



# Hispanic Advisory Committee Minutes

## April 15, 2024

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Chair Jose Garcia called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. Committee members present were Mark Gomolski, Jessica De La Cruz, Alberto Munoz, and Jesse Roa. Also present was Council Representatives City Councilors Maria Duron and Roy Barron, and City Recorder Lilly Alarcon-Strong. The pledge of allegiance was given.

### **DEQ Updates**

Laura Gleim, Eastern Oregon Regional Solutions Project Manager for DEQ, presented information (attached) regarding nitrate levels in drinking water, outreach efforts being supplied to the communities of Umatilla and Morrow County regarding these issues, public meetings to help the community answer questions and gain information, connecting people with free water testing kits, and more. Laura stated all information is and should be available in English and Spanish.

The Committee suggested DEQ also reach out to area religious organizations so pastors can push out information to their parishioners and asked Laura what DEQ's current overall goal/expectation is.

Laura stated the goal is to give updates on what has been done, what is currently being done, and connect people with staff and resources that can help them address their concerns and needs.

### **Updates from Senator Wyden's Office**

Kathleen Cathey, Field Representative for Senator Ron Wyden, spoke regarding their efforts regarding nitrate issues including outreach efforts and possible infrastructure solutions.

The Committee expressed concerns they have heard from community members, to include: their frustrations with getting repeated information with no action moving forward as this has been an issue for 30-years, medical issues being faced by the public who have/are drinking this water, not trusting the government, appointing Hispanic members to committees addressing these items like LUBGWMA, financial compensations to help cover costs associated with medical bills and the like.

Kathleen announced her retirement this year and stated she will bring in her replacement to introduce them to the Committee stating Hermiston is very fortunate to have a HAC as no other community has a committee such as this.

The Committee thanked Kathleen for her service.

### **Cinco de Mayo Event Updates from the Cinco de Mayo Board/Volunteers (not a City Board)**

Jessica gave updates as a Cinco de Mayo volunteer stating Board and volunteer members continue to work on the event, including: Mexican band/entertainment; Mexican bull riding; accepting application for all types of vending; many volunteers will be needed the day of the event to help direct people, set up, clean up, and tear down; seeking sponsorships; flyers are being pushed out with event information and a QR code; car show, and more. The Pageant will run Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup> from 2pm to 4pm with Miss Cinco de Mayo being crowned that day and carrying out duties the following day, Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup> from 12pm to 10pm.



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Roy asked that they be given a layout of the event layout and in the future ask pageant contestants to attend an April HAC meeting to introduce themselves and get more exposure.

There was some discussion regarding having a HAC table with informational flyers about HAC and the significance of Cinco de Mayo, as well as other items to grab people's attention, ie: candy, etc. and to have HAC members in attendance take shifts manning this table.

Lilly stated she can update and print off HAC informational flyers as they have been created and distributed for many years and volunteered to print off other items regarding the significance of Cinco de Mayo, etc once they have been created and emailed to her by a volunteer.

### **Circuit Judge Candidate Forum**

Jose introduced Kit Morgan, representing the 6<sup>th</sup> Judicial Bar Association, and apologized for not having this item listed on the agenda.

Kit stated there are currently two elected positions up for election; position one has four candidates and position two has two candidates. Kit asked if HAC would help find a location to hold an open candidate forum in Hermiston prior to May 1<sup>st</sup> and also participate in asking questions to the candidates at the forum. Kit stated forums are being held in Pendleton, Heppner, and Boardman as well.

HAC members expressed support for helping find a location and participating in the forum.

Lilly stated she will confirm with Administration in being able to use a city facility and reach out directly to Kit to go over logistics after this meeting and encouraged him to work with the Hermiston Chamber of Commerce in the future as this forum could have been combined with the Mayor and Senate Candidate Forum held by the Chamber a couple of weeks ago.

### **Review 2024 Committee Goal Tasks**

- Rural Engagement- Water Nitrate Outreach (Project Lead: Jose)
  - Jose stated he continues to work on this issue not only with Rural Engagement but with DEQ, and LUBGWMA as discussed earlier in the meeting.
    - Maria suggested Jose take the comments made from the Committee, earlier in the meeting, to the next LUBGWMA meeting.
- BMCC & Student Advisory Outreach & Information Meeting (Project Leads: Jose)
  - Jose stated he continues to work on this issue and has also had preliminary meetings with Tim Seydel from Eastern Oregon University regarding these efforts and attending a HAC meeting as well.
    - Maria asked that efforts be made to make sure Youth Advisors are present during these discussions as they had the most suggestions and insight regarding this topic.
    - Lilly stated additional efforts can be made to ask Youth Advisors to attend, however it is difficult to know if they will commit to attend meetings as they typically do not notify staff if they do or don't plan to come.
- Increase the Latino Vote- Women Voters of Oregon (Project Leads: Mark & Alberto)

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- Mark stated the Women Voters of Oregon stated it is too late to train volunteers for the Primary Election but can do it June – September in preparation of the General Election. However, they did mention they would have a booth at Cinco de Mayo.
  - There were suggestions that their booth be placed next to HAC's booth so HAC can help them. Jesse cautioned the Committee that he did not think this was a good idea as he is a trained Deputy Registrant and there are specific things that can and cannot be said/done and recommended HAC members not be involved in this process until they are fully trained.
- Hispanic Heritage Month (September 15<sup>th</sup> through October 15<sup>th</sup>) Celebration (Project Leads: Entire Committee)
  - Mark stated he, Jesse, Jessica, and Alberto briefly met prior to tonight's meeting to discuss potential dates, location, and events for this celebration, including: scheduling the event on Festival Street Saturday, September 21<sup>st</sup> after the Roundup, inviting community and civic organizations to be involved, food vendors, Art Fair and contest with prizes, having additional weekday events, Taco Brawl to tie in local restaurants, entertainment, dancers, and more.
    - Roy asked that he be included in planning meetings and that the Committee partner with the Cinco de Mayo Committee (not a City Committee) and Nuestro Futuro High School Club.

### **Meeting Minutes**

Mark moved and Alberto seconded to approve the minutes of the March meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Closing Comments**

#### **Public Comments**

Virginia Rome-Garcia (435 E Sunset Dr)- stated she has been open about her view of Jose's Leadership of HAC but is pleased to see cooperation being built among HAC and the Cinco de Mayo Committee (not a City Committee) as she did not want to see a separation in the community with two separate Cinco de Mayo events like last year.

Dolores Veliz (570 NW Samantha St)- stated the Cinco de Mayo Committee (not a City Committee) needs volunteers and funding to put on the event and asked Jose where the funding went from last year's Cinco de Mayo event that he put on as the Cinco de Mayo Committee (not a City Committee) could now use the money.

Jose stated there was no funding given for the event. All those who participated were volunteers and/or donated to the event.

Dolores stated it is clear to her that Jose does not want to improve the relationship he has with the Cinco de Mayo Committee (not a City Committee) as he is not volunteering for the event. Dolores also criticized Jose's communication among the HAC stating she has reached out to all HAC members and Council members appointed to the HAC individually and no one knows answers to her questions as Jose does not let them know what's going on.



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Virginia Rome-Garcia- asked if HAC meeting information could be pushed out with utility bills.

Lilly stated this question would need to be addressed by Administration which she will ask about.

### Youth Representatives

None present.

### City Representatives

Roy, Maria, and Lilly spoke on the following:

- Library design remodel
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Street Construction and possible downtown signage in Spanish
- Pickleball Courts at Theater Sports Park
- Zencity Survey information
- Mayor and Senate Primary Candidate Forum
- Cannabis Discussion and Council decision, as well as the initiative petition process

### Committee Comments

Jose asked that if members of HAC have issues with his communication or other items to please address it with him as he feels that comments made by Dolores cause confusion and tension within the Committee.

Maria suggested that Jose reach out to Virginia and Dolores to try to resolve these issues.

### Next Meeting

Monday, May 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm at City Hall Council Chambers.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:56pm.



# PUBLIC NOTICE

Date posted: 4/18/24

## Public Meeting on Nitrate in Groundwater in the Lower Umatilla Basin Groundwater Management Area With State Agency Directors

### MEETING DETAILS

April 18, 2024, 6 to 8 p.m.

In Person: Riverside High School Auditorium, 210 Boardman Ave. NE, Boardman, OR 97818

Join via Zoom

Toll free phone number: 833-548-0276

Meeting ID: 856 5292 5463

Passcode: 219869

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, Department of Agriculture, Water Resources Department, and Oregon Health Authority invite community members impacted by nitrate in groundwater in the LUBGWMA to attend a public meeting on April 18, 2024, 6 to 8 p.m. at Riverside High School in Boardman.

DEQ Director Leah Feldon, ODA Director Lisa Charpiloz Hanson, and OWRD Acting Director Doug Woodcock will join agency subject matter experts in a facilitated question and answer session about nitrate groundwater contamination in the LUBGWMA. The meeting will focus on environmental issues, but OHA will be available to answer questions about public health services offered to LUBGWMA residents at risk from high nitrate in domestic well water.

Agencies will also host an open house-style tabling session to speak to community members one-on-one. Community members will also have access to information about free domestic well water testing.

Spanish language interpretation provided.

Questions asked online may not be answered live during the event.

Visit the [Lower Umatilla Groundwater Management Area web page](#) for more information.

**Questions?** Contact Antony Vorobyov via email [antony.vorobyov@deq.oregon.gov](mailto:antony.vorobyov@deq.oregon.gov) or call 503- 887-9113.

### Non-discrimination statement

DEQ does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, age or sex in administration of its programs or activities. Visit DEQ's [Civil Rights and Environmental Justice page](#).

### Translation or other formats

[Español](#) | [한국어](#) | [繁體中文](#) | [Русский](#) | [Tiếng Việt](#) | [العربية](#)

800-452-4011 | TTY: 711 | [deqinfo@deq.oregon.gov](mailto:deqinfo@deq.oregon.gov)



# PUBLIC NOTICE

Date posted: 4/3/2024

## Reunión Pública Sobre Nitratos en Aguas Subterráneas en el Área de Gestión de Aguas Subterráneas de la Cuenca Baja de Umatilla con Directores de Agencias Estatales, en Boardman, Oregon

### DETALLES DE LA REUNIÓN

6 p.m. a 8 p.m. el 18 de abril, 2024

En persona: Riverside High School Auditorium, 210 Boardman Ave. NE, Boardman, OR 97818

#### Reunión de zoom

Teléfono gratuito: 833-548-0276

ID de la reunión: 856 5292 5463

Contraseña: 219869

El Departamento de Calidad Medioambiental de Oregón, el Departamento de Agricultura, el Departamento de Recursos Hídricos y la Autoridad de Salud de Oregón invitan a los miembros de la comunidad afectados por la presencia de nitratos en las aguas subterráneas de LUBGWMA a asistir a una reunión pública el 18 de abril, 2024 de 6 p.m. a 8 p.m., en la escuela preparatoria Riverside High School de Boardman.

La directora del DEQ, Leah Feldon, la directora del ODA, Lisa Charpilloz Hanson, y el director en funciones del OWRD, Doug Woodcock, se unirán a los expertos en la materia de la agencia en una sesión con moderador de preguntas y respuestas sobre la contaminación por nitratos de las aguas subterráneas en la cuenca del Bajo Umatilla. La reunión se centrará en cuestiones medioambientales, aunque la OHA estará disponible para responder a preguntas sobre los servicios de salud pública ofrecidos a los residentes de la LUBGWMA que corran el riesgo de ser afectados por el alto contenido de nitratos en el agua de pozos residenciales.

Las agencias también organizarán una sesión de puertas abiertas para hablar con los miembros de la comunidad en forma personal. Los miembros de la comunidad también tendrán acceso a información sobre pruebas gratuitas del agua de pozos residenciales.

Se proporcionará interpretación al español.

Visite [ordeg.org/LUBGWMA](https://ordeg.org/LUBGWMA) si desea más información.

¿Desea hacer alguna pregunta? Póngase en contacto con Antony Vorobyov enviando un mensaje de correo a [antony.vorobyov@deg.oregon.gov](mailto:antony.vorobyov@deg.oregon.gov) o llame al 503-887-9113.

### Declaración de no discriminación

El DEQ no discrimina por motivos de raza, color, nacionalidad, discapacidad, edad o sexo en la administración de sus programas o actividades.

#### Translation or other formats

Español | 한국어 | 繁體中文 | Русский | Tiếng Việt | العربية

800-452-4011 | TTY: 711 | [deginfo@deg.oregon.gov](mailto:deginfo@deg.oregon.gov)



# Public Meeting and Open House

on nitrate in groundwater in the LUBGWMA

**Thursday, April 18 | 6-8 P.M.**

Riverside High School Auditorium  
210 Boardman Ave NE,  
Boardman, OR 97818

**Virtually**

[ordeq.org/LubgwmaPublicMeeting](https://ordeq.org/LubgwmaPublicMeeting)

Toll free phone: 833-548-0276

Meeting ID: 856 5292 5463

Passcode: 219869

## Featured Speakers



**Lisa Charpillouz Hanson**  
Director, ODA



**Leah Feldon**  
Director, DEQ



**Doug Woodcock**  
Acting Director, OWRD

Join your fellow community members for a public meeting hosted by the departments of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Agriculture (ODA), and Water Resources (OWRD), with participation by the Oregon Health Authority (OHA).

- ▶ **Question and answer session with agency directors.**
- ▶ **Open house-style tabling session with agency subject matter experts.**
- ▶ **Spanish language interpretation provided.**
- ▶ **FREE snacks and beverages.**

Visit [ordeq.org/LUBGWMA](https://ordeq.org/LUBGWMA) for more information.



### QUESTIONS?

Please contact Antony Vorobyov via email  
[antony.vorobyov@deq.oregon.gov](mailto:antony.vorobyov@deq.oregon.gov)  
or call (503) 887-9113





# Reunión Pública

sobre el nitrato en las aguas  
subterráneas de la LUBGWMA

**Jueves 18 de abril | 6-8 P.M.**

Riverside High School Auditorium  
210 Boardman Ave NE,  
Boardman, OR 97818

**Virtualmente**

[ordeq.org/LubgwmaPublicMeeting](https://ordeq.org/LubgwmaPublicMeeting)

Teléfono gratuito: 833-548-0276

ID de la reunión: 856 5292 5463

Contraseña: 219869

## Oradores Principales



**Lisa Charpilloz Hanson**  
Directora de ODA



**Leah Feldon**  
Directora de DEQ



**Doug Woodcock**  
Director en funciones  
del OWRD

Participe junto a los miembros de su comunidad en una reunión pública organizada por los departamentos de Calidad Ambiental (DEQ), Agricultura (ODA), y Recursos Hídricos (OWRD), con la participación de la Autoridad de Salud de Oregon (OHA).

- ▶ **Sesión de preguntas y respuestas con directores de agencias estatales.**
- ▶ **Sesión abierta de preguntas y respuestas con los expertos en la materia de la agencia.**
- ▶ **Se proporcionará interpretación al español.**
- ▶ **Habrará refrigerios y bebidas GRATUITAS.**

Visite [ordeq.org/LUBGWMA](https://ordeq.org/LUBGWMA) si desea más información.



### ¿DESEA HACER ALGUNA PREGUNTA?

Póngase en contacto con Antony Vorobyov enviando un mensaje de correo a [antony.vorobyov@deq.oregon.gov](mailto:antony.vorobyov@deq.oregon.gov) o llame al (503) 887-9113.

