

MARION WATER QUALITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

April 12, 2016

Marion County Public Works in the North Santiam Room
5155 Silverton Rd. NE, Salem, Oregon

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Present: Zach Diehl, Doug Krahmer, Bryan Porter, Andrew Schmidt, Brent Stevenson, Richard Walker

Absent: Rick Massey, Mark Grenz

Staff: Matt Knudsen

Public: None

CALL TO ORDER: 5:05 p.m.

INTRODUCTIONS:

Attendees introduced themselves for the record.

CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR APPOINTMENTS:

A question was asked about what the timeline is for fulfilling the chair and vice chair assignment. The bylaws state that the at-large members can vote for new chair and vice chair at any time and assignment dates are not clarified.

There was a motion to nominate Richard Walker as the Chair and Bryan Porter as Vice Chair. The motion was seconded and was approved unanimously. This appointment will be effective at the next meeting.

ACTION ITEMS:

Matt informed the committee about the progress on the credit program. Currently there are materials being reviewed and the completed information regarding the program should be going out to the customers in May of this year.

Originally this meeting was set up to start working through the permit language on the DEQ. However, it appears that DEQ will now send the proposed drafted permit language out in May. So, the next meeting should be set up in June. It was encouraged to have all in attendance at this meeting so we can let DEQ know of our thoughts regarding the language on the NPDS permit. Since there has been no permit issued in over 4 years, the new permit will involve a lot of adjustments such as having hard deadlines and changes being implemented and documented every year instead of as needed. DEQ might or might not take into account the comments from the various agencies involved, however, it is necessary for this group to be in charge of the new ordinance language and program development.

The question was posed on whether or not DEQ will even listen to the feedback regarding the draft language changes wanted by the agency.

Matt commented that he participated in the advisory committee to discuss the change in language for the DEQ permit process and they were able to express their opinions and why they wanted the language changed. It was not known if these opinions influenced changes but felt it was worth the effort.

Another question was asked regarding if the public will have an opportunity to make comments regarding these changes to the NPDS permit process. Matt clarified that traditionally there is a 90 day period where the public can express their comments, but the period can also be extended another 90 days. Most likely it will be wintertime before the permit will be issued.

ANNUAL UPDATES:

Matt updated the committee regarding the type of projects that have been done in the last year. The Environmental Services manager recently retired and the Division manager is taking over his duties until a new Divisional manager is hired. The position has been posted and will close on Monday, April 18, 2016. Once we have a new division manager, Matt is going to invite them to the committee meetings so they can become familiar with the program.

Since Keare was not able to attend the meeting, Matt updated the committee on the outreach progress. Marion County is currently working on a regional campaign called Clean Stream / Clear Choices. Keare has been working in conjunction with the City of Salem and Keizer and have hired an advertising agency that specializes in both Spanish and English advertising. Since we are working with other agencies, this provides a cheaper and wider range of advertising. The advertising agency puts out a flash email to people who are signed up and it is our goal to get the outreach to as many people as possible. The advertising agency also has a Facebook sweep ad where the advertising comes through. The response has been very positive and already there have been thousands who have viewed the ad. Marion County also has a link for these ads on the Environmental Services site. Studies have shown that by providing basic action items, this will create a behavior change, so the outreach efforts have been concentrating on this ad campaign for the Clean Stream / Clear Choices ad.

A comment from a member of the committee stated that they would like to see more outreach to those Spanish speakers in the agricultural area since there has been a problem with horse manure being used as a fertilizer. This is causing hazardous pollution to seep into the water which causes a problem.

Matt informed the group that Keare has been delving into the outreach and she is getting a lot of work done. The committee commented on how much they appreciate her outreach efforts.

Matt then brought up slides regarding a new program which utilizes the crew leaders to motivate their crew to promote good environmentally safe work habits. Previously, members of the environmental services were sent out to “police” the different job sites to assess the areas where changes needed to be made. However, now the environmental services have created an incentive program where the crews and crew leaders will win environmental gear when the job is done in a safe and responsible way. The crew leaders will send in pictures showing the crew using bio swill bags, etc and then after a six month period will have the opportunity to receive rewards based on the crew leaders suggestions. The program has shown great success.

Various pictures showed site issues such as erosion situations, leaky bins, solid waste catch basin issues, and ferry spilling issues. Since many of these issues have strict guidelines through the MPDS permit, we have been trying to address them in a more effective manner.

The stormwater funds have also been used effectively and Matt showed several slides on the work that has been done. Matt also updated the group on a summer projects that will need to be done. They analyze the

projects according to how big and how much the cost is going to be. The small project cost around \$5000 to \$7000 and the bigger projects, which will only be done once or twice a year, run around \$20,000 to \$150,000. Currently, there is a capital project on 45th Avenue which basically floods about several neighbors on a regular basis.

Matt showed the committee members the new DEQ map showing the new requirement areas. Many of the areas in the map are shown as urban but are in agricultural areas, which create regulation issues. DEQ has not provided feedback regarding the map so this will need to be addressed.

FUTURE ACTION ITEMS:

Matt will make sure the committee members receive a copy of the proposed DEQ draft language as soon as he receives it, along with notes regarding major expenses and time restraints and any other potential highlighted issues. This will be the baseline for the conversation at the next meeting.

The June meeting is based on when the DEQ draft language.

Matt would like to get members from the Farm Bureau to the committee meetings and would like any suggestions on who he can contact to invite to the next meeting. Please forward any information to Matt. It was suggested that Matt attend the next Farm Bureau meeting, which is usually held on the third Wednesday of the month.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES (November 10, 2015):

Zach made a motion to approve the November 10, 2015 meeting minutes as submitted. Richard seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

ABOVE AND BEYOND:

One of the Marion Water Quality Advisory committee members Zach Diehl, wanted to comment about the good job done on the Ditch cleaning on Dumore Drive. It has been really appreciated.

CLOSING REMARKS:

None

MEETING ADJOURNED: 6:05 p.m.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be held tentatively in June of 2016.