

MARION COUNTY
MARION WATER QUALITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MWQAC MEETING

January 29, 2019
5:00 PM

Willamette Conference Room
5155 Silverton Rd NE
Salem, OR 97305

PRESENT: **Members:** Zachary Diehl, Andrew Schmidt, Brent Stevenson, Mark Grenz
 Staff: Matt Knudsen, Kaileigh Westermann-Lewis, Rachel Hiller
 Public: Brenda Sanchez

ABSENT: Richard Walker

Introductions – Brenda and Rachel

Rachel Hiller introduced herself. She is a new Environmental Specialist at Marion County Public Works (MCPW). Her primary duty is working with the MCPW operations crew on BMPs. She will be helping to reevaluate and update the BMP program to make sure that it is in compliance with the MS4 permit, as well as making sure it's the best that it can be. Matt added that the BMP program MCPW uses is one that is used around the state and recognized as being one of the best.

Brenda Sanchez lives in downtown Salem and is the North Coast/North Willamette Water Quality Specialist for the Oregon Department of Agriculture. She works with farmers, ranchers, and the agriculture community in seven Oregon counties to prevent pollution in the waterways. She is interested in being on the Committee because it's a great way for her to use her knowledge and expertise in a volunteer role. Matt explained that he wants to have interested members attend a meeting before joining the Committee, which is why she is here.

Chair and Vice-Chair Elections

Matt announced that it was time to elect a Chair and Vice-Chair for the Committee. Chair and Vice-Chair must be members-at-large. Richard was Chair and Andrew was Vice-Chair for 2018. In past elections, the Vice-Chair has become the Chair and a new Vice-Chair is elected by the Committee. It was decided that this method will continue. Brent motioned to elect Andrew as Chair and Zachary as Vice-Chair. Mark seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

Matt explained that going forward, he would like the Chair and Vice-Chair to be more involved in running the meetings and in planning the agenda for the meetings. Per the Board of Commissioners, advisory groups should be more advisory-driven than staff-driven. Andrew agreed with this and decided to run the rest of the meeting.

Action – Approval of Minutes

The last MWQAC meeting took place on March 14, 2018. Zachary motioned to approve the minutes from the March 14, 2018 meeting. Brent seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous. The March 14, 2018 minutes were approved.

Permitting Updates

Kaileigh explained that she will now be in charge of permitting compliance, taking over for Keare Blaylock, who is no longer with the County. Kaileigh confirmed that the Committee was familiar with the permitting process and then started on her presentation.

The County has been granted a Phase 2 MS4 permit, which is executed by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality. Marion County held an individualized permit from 2007 to 2012, which was administratively continued after that until 2018. The 2019 version is a general permit, not specific to any jurisdiction. Matt adds that because of this permit and its requirement, MWQAC will have to meet more frequently and be more active.

Kaileigh explained the six minimum control measures: public education, public involvement, illicit discharge, construction erosion, post-construction run-off, and pollution prevention/good housekeeping. It is assumed by the DEQ that if you are meeting these permit requirements, you are not causing or contributing to water pollution/a permit violation.

Kaileigh went over the biggest changes that Marion County will have to make. Thresholds for construction and post-construction requirements changed from properties of one acre or more to properties of 0.25 acres or more, though it no longer includes “high-risk” areas. This will be an adjustment to our current practices. There will need to be increased documentation for all programs and better enforcement procedures, as well as a plan of action for repeat offenders. Thankfully, the County is already meeting many of the requirements.

Matt encouraged the Committee going forward to ask more questions, suggest items to add to future agendas, give recommendations, and more. The County will need the Committee’s help in figuring out which audiences to target, touring the area and giving recommendations, reviewing ordinances, etc.

Time was allowed for questions and answers.

Recruitment

Matt asked the Committee for their idea on how to recruit for the five vacant positions. Brent is switching positions from the Watershed Council representative to the Marion County Agricultural Industry position. He noted that some people that he knows from the Watershed Council may be interested in the newly vacant position. Matt asked Mark if he knew of anyone that might be interested in the Land Developer position. Mark said he would look into it. Matt said that the Marion Soil and Water Conservation District don’t seem to be interested in having a representative on the committee. He will speak with them again, but if this is the case, they may abolish the position.

There are currently two citizen-at-large positions vacant. The Committee agreed that they should try to get representation from East Salem residents, as they are in the stormwater management area and will likely be the most affected by the permit. It was suggested that the Nextdoor App to try to recruit in the East Salem neighborhoods. Matt is also planning on attending more neighborhood association meetings in the area. The committee also suggested using social media to advertise the vacant positions.

Bylaws

The current bylaws were approved on July 28, 2010. The Board of Commissioners has requested that advisory boards review their bylaws annually and make changes as needed. Matt asked the Committee to take a copy of the bylaws home and review them before the next meeting. At the next meeting, there will be a discussion over bylaws reviews.

Matt added that he would like to get to a place where committee meetings are run effectively and all members have the information that they need. In the future, Robert's Rules of Order will be observed more, the Chair and Vice-Chair will be more involved, and there will be a new administrative staff member working with the Committee to make sure they have all that they need for meetings.

Closing Remarks

Matt wants to make sure that the Committee is meeting at least quarterly, if not more often. Staff will send out a Doodle Poll to get everybody's availability. Most members seemed to be in favor of trying to find a consistent schedule (i.e. the third Tuesday of the month).

Brenda added that after attending this meeting she is interested in joining the committee.

There were no additional comments from staff or committee.

Meeting adjourned at 6:06 pm.