

**MARION WATER QUALITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES OF THE MEETING**

March 14, 2018

**Marion County Public Works in the Willamette Room
5155 Silverton Rd NE, Salem, Oregon, 97305**

PRESENT: Rick Massey, Zach Diehl, Mark Grenz, Andy Schmidt, Doug Krahmer

ABSENT: Brian May, Kaileigh Westermann, Richard Walker, Brent Stevenson, Bryan Porter, Keare Blaylock

STAFF: Matt Knudsen

PUBLIC: None

CALL TO ORDER: 5:05 PM

ACTION ITEMS: **MOTION:** Mark made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 13, 2017, meeting. Doug seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

Brian McKinnley, the applicant that was supposed to be introduced to the group, was unable to attend the meeting. He will be attending the next meeting instead.

Matt wanted to get the group's input on how interested parties should be introduced to and approved to be on the Committee. The group agreed it would be good to have applicants attend a meeting before formally joining. The Committee then discussed recruitment of new members. Matt explained that Marion County has a volunteer coordinator, Lisa Miller, who advertises when there are vacant at-large positions on the various Committees. It is also appropriate for members of the Committee to try to recruit new members if they feel they would be a valuable addition. Matt has had conversations with the Farm Bureau to fill the vacant representative position. Marion County staff is also trying to recruit from the East Salem Service District residents.

NPDES PERMIT: Matt explained that some permittees are beginning to implement portions of this proposed permit. The county has not begun this process, but has started updating documents and processes. There is fear of legal issues regarding some of the language in the permit, specifically the move away from maximum extent practicable model and toward set water quality standards. Matt explained that the Association of Clean Water Agencies submitted comment for why this language may turn out to be an issue. Though Oregon would be the first state in the country to use such strict language, a similar proposal in Massachusetts is currently facing a lawsuit. Matt asked for input from the Home Builders Association. Mark reported that the local Home Builders Association helped the National Home Builders Association in submitting comments on this issue. The NHBA thinks Oregon is overreaching and thinks that legal action might be necessary.

Matt voiced a concern about agricultural practices, as they are not included in this permit, but much of the permit area is zoned for agriculture. Agricultural runoff is enforced by the Oregon Department of Agriculture, not the DEQ or local government. This creates conflicting standards within the same area, though Matt reported that the DEQ and ODA are having conversations about this issue.

**1200CN PERMIT
PROGRAM:**

Matt explained that this is a construction erosion sediment control program that will allow agencies (cities and counties) to apply to be the permitting agent in their area for the DEQ. It would eliminate the need to obtain (and pay for) multiple permits from different agencies. Matt reported that Marion County Environmental Services is working with the Marion County Engineering Division to work out the details on this and assess if it would be possible for the county to do. Time was allowed for questions and comments.

EDUCATION AND

OUTREACH UPDATE:

Matt explained that the storm water staff are currently applying for or looking at applying for several different grants. These grants include a partnered grant with Marion Soil & Water Conservation District for weed mitigation along Mill Creek, an OWEB grant with the North Santiam Watershed Council for \$2 million, outreach grants, and parks grants. Matt also explained that Kaileigh is working on refining the approach of water quality outreach. They want to start by getting an understanding of what residents know about water by doing a survey in East Salem. After figuring out what people know and don't know, they can move forward by providing information specific to each unique situation (residential, commercial, and what type of commercial activity, etc.)

**OPERATIONAL
UPDATE:**

MCES is hiring a second Medium Equipment Operator for storm water operations. They're looking for somebody with pipe video camera experience, sweeping experience, and excavation experience. The new position's main priority will be assessing the condition of the pipes in East Salem. Matt explained that they are finding some interesting things in the older systems that need to be addressed. This new position will help meet that need.

CLOSING REMARKS:

Several more questions were asked about NPDES. Matt explained the process to the group - when DEQ comes out with final permit, they will give everyone time to apply. In the meantime, Matt assures the group that he is keeping close contact with the Association of Clean Water Agencies and will keep everyone updated on the progress.

MEETING

ADJOURNED:

6:00 PM

NEXT MEETING:

Next meeting scheduled in September unless otherwise informed.

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