



MARION WATER QUALITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, May 4, 2022 @ 5:30 pm

Attendance in-person or virtually via Zoom

PRESENT: Members: Zach Diehl, Gary White, Richard Walker

Zoom: Rick Massey, Mark Grenz

Staff: Stephanie Rosentrater - Marion County Environmental Services, Roxanne Toepfer - Marion County Environmental Services, Max Hepburn - Marion County Engineering, Matt Knudsen - Marion County Environmental Services, Natalie Tomaszewski – Marion County Environmental Services

Guests: None

ABSENT: Brenda Sanchez, Brent Stevenson

QUORUM: Yes

ADMINISTRATIVE (Information/Discussion/Action)

Zach called the meeting to order @ 5:31 p.m.

Member and Staff introductions: Done

Public Input: None

Approval of February 17, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Richard Walker moves to approve minutes.

Mark Grenz seconds.

No discussion.

Voice vote is unanimous – motion passes.

Stormwater Engineering Standards Update

Matt shared that the Stormwater Engineering Standards went out for technical review within the engineering community. They received feedback from two different engineering firms: one being general feedback and the other for specific changes to language.

Another major piece of feedback received was the vegetation planning appendix which prompted County staff to look for an alternative. Clean Water Services has a potential planting standard that could be used. Matt asked if the advisory committee would want to provide input on that.

The next step would be creating an outreach strategy, providing the Board of Commissioners with an update and looking for a June/July public hearing and then presentation to the Board. These standards won't go into effect until next February.

Stephanie asked what the feedback was about; Matt stated the feedback was that the document was a little hard to follow or confusing.

Matt stated that Marion County is being respectful of City of Salem's standards and are in communicating with them on DEQ's requirements and the update on City of Salem's Engineering Standards. Matt stated they could include an appendix on updating our standards if Salem's engineering standards change.

Mark stated his landscape consultants have had difficulty being successful and getting landscape for water quality facilities reviewed and approved. The difficulty is how different organizations interpret the different zones for planting.

Max stated it would be a process of training Marion County Engineering staff on how to read the documents.

Zach recommended that Marion County staff to choose the easier understood landscape design plans.

TMDL Work Session

The Committee went over the TMDL outline that Roxanne provided. The TMDL Work Session is the start point of what Marion County staff does with this language, what does that mean for Max's team and for the implementation for the Environmental Specialists.

In February 2021, they finalized the revised Willamette Basin TMDL. The requirements have various due dates upcoming in September 2022, which Marion County requested an extension to November 2022, and March 2023. Marion County is required to submit an implementation plan and are seeking some ideas on the enforcement of prohibited pollutants and construction site controls.

The areas they are covering today are Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination (IDDE), along with enforcement of prohibited pollutants. This is a similar program to the NPDES, illicit discharge program and construction erosion. Each of those have a set of requirements within them. TMDLs have flexibility to implement a program that makes sense for Marion County and their MPDS permit can appeal these TMDLs requirements in some areas, such as East Salem but rural areas don't have as strict requirements. DEQ has asked Marion County to look into these areas.

Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination

Matt and Roxanne went over what DEQ is requiring Marion County to do on illicit discharge. One of the ideas that Marion County had was to have the IDDE through the County as a whole. The other idea was to utilize a tool that using a code “you shall not damage County property” to cover the occurrence of erosion coming into County ditches.

Matt asked if the Committee wants to stick to sediment and erosion or expand to other pollutants like DEQ stated we could; Zach would like the County to have the authority to enforce if individuals are polluting but was unsure how the program would function. Marion County can enforce on damages to roadways but cannot on the pollution aspect.

Zach asked if the TMDLs deal with ODA or ODF properties; Matt clarified that when the County has an issue with an agricultural property, they notify ODA. Marion County forwards on complaints, from property owners, that they receive to DEQ.

Matt stated he is hearing a recommendation to bring out the IDDE program County wide and scale it to the issues and remove any limitations around agricultural or forestry. There will be internal conversations on implementation and future tasks would be reaching out to the agricultural community for feedback on the program.

Construction Site Runoff Control

This is impacting outside of the NPDES area, where Marion County does not have standards being implemented.

Matt shared the requirements with the Committee. DEQ wants Marion County to require construction site runoff control at new construction sites. It can be part of their permits that they already have in place such as a building permit and their permit language must require erosion, sediment and waste material management control through the entire process of construction.

The Advisory Committee went over potential options for the Construction Site Runoff Control such as a blanket effort by requiring it throughout the County as a whole.

Mark stated he isn't a fan of adding more regulations to the process but if they could activate the CM program and have that meet their requirements would be good; Rick agreed.

Max stated if Marion County went the CM route, they would need to approach DEQ with amending the language to reflect the changes in requirements.

Matt asked if there was another plan that the committee had in mind in case DEQ says no to the 1200 CM plan; Zach stated that he liked the idea applying the IDDE program.

The next meeting will be around August in which they will review the draft TMDL plan and share the discussions with DEQ and the Board.

FUTURE TOPICS / EMERGING ISSUES / OTHER BUSINESS

Other comments: None.

Adjourn: Zach adjourned the meeting at 6:53 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: TBD via Doodle poll