

MARION WATER QUALITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

November 10, 2015

Marion County Public Works in the North Santiam Room
5155 Silverton Rd. NE, Salem, Oregon

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Present: Zach Diehl, Mark Grenz, Dough Krahmer, Bryan Porter, Andrew Schmidt, Brent Stevenson, Richard Walker

Absent: Rick Massey

Staff: Matt Knudsen, Keare Blaylock

Public: None

CALL TO ORDER: 5:05 p.m.

INTRODUCTIONS AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES (October 13, 2015):

Attendees introduced themselves for the record.

Zach made a motion to approve the October 13, 2015 meeting minutes as submitted. Richard seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

UPDATES:

Matt updated the committee on the latest meeting regarding the new Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) draft permit. This was a third meeting and they have one more scheduled. This advisory committee is consisted of all the different phase two permit committees. So far this meeting was the best. DEQ seemed amenable; they paid more attention to what the committee was saying.

Last week Matt went to the Salem Association of Realtors at their request. Holly Sears, a representative of their committee showed an interest in what was going on in the credit program. They appreciated the information. They did not provide feedback regarding the credit program.

Keare updated the committee on DEQ fines. Over the last month there have been around 18 fines. Of those 18, 4 of those have been in the county and we are trying to keep an eye on that. Three of the fines were stormwater related. DEQ is doing a lot of changing so we are monitoring those changes.

A question was brought up about if the fines being issued are violating the existing permits. Keare clarified that the fines are due to violations in the current permits. She said two of the fines were for not reporting and not monitoring according to DEQ requirements.

Matt gave an explanation of how a fine could be a result of simply not getting the monitoring requirements done. For example, when there is a storm event, DEQ requires testing on these specific storm events. So, even if it is an inconvenient time to monitor those storm events (3am), then we would be out of compliance. The requirements are quite stringent and the fines are very high. For example, Silverton received a fine of \$30,000 for being out of compliance. Keare said the highest fine DEQ has given was based out of north Portland totaling \$180,000.

A question was asked on where Marion County is in the permit process and has DEQ accepted the stormwater permit yet? Matt explained that the Marion County permit was granted in 2007 and ran to 2012. DEQ has not renewed the permit as of yet and we are still running on the current permit. DEQ is trying to issue all the permits all at once and they are trying to give a general permit to everyone. The permit guidelines should be done in March of 2016 and we might get the permit by mid-summer or fall.

A lot of the smaller communities are still under the same permit process guidelines. So, they have to hire a consultant to do the administrative work for the permit process. This causes a problem for some of the smaller communities due to the added expense.

Matt clarified that the fee program has been implemented. The residential customers have received three notifications and the commercial properties have received five notifications. We received a total of approximately 15 to 20 calls regarding the stormwater program, not necessarily regarding the fee's but more regarding the rules or guidelines. We have established a review process for those instances where the fee structure didn't make sense and are looking at those properties on an individual basis.

Discussion regarding the basic credit system was talked about. The proposed credit mirrors the City of Salem's and we are seeking approval from the committee to go forward on this. The credit system currently receives 25% credit on their property. Then after the two year time period the county will use the formula to give the maximum credit according to guidelines to those businesses who qualify.

A motion by Brent to make the recommendation to the county commissioners to approve the credit system as it has been proposed to the advisory committee. Mark seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.

CLOSING REMARKS:

None

MEETING ADJOURNED: 5:40 p.m.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be held on February 9, 2016.