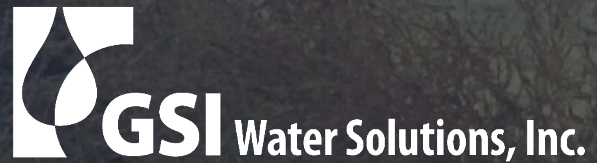


# Steering Committee Meeting #3

## Morrow and Umatilla County Drinking Water Investigation

July 18, 2024



# Topics

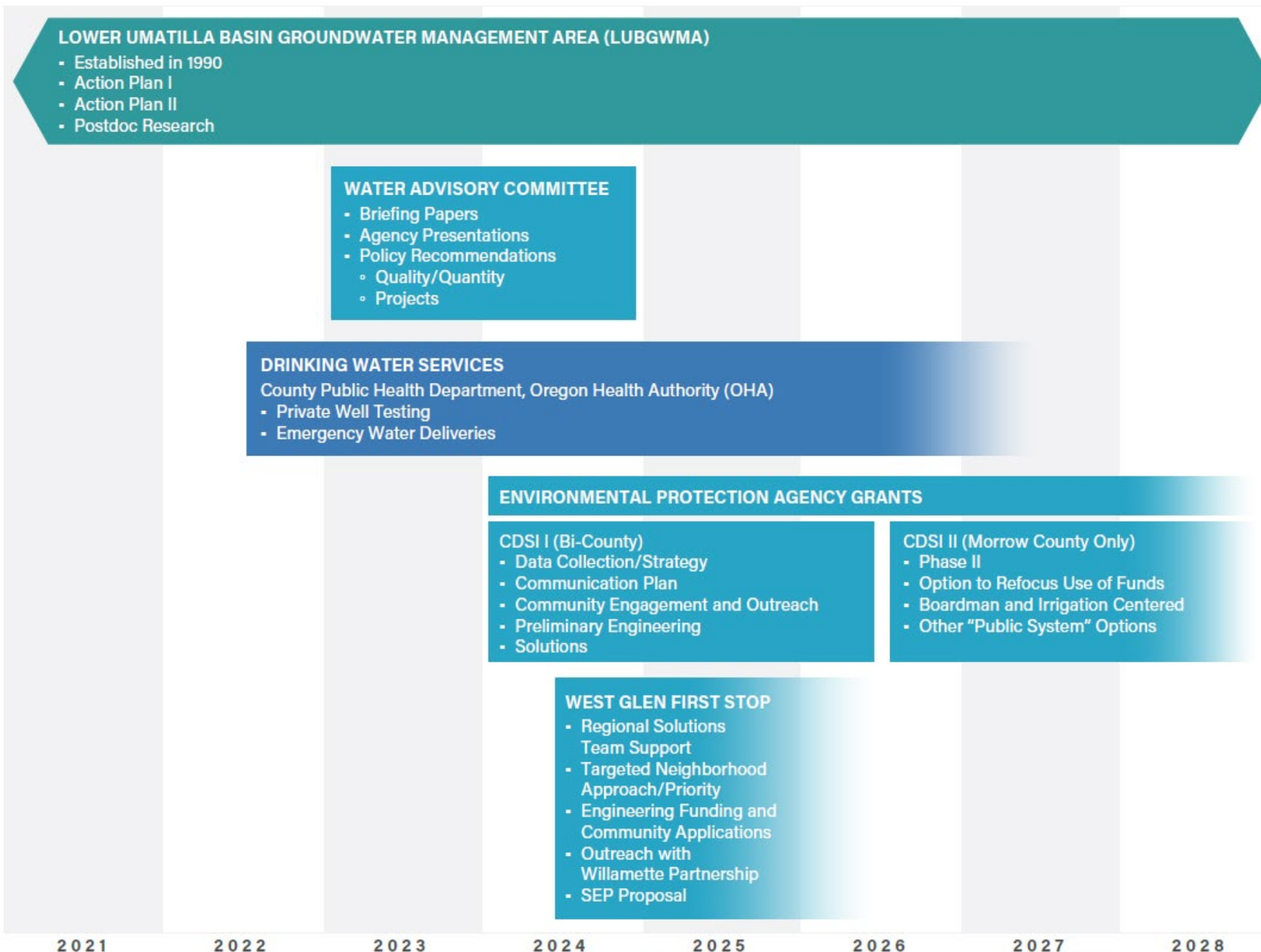
- Update on project and related efforts
- Communications workplan and public event
- Status of database workplan
- Public water system contacts status
- Drinking water options workshop (August)
- Open discussion

## Update on Related Efforts

- West Glen Area
  - IFA/BizOR grant
  - RST – Willamette Partnership
  - SEP application
- Commissioner’s “Consortium” concept
- County nitrate activities coordination

# Morrow County Coordinated Nitrate Efforts

**WATER CONSORTIUM/PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPMENT:**  
 Federal and State Agencies, CBO's, H2OEO, Port of Morrow



■ Agency Lead, DEQ   
 ■ Agency Lead, OHA   
 ■ Morrow County Lead



## Stage 1 Status

- Communications Workplan (mid July)
- Data Management Workplan (late July)
- GSI database set up (late July)
- PWS assessments/surveys (late July)
- Data review and “conceptual model” (mid August)
- Preliminary data gap review and QAPP (late August)
- Drinking water options workshop (late August)

## Communications Workplan and Public Event

- Communications Objectives
- Communications Team
- Message themes
- Public event recommendation for Stage 1
- Key stakeholders and influential parties
- Near-term calendar

# Communications: Objectives

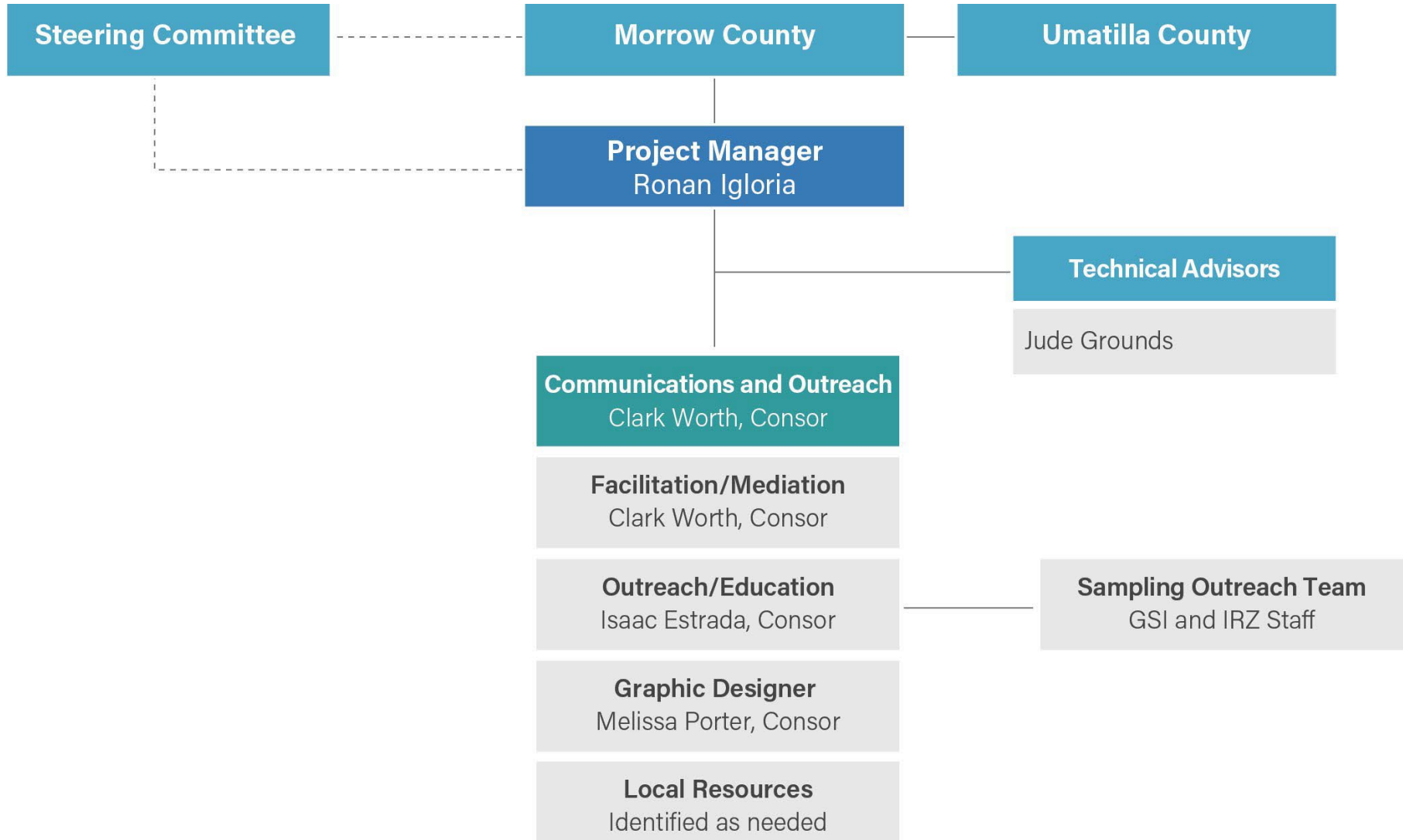
- Clearly communicate EPA grant project objectives relative to other on-going LUBGWMA efforts.
- Clearly and accurately communicate drinking water options, issues, and costs to domestic well users.
- Increase awareness, urgency, and participation in well sampling.
- Establish trust and transparency.
- Effectively coordinate with the various agencies.

# Communications: Key Decisions

- **Website Host:** Morrow County (project information placement to be adjusted).
- **Project Materials:** Use a combination of new and existing materials.
- **Public Event Presence:** Explore options beyond tabling events.
- **Project Name:** “The EPA Grant Project” can be used when discussed in public. A formal rebranding is not currently scoped, but the Steering Committee could revisit this later.



# Communications Team



# Communications: Message Themes

- **Focus of overall project** is on identifying clean drinking water options within the LUBGWMA for domestic well users impacted by high concentrations of nitrate in groundwater.
- **Stage 1 outcome** is a prioritization for data gap sampling and for options to provide drinking water to impacted domestic well users.
- **Data gap sampling (Stage 1)** will be used to confirm the impacts to domestic wells and help select and plan the appropriate drinking water alternative for high priority areas.
- **“Lay-person” technical information will be shared** about connecting to a public water system and other drinking water alternatives to help property owners/residents make informed decisions. This includes preliminary information on timing, cost, and owner responsibilities.
- **Project is being coordinated with other ongoing efforts** in the LUBGWMA area. Together the projects are working towards clean water for the region.

# Communications: Public Events

- Community Event: Umatilla County Fair (Hermiston, August 7-10, 2024)
  - Approval by Steering Committee... Volunteers to staff?
- Project-specific Event (mid-to-late September 2024)
  - Develop invitation list (from key stakeholders)
  - Mailing to invitation list

# Umatilla County Fair – (Aug. 7<sup>th</sup> – Aug. 10<sup>th</sup>)

- **Engage** with LUBGWMA region community members.
- **Provide useful information** on well testing.
- **Enlist** well owners to participate in testing.
- **Connect** with other stakeholders.

# Umatilla County Fair – Documentation

- ✓ Two-way feedback/sign-up tool  
One-Minute Survey
- ✓ Compile list of visitors
- ✓ Photos of booth/attendees

# Umatilla County Fair – Application

Indoor booth must be reserved in advance

- Booth fees and deposit

- ✓ Requires application and fee

- ✓ Table, chairs, and free parking provided by County Fair

- Asked to submit photos of county or partner booth materials used (e.g., tablecloth, signage, handouts, etc.)



# Umatilla County Fair – Need Volunteers!

Booths are open and staffed between the  
hours of

*9:00am – 10:00pm, all days of the fair Aug. 7<sup>th</sup> – Aug. 10<sup>th</sup>.*

- ✓ At least 2 individuals for each day
- ✓ Can include Steering Committee members or staff from partner organizations

# Project-specific Event – Information Session

## Mid-to-late September 2024

- Develop invitation list (from key stakeholders)
- Mail invitations and information prior to event (August)
- Event held in Morrow Government Center?
- 90-minute scheduled event: presentation, Q+A, call to action

# Communications: Key Stakeholders and “Influential” Individuals

- Public agencies/entities
- Elected officials
- Faith community leaders
- Local residents (“influencers”)
- Social media groups
- News media

# Communications: Near-term Calendar

- Project website and comments/input log
- Draft materials
- Community events
- Team training (pre-sampling event)

## Status of Database and Workplan

- Data Management Workplan
- Current activities
- Database setup
- Coordination (OHA, OWRD, DEQ, EPA)
- Third party vendor?

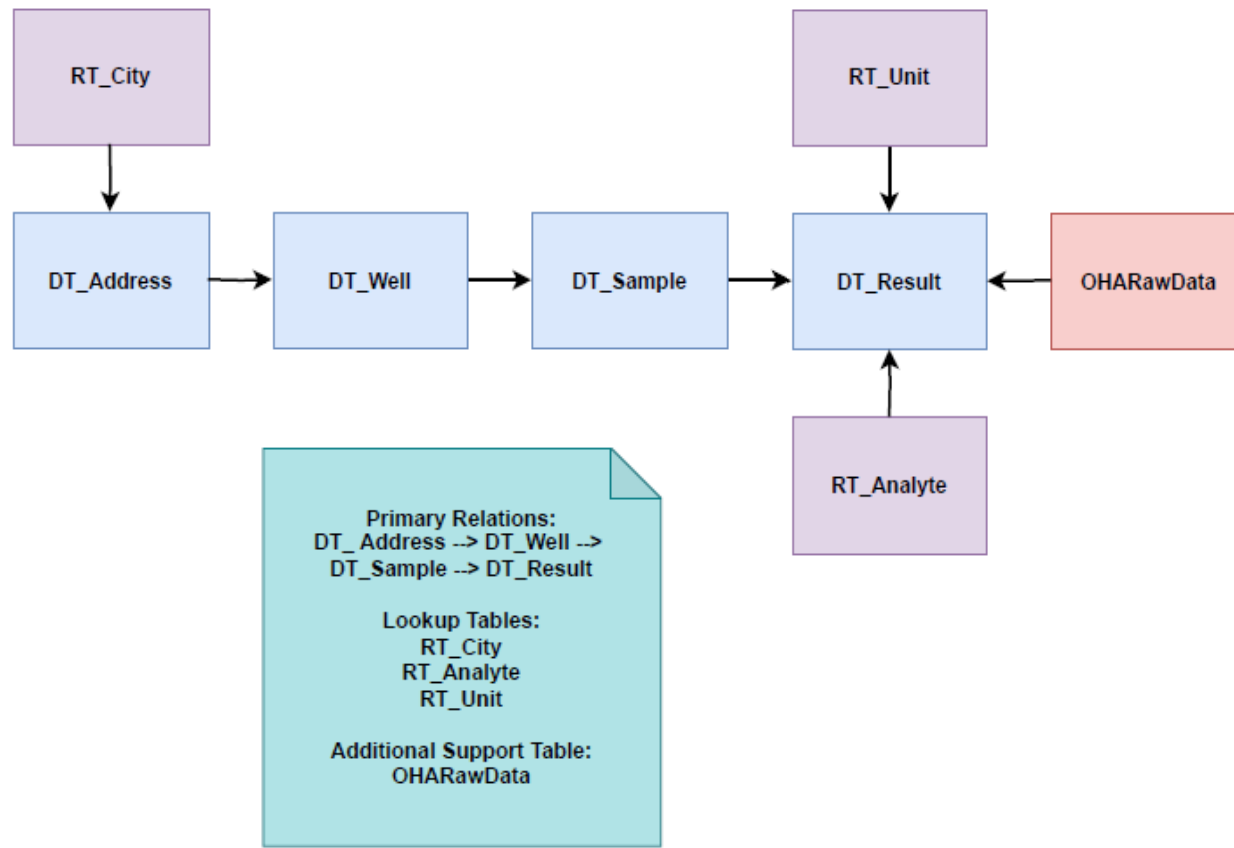
# Data Management: Key Decisions

- Data Management Agency: Morrow County (for now)
- DEQ Water Data Portal and EPA Data Integration: track and coordinate only
- GSI developing a “project-specific” internal database for analysis and production work



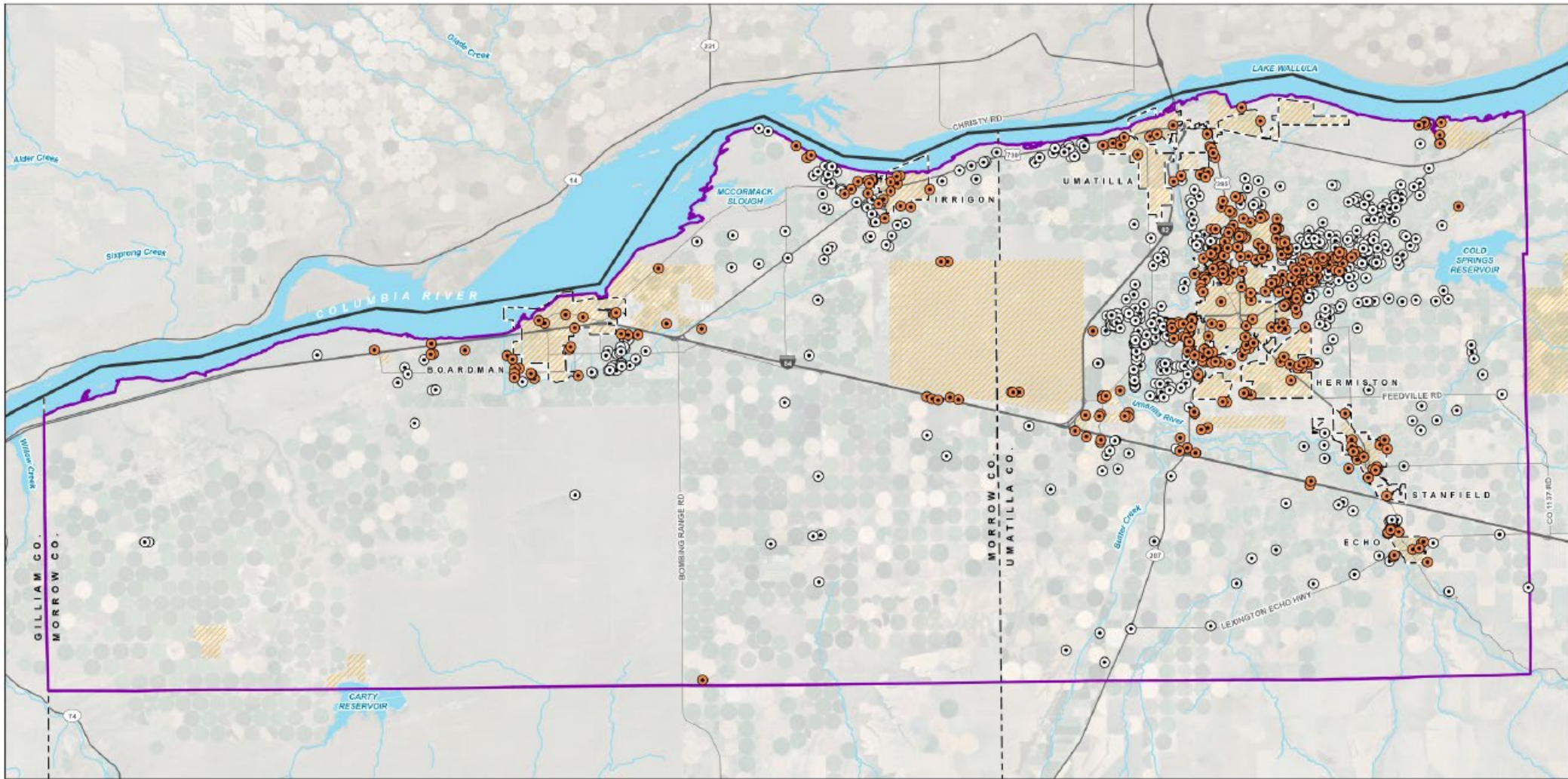
# Data Management: Database setup

- *OHA: DomWell Testing & Treatment, new RET (physical files)*
- *OWRD: publicly available, well logs, GWIS*
- DEQ: publicly available, LUBGWMA data, compliance data
- ODA: facility monitoring reports (CAFO), GIS mapping
- OSU: (with ODA) conceptual model



## Status of Public Water System Contacts

- Prioritized contacting PWS within  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile of domestic well cluster. All initial contacts by phone with survey questions via email (if preferred).
- Initial contacts made with all public water systems in Morrow Co. and about quarter of PWS in Umatilla Co.
- So far, PWS contacted have expressed reluctance in extending supplies.



**LEGEND**

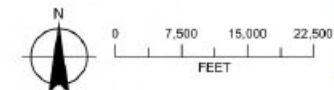
- Domestic/Community Well\*
- Well Within 1/4 Mile of PWS Service Area
- ▨ PWS Service Area
- ▭ Lower Umatilla Basin Groundwater Management Area (LUBGWMA)
- ▭ City Boundary
- ▭ County Boundary
- ▭ State Boundary
- Major Road
- Watercourse
- Waterbody

**NOTE**

\*Only wells identified as "Domestic" or "Community" wells in Oregon Water Resources Department database.

Date: July 1, 2024  
 Data Sources: BLM, ESRI, ODOT, USGS, Imagery (2022)

**FIGURE X**  
**Wells Within Quarter Mile of PWS Service Area**  
 Morrow/Umatilla Drinking Water Project



# Drinking Water Options Workshop (August)

- **Timing:** 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> week of August?
- **Agenda**
  - “Conceptual model”
  - Drinking water options
  - Applicability and implications of options
- **Participants/invitation list**
  - Steering Committee
  - Agencies (OWRD, OHA)
  - Other stakeholders?

# Discussion

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**Thank you!**