

MARION WATER QUALITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

December 9, 2014

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

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Present: Rick Massey, Andrew Schmidt, Richard Walker, Doug Krahmer, Mark Grenz, Zach Diehl

Absent: Jim Heltzel, Dan Goffin, Gene Doll, Bryan Porter, Brent Stevenson

Staff: Matt Knudsen, Kathy Lee

Public: Phil Wright from Chemeketa Community College

CALL TO ORDER: 5:00 p.m.

INTRODUCTIONS AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES (May 28, 2014):

Attendees introduced themselves for the record.

Doug made a motion to approve the May 28, 2014 meeting minutes as submitted. Richard seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Select Officers:

Matt told the committee members that Gene Doll's term came to an end and he will no longer be part of the committee. This leaves the position of Chair and Vice Chair open for nominations.

Zach nominated Andrew to become the new Chair for the Committee. Doug seconded the motion. Then Doug nominated Richard to become the Vice Chair for the Committee. Mark seconded the motion to have Andrew become the Chair and Richard to become the Vice Chair of the committee for the next 4 years and it was approved unanimously.

UPDATES:

Matt commented that the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has a new DEQ agent who will be issuing the Phase 2 permits. However, before the permit can be issued it needs to be worked through a committee made up of Phase II permittees and environmental advocacy groups, the latter would like stricter permits.

STORMWATER FEE UPDATES:

Matt commented that the main project with the stormwater fee was discussed with the Board of Commissioners (BOC) in September and October. During these meetings changes were discussed on how to reduce the fee to the consumer by using part of the electrical revenue fee, gas tax (based on historical funding) and not using an individual billing process but by putting the fee into the tax roll.

The fee would be issued once a year for most ESSD customers on their individual property tax bill. However, nonprofit customers would be billed monthly since they do not get taxed.

Phil Wright from Chemeketa Community College stated that the college had concerns regarding the amount of work the college is putting toward improvements in water quality and stormwater projects and believes they should be credited 100% toward the improvements they are making. He stated that there should be some consideration regarding the ongoing work being done and if they are required to pay for the new rate, this would affect other stormwater projects. Currently the college is being charged a new rate of \$24,000 plus a 25% reduction for their work on the stormwater.

The committee discussed the option to use alternative credits or grants for Chemeketa and other unique users through energy incentives and project credits upon a committee approval process.

Matt agreed to look into other jurisdictions to see how they work in conjunction with their strategic partners to achieve the goal of making the stormwater quality a success for everyone.

Rick made a motion to recommend to approve the fee as based on the provided handouts. Doug seconded the motion to recommend to the BOC. It was approved unanimously.

Matt said he will assume this means the basic rate of base rate of \$3.00 and \$2.00 per EDU. The committee agreed.

Matt will continue to update the committee on the process and encouraged all who could attend the public hearing scheduled on January 21, 2014 which will be held at 9:30 a.m. at the Marion County Courthouse Square.

CLOSING REMARKS:

Doug had a question regarding the opening comments regarding the DEQ permit process.

Matt clarified that the fee is based on the permit requirements and the cycle for these permits was scheduled to be renewed every 5 years. DEQ however, is choosing to let the permit process languish until it decides what the new requirements will be and after further impact studies from environmental and non-profit agencies.

Doug wanted to thank Matt for sending out all the information including the attachments before the scheduled meeting. Zach seconded the thanks.

Matt asked the committee if they wanted a meal and everyone agreed that it should be held next year around the holidays.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 5:58 p.m.

NEXT MEETING:

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