

# **MARION WATER QUALITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

**October 13, 2015**

**Marion County Public Works in the North Santiam Room**

**5155 Silverton Rd. NE, Salem, Oregon**

## **MINUTES OF THE MEETING**

**Present:** Zach Diehl, Bryan Porter, Andrew Schmidt, Brent Stevenson, Richard Walker

**Absent:** Dan Goffin, Mark Grenz, Doug Krahmer, Rick Massey

**Staff:** Matt Knudsen, Keare Blaylock, Walter Wick, Kathy Lee

**Public:** Holly Sears

**CALL TO ORDER:** 5:00 p.m.

### **INTRODUCTIONS AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES (September 8, 2015):**

Attendees introduced themselves for the record.

Brent made a motion to approve the September 8, 2015 meeting minutes as submitted. Bryan seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

### **UPDATES:**

Matt updated the committee on topics of the September 8, 2015 meeting. He noted that it was up to the committee to decide whether to make a recommendation to the Board of Commissioners on the methodology as proposed or to wait until the November 10, 2015 meeting.

Matt gave an update on the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) permit process. The committee includes DEQ, consultants and environmental law groups and they are trying to create the new general permit for those in the phase 2 process. Previously, DEQ let the state of Oregon decide on their own guidelines for the permit process, but are now wanting a more uniform permit process.

Matt also stated he is currently writing the annual reports for the Stormwater Fee program. This documents the progress on the work that has already been completed and includes the Center Street culvert repair, in which concrete casting was used to extend the life of the culvert, as well as, the Sesame Street culvert in which a new plastic product was used to line the inside of the culvert. There has also been work done on the filter system on Auburn Road and another one on Cordon Road. Both Walt and the project engineer were able to put their input into the process which helped to decide which projects were priorities.

Keare informed the committee about the stormwater fee billing. The tax exempt customers (56) were billed their first quarterly billing on Sept 10, 2015. And a notification postcard was sent to all the tax bill customers telling them the stormwater fee will be put on their tax bill. The tax bill will be sent out from October 15<sup>th</sup> to October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

She also informed the committee of the outreach efforts that have been done. Benton County is now participating in the MWOOG program. Another successful event was the Howlapalooza, which generated around 500+ attendees with 31 vendors. On January 26, 2016 there is the upcoming Erosion Control Summit scheduled. The Erosion Control Summit will have a full agenda with eight speakers on a variety of topics such as hydroseeding/seed mixes, compost socks, 1200-C, Erosion certifications, LID rehab, retrofits and maintenance, modular culvers, culvert technology and stormwater treatment research.

Outreach efforts included Marion County partnering with Marion SWCD to talk to Turner Elementary about their salmon watch and how water chemistry and salmon habitat is affected. Also, the North Santiam Watershed Council held a very successful Camp Taloali for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Education comprised of stream dynamics. Then Keare informed the committee that the Claggett Creek Watershed Council currently has two vacancies. They are trying to reinvent themselves with a logo and a Facebook presence. They are also looking for projects outside of Keizer in the headwaters, aka ESSD.

There was also information about Marion County renewing a joint and third party contract for English and Spanish media agencies with the Environmental Services and are preparing to launch a winter campaign to “Connect the Drops”.

Keare will send out information of the upcoming events to the committee via email.

Walt introduced himself to the committee and informed the committee that he is the one who has taken on the responsibility in deciding the priority for the stormwater requirements and overall getting the job done. The Center Street culvert and the Sesame Street culverts are completed. There are several other projects are on the list to do for next summer, including fire prevention and plugging of culverts. Once the target goals are decided then the funding issues will be dealt with.

Andy asked Matt to go over the Stormwater Fee credits again so Matt gave a quick tutorial on the board explaining the fee structure. It was based on the City of Salem structure but the base rate and EDU rate is lower so the credit is lower. The cap is 25% and no one except Chemeketa is currently hitting that maximum credit.

There was a discussion regarding how the credit application will work and Matt told the committee that the program will be set up for the businesses to submit an application according to the guidelines from DEQ. For the next two years the businesses will automatically get the 25% credit. Before the closing date arrives there will be another flyer sent to the businesses informing of the requirements to qualify for the credit. Andrew suggested to the committee to make a recommendation no later than the November 10<sup>th</sup> meeting. Matt said the committee will have to post a draft online and then get the recommendation.

**Open Forum:** Holly from the Association of Realtors asked for Matt to attend their next governmental affairs meeting to discuss the Stormwater program. She also asked why the credit was not being offered to residents. Matt remarked that it was less expensive for the residents if the program was not incentivized due to the outreach costs.

**CLOSING REMARKS:**

Andrew wanted more input by the other members of the committee before moving forward with a recommendation to the commissioners.

**MEETING ADJOURNED: 5:50 p.m.**

**NEXT MEETING:**

The next meeting will be held on November 10, 2015.