

MARION WATER QUALITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

January 14, 2014

Marion County Public Works in the North Santiam Room

5155 Silverton Rd. NE, Salem, Oregon

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Present: Zach Diehl, Mark Grenz, Jim Heltzel, Rick Massey, Doug Krahmer, Bryan Porter, Andrew Schmidt, Richard Walker

Absent: Gene Doll, Dan Goffin, Brent Stevenson,

Staff: Matt Knudsen, Keare Blaylock, Jolene Bray

CALL TO ORDER: 5:05 p.m.

INTRODUCTIONS AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES (October 15, 2013):

Andrew called the meeting to order and attendees introduced themselves for the record.

Doug made a motion to approve the October 15, 2013 meeting minutes as submitted. Mark seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

STORMWATER FEE EDUCATION / OUTREACH:

Matt said the map issue discussed at the previous meeting has been resolved. As is done in most counties, the map will include only tax lots with >50% inside the stormwater management area boundary. Once completed, this map will be taken to the board of commissioners.

Matt showed committee members how to navigate through the county website to the water quality web pages and then showed them the map which also has FAQ links on that web page. He demonstrated how the map worked in locating specific addresses within the Stormwater Service Fee Area (SSFA) and said staff would consistently add to the map it as it develops.

He then showed committee members a sample business letter that along with the SSFA map will be sent to approximately 600 businesses in the next couple of weeks. He said staff has received good feedback and most suggestions involved a credit system. Matt said most businesses including Chemeketa Community College (CCC) have done things to offset, whether its volume reduction or treatment, and CCC has quite a bit of green infrastructure in place.

Matt said commercial meetings have been going very well. He said the majority of larger customers have seen this in other locations with stormwater fees. Only one of the top twelve customers hadn't heard of stormwater fees.

Jim asked when the fee would begin and if that was stated in the letter to customers. The implementation date is July 1, 2014 and that information is included. Matt said along with reaching out to commercial customers, they've also contacted residential customers. He and Keare attended the East Salem Suburban Neighborhood Association (ESSNA) meeting last week and although the approximately 100 members were notified by mail ahead of time, only two people attended. Matt said they will be switching focus to reach out to customers via email list serves through the realtor's association, community organizations, and others that reach this specific area.

Matt said they are looking at a credit system but that would go into effect at a later date. He said the City of Salem will have a credit system and county staff will view what they have done for guidance. He said this is something this group can tackle as an advisory committee. Matt said in next three months a lot will change and commissioners will begin to have more feedback. Matt will give presentations at an upcoming Chamber of Commerce meeting as well as after the State of the County address. He will update the committee at the next meeting on how it goes.

Matt gave an overview of the updated stormwater budget. There is an equipment change from a smaller to larger truck and an increase in billing and administration costs, which are non-negotiable county costs. Jim asked who would do billing. Matt said we'd initially looked at the City of Salem but they declined, so are now considering a private contract with Finance who already does billing for the environmental services transfer sites.

Andrew said he thought it was phenomenal that Matt and Keare were sending the letters and maps to 600 businesses. Matt said businesses have been appreciative that staff is taking the time to meet with them. Richard asked how the ESSNA meeting went. Matt said they wanted to know what had changed and how the billing would work. They said they wanted to be billed either every other month and wanted the option of online bill pay. Matt said that was a priority to provide although it's not available yet. They asked staff to write an article for their newsletter and Keare is doing that. She is also providing them with some maps they can distribute to members.

Matt said staff had submitted their five-year process for meeting the Oregon Department of Transportation's Best Management Practices (BMP's) in November and should hear back in the next six months. He said next month staff will discuss the NPDES permit. The Environmental Services budget is going to remain exactly the same this next fiscal year. If a stormwater fund is created, Matt and Keare's positions will transition to that fund.

Matt said there are seven committee members whose terms expire in September. He asked members about serving a second term. Those who agreed are: Mark, Rick, Doug, and Zach. Jim declined to serve another term. Matt will ask Gene if he wishes to continue and will also ask the Farm Bureau who they would like to see serve in the position currently held by Dan.

Matt asked the committee how they would like to approve future committee members. He said currently staff sends out an announcement and then it's a first come first serve. Staff takes the

applicant through a vetting process but the committee is not currently involved. Matt said the Solid Waste Management Advisory Council (SWMAC) invites applicants to attend one or two meetings after which they vote on recommending to the Board of Commissioners (BOC) for approval. This allows both applicants and advisory committee to see if it's a good fit for both. Doug said he thought it would be good to have a member that resides within the stormwater management area (SWMA). Mark said he thought it would be nice for the advisory board to meet beforehand and then provide a recommendation to the BOC. Rick and Doug agreed. Applicants will be asked to attend one meeting before formal recommendation.

Matt said in the outreach process over the next three months staff will consist of sending out letters, meeting with the Salem Chamber and possibly SEDCOR, and trying to get on as many list serves as possible using a template article. He said staff will work to finalize a budget with a number of different options including a base fee with phasing or delayed target billing date, which will be provided to the BOC. He said he would recommend meeting in February so staff can update this committee but he can update via email. He said by March, all outreach letters and emails will have been sent out and staff will have received feedback from customers. He said at this point staff can go to the BOC and provide a final recommendation that they will approve and adopt.

Matt showed the committee a new "How is my bill calculated?" flyer created by staff, which he said is the number one question asked by customers.

Keare said the Mid-Willamette Valley 3rd Erosion Control and Stormwater Management Summit is January 28. The registration fee is \$65 and includes breakfast and lunch. This event is hosted by MWOOG (Mid-Willamette Outreach Group) which is made up of representatives from the cities of Salem, Keizer, Corvallis, and Albany; Marion County Environmental Services; and, Marion Soil and Water Conservation District.

Keare told the committee the Green Awards are March 1st. She said this is a great event. Keare said she is also busy with school events.

CLOSING REMARKS:

Zach asked what Matt anticipated happening in the next month. Matt said staff should be completing outreaching efforts and will have that information. He said he's not sure there will be anything new because the new info will come with the budget. There is a meeting on Thursday with the finance department to find out if they can do billing services. The credit system will not be ready by the time of the target billing date so this probably won't go into effect for at least one year. Matt said staff is waiting to see where the City of Salem is providing credits and how it's benefiting customers and affecting the budget. Matt said it was up to the advisory committee whether they want to meet next month.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 5:57 p.m.

NEXT MEETING:

Matt will look at mid-February time period and send out a doodle poll.