



MARION WATER QUALITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, February 9th @ 5:30 pm

Attendance in-person or virtually via Zoom

PRESENT: Members: Richard Walker

Zoom: Mark Grenz, Gary White, Brenda Sanchez

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

Guests: Jeff Crowther

ABSENT: Rick Massey, Brent Stevenson

QUORUM: Yes

ADMINISTRATIVE (Information/Discussion/Action)

Matt called the meeting to order @ 5:33 p.m.

Member and Staff introductions: Done.

Public Input: None

Discussion: Matt shared that Zach Diehl did not seek reappointment. Jeff Crowther introduced himself to the committee and shared his background. Natalie shared the process for appointment.

Approval of October 05, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Gary White moves to approve minutes.

Mark Grenz seconds.

No discussion.

Voice vote is unanimous – motion passes.

Chair/Vice-Chair Nominations

Chair Nominations:

Mark moves to nominate Richard.
Brenda seconds.
No discussion.
Voice vote is unanimous – motion passes.

Vice-Chair Nominations:

Gary White moves to nominate Brenda.
Mark Grenz seconds.
No discussion.
Voice vote is unanimous – motion passes.

MC NPDES MS4 Phase II Post-Construction Runoff Control Update

Roxanne shared an update on the post-construction runoff control. They just approved the new stormwater standards which go into effect on February 15th. The County has been working internally to create a more efficient workflow to go with the standards. The goal is to have all the needed information located within GIS, which helps the operations crew while they're out in the field.

Matt shared this project really showed how we shouldn't silo information, especially in an organization like Marion County. The permit is requiring staff to work together and share that information. The next big hurdle is tackling the requirement that DEQ said Marion County must ensure private properties are doing their maintenance.

Richard asked about making this information public; Roxanne stated that there are conversations about doing so and how to improve internally before releasing to the public. Rocky shared the public operations viewer that Marion County has with the committee that shows drains, PGE poles etc.

Matt gave Jeff an overview of the process the post-construction permit through, so he was caught up.

TMDL Temperature Replacement (2024)

Rocky shared that last Tuesday, DEQ had a webinar for the Temperature TMDL replacement for the Willamette basin which will be approved or disapproved by EPA by January 2024.

Matt explained that DEQ states that this level of pollute is the target and then we get handed a list of what we need to be doing to reach that level. Rocky stated they have been court ordered to update the Temperature TMDL and will not include the Willamette River or major tributaries, those will be need to updated by February 28, 2025.

Marion County, as the designated management agency, can expect a lot of the same from their implementation currently but DEQ is going to be asking for more specificity where our efforts are being placed and that implementation is being done at a reasonable rate.

Matt stated that Marion County has a stream shade program, which provides free trees to the different watershed councils, and they are looking into how to improve the program.

Brenda asked if Marion County does any monitoring on temperature within the County; Matt shared that from a watershed standpoint, they do not have any water quality monitoring happening. Brenda shared that she wasn't aware of anyone else, outside of DEQ, that was doing temperature monitoring. Matt stated that he was interested in partnering with MSWCD for monitoring.

Mark Grenz said Rocky did good.

Mercury TMDLs

Rocky discussed Mercury TMDLs requirements with the committee and gave an overview of the plan that was shared during a previous meeting. One of the options was to expand the requirement area to the entire county. Rocky will be taking that to the board and see what they think, then she will bring that back to the committee and begin developing that language with them.

Rocky gave an overview for the TMDL Construction Erosion Runoff Control which is adopting the program county wide as well with options for 1 acre and above or ¼ acre and above for disturbed ground. The process for review will be the same as the other TMDL, along with bringing in Marion County LDEP for review. This would be implemented by September 2025.

Matt shared that there are more regulations coming from DEQ in the future such as the stormwater management area map changing.

Legislation

Matt shared that from a water quality standpoint, there isn't much coming for water quality.

There is a community green infrastructure grant program which an infrastructure usually isn't something that Matt sees. There is also a bill that is creating a partnership between DEQ and ODA which would push water quality requirements in agriculture areas back to ODA.

There is a house bill to study the impact of wildfires and the quality of streams.

Brenda commented on a program for ODFW to give away those tax credits efficiently.

Fire Restoration

Stephanie shared her presentation on Santiam Canyon Post-Fire Restoration which included a background on the damage that occurred from the fires, grants that her and Marion County Parks staff has been awarded and the future plans for restoration and recovery.

Brenda said congratulations on the grants and said that work was amazing. She also commented on installing boot brushes at trail heads and she would talk with Stephanie on that. Brenda asked things were restoring naturally in those areas; Stephanie commented that there is a lot of weeds and the hazard tree removal is a challenge.

Matt commented that Marion County has never done work on this level and thanked Stephanie for her presentation.

FUTURE TOPICS / EMERGING ISSUES / OTHER BUSINESS

Other comments: None.

Adjourn: Richard adjourned the meeting at 6:44 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: TBD via Doodle poll