



MARION WATER QUALITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, May 13th @ 5:30 pm | Attendance in-person and virtually (via Teams)

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Gary White, Chair, Member at Large Jeff Crowther, Member at Large Richard Walker, Member at Large Jake Hush, Member at Large Brent Stevenson, Agricultural Industry Lyle Schellenberg, Member at Large Angela Plowhead, Marion Soil & Water Conservation District (via Teams) Mark Grenz, Home Builders Association
STAFF PRESENT:	Stephanie Pulvers, Marion County Public Works Roxanne Toepfer, Marion County Public Works
GUESTS:	Theo Freres (via Teams) Eric Peterson – US Army Corp of Engineers
ABSENT:	Rick Massey, Land Development Brenda Sanchez, Vice Chair, Member at Large
QUORUM:	Yes

MEETING OPENED	Gary called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m. Attendance was noted, and introductions were made.
CONSENT AGENDA	Meeting Minutes Approval of February 11, 2025, Meeting Minutes: • Motion: Brent moved to approve minutes; Jake seconded. • Discussion: None. • Results: Voice vote is unanimous – motion passes.
DETROIT DRAWDOWN PROJECT	Eric Peterson, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, provided an overview of the Detroit Reservoir drawdown project, including background on the 2024 Biological Opinion, injunctive relief requirements, and lessons learned from other reservoirs. Key highlights: • The Corps is evaluating a deep drawdown at Detroit Reservoir to improve fish passage, but no drawdown will occur in 2025; implementation is anticipated in 2026–27 following supplemental EIS and public input.

- Turbidity impacts on downstream water treatment plants are a major concern; coordination with Oregon Health Authority and water purveyors is ongoing.
- An iterative drawdown approach may be considered to minimize water quality and fisheries impacts.
- Public meetings will be held May 28–31, 2025, including an in-person meeting in Detroit.
- Recognition was given to Corps staff for their efforts during the 2020 Labor Day Fires.

BYLAWS
SUBCOMMITTEE
REPORT & DISCUSSION

The subcommittee presented proposed revisions to MWQAC bylaws, including:

- Clarification of appointment processes for representatives from specific organizations (Soil & Water Conservation District, Home Builders Association, Watershed Councils).
- Discussion on whether industry representatives should undergo the same application process as at-large members, and how to address performance/attendance issues.
- Consideration of adding new stakeholder representation (industrial users, wastewater, regulated dischargers, waste management, etc.). Outreach to these groups was recommended before pursuing bylaw changes.
- Debate on whether industry members should be eligible to serve as Chair or Vice-Chair. Mixed opinions expressed; consensus was to further review state ethics laws and committee roles before making a final decision.
- Subcommittee will continue the review and bring a finalized draft of revisions to the full committee and Board of Commissioners.

STAFF UPDATES

Staff provided updates on recent events and training:

- Earth Day Event: Approximately 600 attendees, 30 volunteers, and 19 partner organizations participated.
- Trainings:
 - Pesticide License Prep Class – 50+ registrants for both Laws & Safety and Right-of-Way
 - CESCL – 16 registrants from local government, BPA, and private industry
 - BMP Field Workshop – 40 registrants from Linn, Lane, Marion Counties, as well as the City of Aumsville and private industry
 - All events were well-received and will be repeated in 2026.
- Ongoing efforts include the Stormwater Master Plan Grant, CESCL trainings, and partnership with EAB.

REGULATORY UPDATES

- MS4 Draft Language – expected by June 28, 2025 – no new developments since last meeting.
- Awaiting EPA decision on Temperature TMDL revision
- No updates on new TMDL pollutants.

COMMITTEE UPDATES,
CONCERNS, &
FEEDBACK

- Angela Plowhead raised concerns regarding potential water quality impacts from disposal of refuse by-products; staff will research and follow up at a future meeting.
- Watershed Council representative seat remains vacant; outreach is ongoing.
- Committee discussed possible targeted outreach to industry and regulated entities before proposing new board positions.

MEETING ADJOURNED Gary adjourned the meeting at 7:11 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: Tentatively scheduled for August 12, 2025 (subject to cancellation if no regulatory updates are available). A special meeting may be held to finalize bylaws revisions.