2900 • www.co.yamhill.or.us

December 3, 2015

Harmony Burrigh
Oregon Water Resources Department
725 Summer Street, Suite A
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Ms. Burrigh,

This letter is sent in support of the *Letter of Interest for Place Based Planning* being submitted to the OWRD by the Eola-Amity Hills Winegrowers Association along with the Eola-Amity Hills Groundwater Limited Area/Walnut Hill Groundwater Limited Area Pilot.

The Eola-Amity Hills area is a diverse agricultural part of our county. The entire foothills topography and a significant portion of the West and East Plains are heavily reliant on groundwater and have been experiencing scarcity issues for some time. That is why we support the efforts of the residents of the Eola-Amity Hills in seeking state funding to support a program designed to plan for future water needs.

Please consider their request for approval of a Place Based Planning grant.

Sincerely,


Allen Springer, Chair


Mary Starrett, Vice-Chair


Stan Primozych

By email to: placebasedplanning@wrld.state.or.us

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December 2, 2015

Yamhill Soil and Water Conservation District
2200 SW 2nd St
McMinnville, OR 97128

Oregon Water Resources Department
Attention: Ms. Harmony Burright
Place-Based Planning Grants
725 Summer Street, Suite A
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Ms. Burright,

The Yamhill Soil and Water Conservation District would like to offer its support for the proposal to conduct a pilot place-based planning effort in the Eola-Amity Hills and Walnut Hill Groundwater Limited Areas. The majority of the Walnut Hill groundwater limited area is in Yamhill County and has a significant agricultural presence which continues to grow. We strongly support planning efforts that will facilitate local conversations regarding the future of water use in these areas, generate alternative and possible solutions, and create partnerships that could address and alleviate concerns about limited water resources.

Demand for water resources will continue to increase as pressure from future development in both urban and rural areas grow and our landscapes and watersheds accommodate that growth. Investments in planning will help determine how increases in residential landscapes, agriculture operations, and industrial uses can co-exist and how water resources can be managed.

If funded, the district is willing to support this planning effort through participation in the planning process and through outreach to agricultural water users in this area. We look forward to participating in this collaboration.

Sincerely,



Larry Ojua,
Executive Director

2200 SW 2nd Street | McMinnville, OR 97128 | www.yamhillswcd.org | 503-472-6403

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Attachment C-2

EAHWA Members with relevant experience

Chambers examples

- Carla formed the non-profit Carlton Together Cares in 1990.
- Founders/Owners of Oregon Vineyard Supply, Results Partners and Willamette Cross Flow, all of which are now employee-owned companies. Also, developed Resonance Vineyard west of Carlton, which they sold to Maison Louis Jadot of France in 2013.
- Both Kevin and Carla are known and respected throughout the farming community, including but not limited to wine grapes.
- Kevin has done extensive, cutting-edge agronomy work in numerous crops.

Barbara Bond

- Emerita Professor, former Ruth Spaniol Chair of Natural Resources at OSU College of Forestry;
- former Associate Editor of the international scientific journal, Ecohydrology;
- current member of Governor’s Task Force for Independent Scientific Review of Natural Resources Willamette Valley; participant in Willamette Water 2100 project.

Yamhill County Soil & Water Conservation District

- Sam Sweeney, Larry Ouja, serve on SWCD board
- See website for additional relevant projects

Cameron Smith:

- Farm-to-School program, Ecotrust
- Trained in Consensus Decision-Making and meeting facilitation by C.T. Butler, author of On Consensus
- Conflict Resolution and Management education from Portland State University
- Studied Sustainability in Food Systems at Portland State which included systems science education and research on the water and sustainability.
 - Wrote and received grant funding from the Miller Foundation for developing a living laboratory for studying sustainability in food systems.
- Wrote grant for Kiwanis Camp and earned invite to Lemelson Foundation RFP for Kiwanis Camp
- EnergyTrust Solar Pilot Program outreach and successful implementation at Resonance Vineyard
- 2014 North Albany & Monmouth farm investment project: worked with NRCS, SWCD, OWRD, private contractors, consulted with Ecotrust
- 2015 Water & Drought work: multiple conversations and meetings with private and owners, OWRD (Harmony Burrett, John Unger, Alyssa Mucken), Yamhill County (meetings w/ Mary Starrett about water and drought from June-October 2015, presented to Water Task Force October 29th), Eola-Amity Hills Place-Based Planning Effort, won support from Yamhill County, Yamhill SWCD, Yamhill Basin Watershed Council; in contact with Cascade Environmental Group.

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Attachment D-1

Groundwater in the Eola Amity Hills Area Northern Willamette Valley Oregon,
Dept. of the Interior with cooperation from the Oregon State Engineer, 1967

Link: <http://pubs.usgs.gov/wsp/1847/report.pdf>

Image of aquifer strata from above report

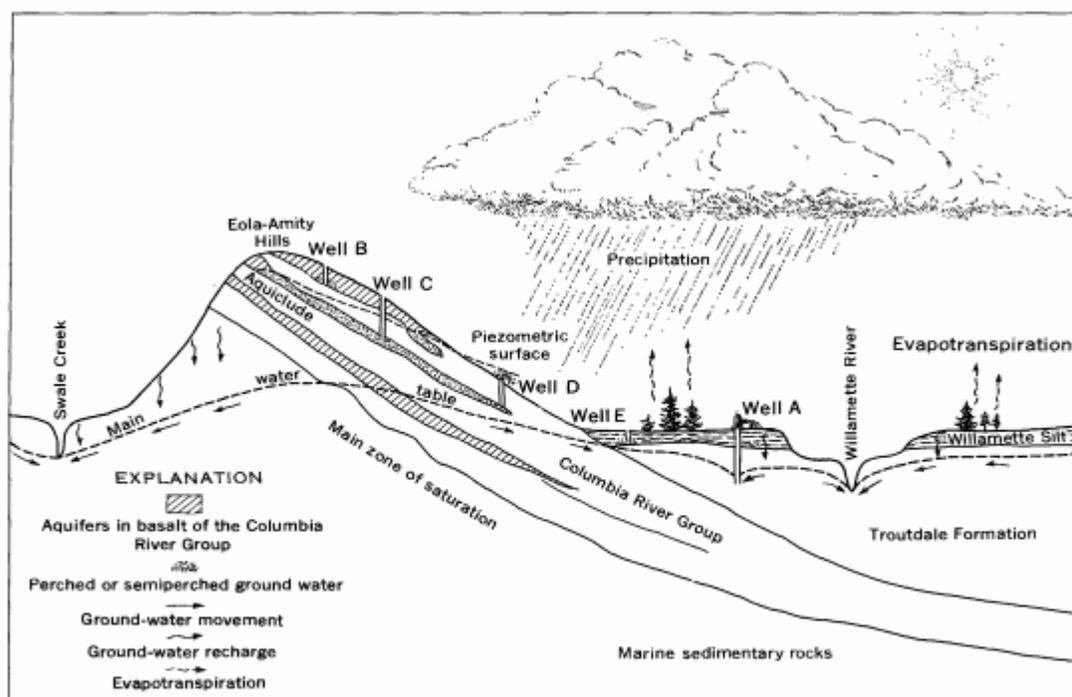


FIGURE 8.—Hydrologic system and various occurrences of ground water. Well A taps unconfined aquifer in the Troutdale Formation beneath main water table, wells C and D tap a confined perched aquifer in basalt of the Columbia River Group, well B taps an unconfined perched aquifer in basalt of the Columbia River Group, and well E taps a semiperched aquifer in the Willamette Silt.

The Eola-Amity Hills area comprises about 230 square miles on the west side of the Willamette Valley between Salem and McMinnville, Oregon. The total area has three relatively distinct parts of roughly equal area: the Hills, the East Plain and the West Plain. The area is largely rural, and agriculture is the principal occupation. Since 1980, a robust wine grape industry has developed in the hills leading to the creation of many wineries as well. Additionally, blueberries, hazelnuts and nursery stock have become very significant agricultural crops over essentially the same time period. In addition to berries, nuts and nursery stock, the plains still support cereal grains, grass seed, dairies, livestock and specialty seed production. All this has led to increasing irrigation pressure and when coupled with a rapidly growing human population, water has become a significant challenge for the region.

The geology is diverse and complex. In the Eola-Amity Hills and Red Hills of Dundee, the Columbia River Group, a series of eastward-dipping basaltic lava flows locally of Miocene age,

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unconformably overlies marine sedimentary rocks. The Columbia River Group ranges in thickness from less than 1 foot to about 900 feet and has an average thickness of about 200 feet. The formation is exposed in the Eola-Amity Hills and Red Hills of Dundee and, at places, extends to the east beneath younger rocks. Overlying the Columbia River Group and marine sedimentary rocks are non-marine sedimentary deposits that range in thickness from less than 1 foot, where they lap up (to an altitude of about 200 feet) on the flanks of the higher hills, to several hundred feet along the east margin of the study area. These deposits include the Troutdale Formation of Pliocene age, the Willamette Silt of late Pleistocene age, and alluvium of the Willamette River and its tributaries. The Troutdale Formation and the alluvium of the Willamette River contain the most productive aquifers in the Eola-Amity Hills area. These aquifers, which consist mainly of sand and gravel, generally yield moderate to large quantities of water to properly constructed wells. Basalt of the Columbia River Group yields small to moderate quantities of water to wells, and the marine sedimentary rocks and Willamette Silt generally yield small but adequate quantities of water for domestic and stock supplies.

Ground-water withdrawals for public and domestic supplies are expected to continue to increase to keep pace with the growing rural and suburban population of the area. The more populated areas (West Salem and McMinnville) obtain water from streams outside the area; however, the smaller towns and cities in the area rely entirely on ground water developed from wells and springs. Most of these smaller towns and cities, as well as water districts utilizing ground water to serve suburban areas, anticipate enlarging their water systems to meet the needs of a growing population.

The Eola-Amity Hills area is drained primarily by the Willamette and Yamhill Rivers and by Rickreall Creek. The Willamette River, which is the master stream, enters the area from the south and flows generally northward east of the Eola-Amity Hills; it forms the east boundary of the area. The South Yamhill River enters the area from the west and flows generally northeastward across the west valley plain and part of Dayton Prairie, and is joined by the North Yamhill River about 2 miles northeast of McMinnville. From this confluence the Yamhill River flows generally eastward, to where it drains into the Willamette River about 3 miles east of Dayton. Rickreall Creek drains most of the southwest part of the study area; it enters the area northwest of Rickreall, flows eastward, and drains into the Willamette River near Eola. The two largest streams which rise within the study area are Ash Swale and Palmer Creek. Ash Swale drains much of the area west of the Eola-Amity Hills between Holmes Gap and Amity. It drains into Salt Creek, which flows into the South Yamhill River about 2 miles north of Amity. Palmer Creek, east of the Eola-Amity Hills, flows northward parallel to the Willamette River and empties into the Yamhill River at Dayton.

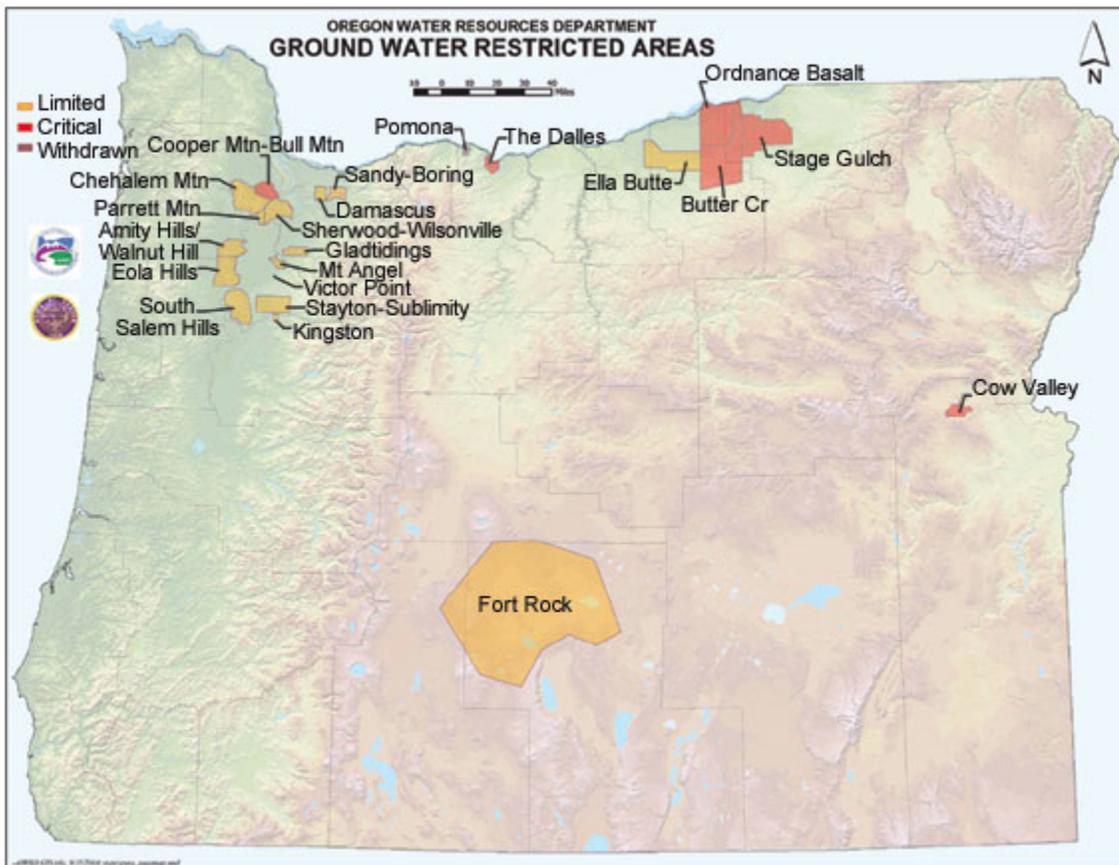
Palmer Creek, which originates from Larson Spring high in the Eola Hills, forms the foundation for the Palmer Creek Irrigation District. This important irrigation district also sources water from several deep wells on the east valley plain, as well as supplemental water from the Willamette River. Thus, even though the entire Eola-Amity Hills is a groundwater limited area, the largest stream flowing east from the hills does support a major irrigation district!

The Eola-Amity Hills are under increasing development pressure from high-value agriculture, most notably wine grapes. And there are an increasing number of industrial processors, namely

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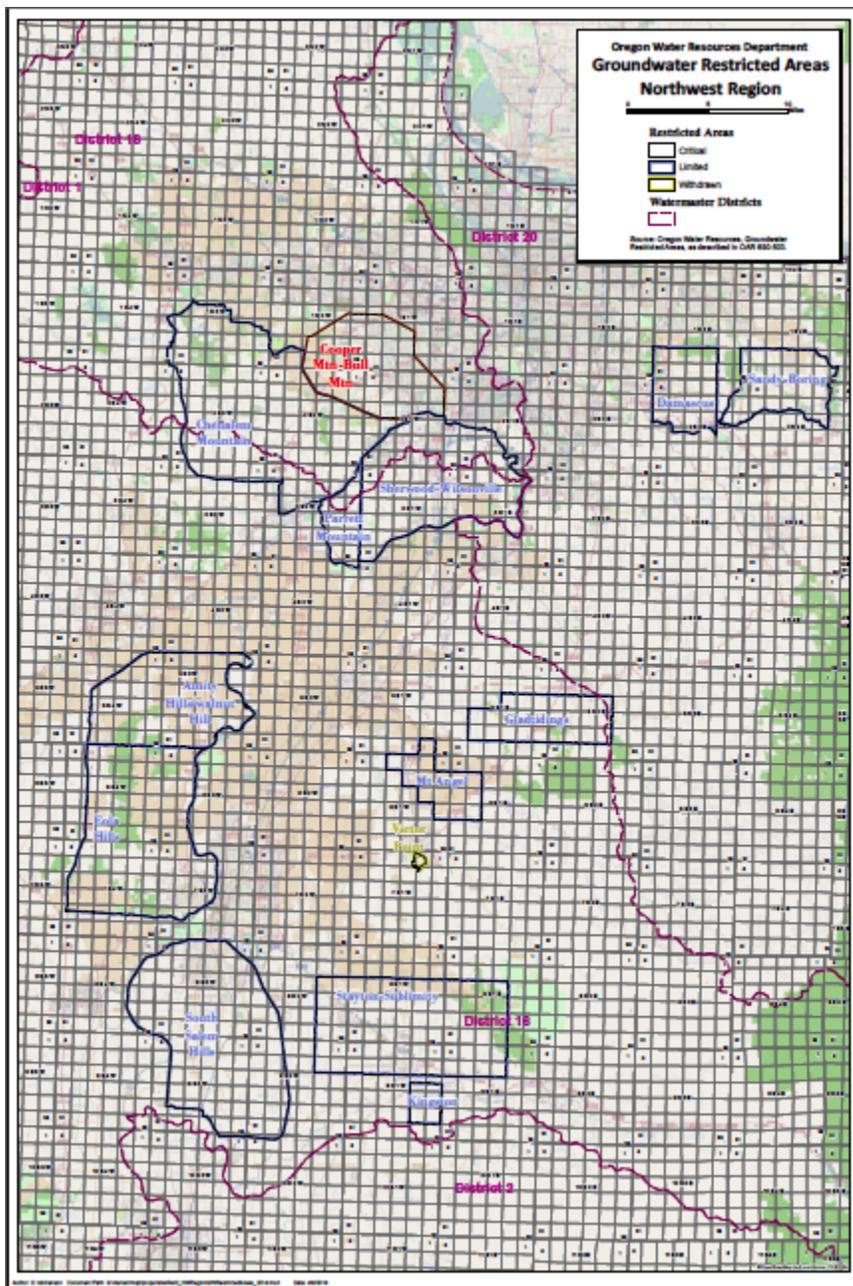
wineries producing wine from those grapes, siting in the hills as well. This fact, coupled with demand for groundwater from many residential wells and the longer range climate projections of extended drought, demand further study of how to preserve, protect and, indeed, enhance the groundwater supplies here.



Link:http://apps.wrd.state.or.us/apps/gis/gis_map_library/gis_map_details.aspx?gis_library_item_id=2894

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Link: http://apps.wrd.state.or.us/apps/gis/gis_map_library/gis_map_details.aspx?gis_library_item_id=3545

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Attachment D-2

The image below depicts the topography of a section of the Eola's with tax lot lines laid over. All of these tax lots are groundwater dependent, unless rainwater and surface water is planned for from point of contact with an a structure or ground on the earth's surface to groundwater; caught, stored, distributed, and controlled to slow the release of runoff.

The purpose of this image is to illustrate the intersecting geometry of tax lot lines and topography. This section of Eola Hills Topography represents maybe 1/5 of the total. All if not the overwhelming majority of these tax lots are all currently dependent on groundwater.

When looking at the control of water on a given broadacre site, earthworks such as ponds, roads, swales, and terraces can be multi-purposed and even combined for the control and slower release of water, the improvement of agricultural landscapes, and further water resiliency in the general environment in-stream, out-of-stream, within and outside of the human habitat.

On an individual, site-by-site basis, often the control of water and the ability to use it regeneratively for hydration, recharge, and resiliency can be complicated by the intersection of property lines at opportune places in the topography to control water, and the cost of capture, storage, and reticulation.

Among many positive functions, we see place-based planning as a means to turning this problem into a solution by inviting the folks that live within the shared topography to develop a resilient water resource that helps reduce the design, planning, and development costs for individual landowners collectively, as well as all life in the Eola-Amity Hills.



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Attachment F-1: Expected Outcomes

Anticipated short-term outcomes and benefits:

1. Establishment of a collaboration-building process that integrates the currently fragmented pattern of water resource development and use in the area.
2. The identification, collection, and provision of all former studies and efforts related to understanding/improving the water resource in the Eola-AmityHills. For example: The Neighborhood Groundwater Network program, disparities in claims about the abundance/scarcity of groundwater between the 1967 OWRD report and the 2002 Willamette Basin report.
3. Learning what internal resources we have in our own community related to water from residents who are also scientific professionals, to trades people that possess the skill set to understand potentialities of proposed designs/plans/developments.
4. Learning what external resources and partnerships we will connect with in order to appropriately convene and execute the process.
5. An arrangement of individuals and organizations will constitute a convener role that is acceptable and suitable to the nexus of socio-political elements that make up a balanced group of stakeholders and partners.
6. The organization of the most broad, diverse, integrated, and holistically capable team of people organizing for the benefit of sustaining and regenerating the water resource that this area has ever experienced.

Anticipated long-term outcomes and benefits:

1. A comprehensive quantitative and qualitative understanding of the EAH water resource, from surface to groundwater, across the sectors of ecology, society, economy, and hydrology. This is needed to provide an appropriate foundation for identifying all possible and practical water supply development and conservation options and measures.
2. An understanding of how much winter surface water runoff can be held back and what it can be used for in-stream and out-of-stream for ecology, society, and economy.
3. A comprehensive understanding of all built and natural storage options from roof-caught rainwater, to surface impoundments, to groundwater, to biomass and soil.
4. Identification of multi-purpose developments that increase cost efficiency and long-term resiliency and benefit.
5. The development of an example of a holistic, comprehensive, multi-purpose, and mutually-beneficial planning process.
6. A restoration of balance in hydration/dehydration (flood/drought) extremes by designing for the regenerative control of water, from raindrop, to surface-flow, to groundwater recharge/discharge.
7. Alleviation on aquifer demand by providing roof- and surface-caught water, out-of-stream.
8. Better balance of charge for streams and aquifers through the drier months, buffering existing water rights.
9. The development of a pilot that may be able to help inform problem-solving processes in other groundwater-limited areas in the North Willamette Valley.