

MARION COUNTY  
MARION WATER QUALITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MWQAC MEETING

April 25, 2019  
5:30 PM

North Santiam 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, Brenda Sanchez,  
                              Rebecca McCoun, Richard Walker

ABSENT:       Rick Massey

**Action – Approval of Minutes**

Mark motioned to approve the January 29, 2019 meeting minutes. Zach seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous. The January 29, 2019 minutes are approved.

**Introductions – Brenda and Rebecca**

Brenda and Rebecca are officially on the Committee. Each briefly introduced themselves to the Committee.

**Agenda Changes**

Matt announced that Kaileigh would be giving her presentation on the Stormwater Management Plan Draft first.

**Draft Stormwater Management Plan**

The NPDES permit took effect on March 1, 2019 (since the Committee last met and discussed it). Updating the Stormwater Management Plan (SWMP) annually is part of the NPDES permit and the County will need the MWQAC's input and assistance in forming a new one. MWQAC is a big part of how the County meets their "public involvement" minimum control measure. Kaileigh has started a draft of a new SWMP that is less detailed and lengthy than the previous one and gives the County flexibility to measure results of programs and adjust accordingly. The County will also want to create guiding documents for each of the minimum control measures, even though that is not a DEQ requirement so as not to limit their accomplishments just to what the permit asks for.

Kaileigh stated that the two major components of the NPDES permit that the County is currently focusing on are the SWMP and illicit discharge. A better system needs to be designed for receiving, responding to, and documenting complaints about illicit discharge. Kaileigh asked the Committee if she could go over illicit discharge with them at the next meeting and get their input to give to the Board of Commissioners.

Time was allowed for questions and answers.

## **Funding**

There are three main sources of funding for the stormwater fund.

- 1) The stormwater fee in the East Salem Service District brings in \$2/EDU (2,000 sq ft. of impervious surface) plus a base fee. This equates to \$4.55 per month for homeowners, a rate which is capped. Large commercial lots (like Chemeketa Community College), are not capped and therefore bring in a lot more money. Stormwater fees pay for capital projects and operations expenses.
- 2) The Environmental Services fund pays for the cost of outreach and permitting, which looks like revenue in the stormwater fund.
- 3) Road Operations previously did sweeping, pipe flushing, and catch basin cleaning in East Salem. When the stormwater fees went into place, this assistance was capped at historical average and the stormwater fund was made responsible for the rest.

Stormwater crews sometimes provide services to smaller cities, like Turner, Silverton, Mt. Angel. They also have an exchange with the City of Salem because of the confusing county/city boundary lines that brings in some revenue in exchange for services.

Stormwater crews have increased how often they street sweep and clean catch basins and are trying to do more preventative maintenance, which has caused expenses to rise, but has made a big difference in flood mitigation and water quality issues in the East Salem area.

Matt briefly went over department news. Summer 2019 will see three capital projects planned in the East Salem area to improve drainage and pipe access. The pipe camera van is also ready to use, which will help give the County a much better idea of their assets and the status of those assets.

## **Mercury TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) Update**

Brent is on the Willamette Mercury TMDL Advisory Committee, which will meet tomorrow to further discuss the new mercury TMDL for the Willamette Basin. The new model for measuring mercury is by studying fish tissue, specifically pike minnow. There is also a translator model that says that silt is the carrier to get the mercury into the systems. This model is for the whole Willamette system. Load allocations will be assigned to all entities. At the Advisory Committee meeting tomorrow, the load allocations will be rolled out by entity and sector. Farmers will still be covered under SB1010, but there will be a requirement for stormwater management plans, best management practices, and reductions in soil inputs. Final TMDLs are due to the court in November.

## **Bylaws**

Since the committee was formed, there have been no changes made to the bylaws. Matt wanted to know if anybody had any suggestions for changes. The Soil and Water Conservation District position may be removed, as they are unsure that they want to be a stakeholder. Chair and Vice-Chair are to be officers for two years, but the Committee has been reelecting after one year. The bylaws should be reviewed annually and submitted to the Board of Commissioners for review every three years, even if no changes are made. Committee members should take a bigger part in creating the agenda than staff. Going forward, the Committee will try to better follow the bylaws and ensure they are up to date.

Meeting adjourned at 6:54 pm.