



MARION WATER QUALITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, July 13th @ 5:30 pm

Attendance in-person or virtually via Zoom

PRESENT: Members: Richard Walker, Brent Stevenson, Gary White, Jeff Crowther

Zoom: Mark Grenz, Rick Massey

Staff: Stephanie Rosentrater - Marion County Environmental Services, Matt Knudsen - Marion County Environmental Services, Natalie Tomaszewski – Marion County Environmental Services, Roxanne Toepfer – Marion County Environmental Services, Brian May – Marion County Environmental Services

Guests: Jake Hush

ABSENT: Brenda Sanchez

QUORUM: Yes

ADMINISTRATIVE (Information/Discussion/Action)

Richard called the meeting to order @ 5:36 p.m.

Member and Staff introductions: Done.

Public Input: None

Discussion: None.

Approval of February 9, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Mark moves to approve minutes.

Jeff seconds.

Rocky noted a few corrections to the minutes – it should be February 28, 2025 instead of 2028 on the third page and it should read Brenda said congratulations on the grants on the last page.

Voice vote is unanimous – motion passes.

New Prospective Member: Matt introduced Jake Hush to the Committee and Jake shared a few words about himself.

Enforcement of Prohibited Pollutants

One of the control measures or management strategies under that TMDL is the enforcement of prohibited pollutants. Since the last meeting, they have gone before the Board with this topic and the Board decided they wanted to back up the options. Rocky shared the walk through they provided to the Commissioners.

The two options that staff had proposed were to expand the enforcement capability throughout the County for all polluters or do what was asked of us which was to focus on the erosion sediment. The Commissioners decided that we should do what was required of us and just focus on the erosion sediment, so they are now creating an ordinance for that. Rocky shared a roadmap for the process of the ordinance getting approved and implemented.

Mark asked about enforcement of the ordinance; Rocky commented that we would have a chance to work with educational approaches versus just violations and the ordinance could be set up, so Marion County doesn't have jurisdiction inside of city limits. Rocky stated that they will be looking into special districts and the requirements surrounding those.

1200Z Surveys and the Upcoming MS4 Phase II Permit

Rocky shared that DEQ put out a survey and a couple questions got people nervous; one being if DEQ was considering adding a requirement for existing registrants to conduct a screening once in a permit term and to report on that effort. Marion County have spoken with DEQ and what they are looking for is help with identifying businesses or industrial folks that aren't yet permitted and what the impact on businesses would be, but this addition is not confirmed yet.

Adopt-a-Planter

Rocky shared the planter project along 45th Avenue or Brown Road and brought up the idea of an ownership program with the homeowners in those areas. The program is very new, and the thought would be to give the homeowner their sign after a year of successfully caring for the planter. The program would have very clear guidelines and educate them on what to pull versus what to leave. Staff are also working on creating placards with QR codes to educate the public

about the water quality service the planters provide.

Gary suggested having an event where people from the community can learn about the planters, how to care for them and treat it like a training event.

Erosion Control Training Class

Stephanie shared that Environmental Services-Public Works is currently evaluating expanding our erosion control training courses offered. In the past, we offered a one-day outdoor Best Management Practices for clean water to Operations level staff. This was offered to other local jurisdictions so they could train up staff as well as our Public Works Operations staff. For 2024, we are looking at offering a similar class to members of the public. Primarily, the audience that would be interested would be engineering firms and commercial/residential developers. This would be hosted both at our PW main campus for classroom learning as well as some field-based learning on Marion County property.

Parkdale Park Update

Natalie shared background on Parkdale Park, what grants they have applied for, what public outreach has been completed, such as the public meetings and surveys, and where they are going with the project. The concept plans for the park were also shared and the amenities (dog park, walking path, wetland, nature play area, educational opportunities and open green space) were discussed. Staff won't know until the Fall whether or not they received the funding and its going to be a phased project.

Matt expanded more on the wetland expansion portion of the project and discussed the benefits of expansion, like more water detention areas and improved water quality for the area.

FUTURE TOPICS / EMERGING ISSUES / OTHER BUSINESS

Other comments: Matt brought up the idea of not providing a Zoom option or having the meeting take place in a different public place; Mark commented that the Zoom option was convenient and allowed him to attend the meetings. The Committee was open to having the meeting take place somewhere else and that topic will be discussed at a future meeting. The committee is interested in learning more about DEQ requirements and the temperature TMDL.

Adjourn: Richard adjourned the meeting at 6:57 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: TBD via Doodle poll