



MARION WATER QUALITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, September 9th @ 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 (via Teams) Lyle Schellenberg, Member at Large Angela Plowhead, Marion Soil & Water Conservation District Mark Grenz, Home Builders Association
STAFF PRESENT:	Stephanie Pulvers, Marion County Public Works Roxanne Toepfer, Marion County Public Works Ryan Wade, Marion County Public Works
GUESTS:	Colleen Busch, Southeast Keizer Neighborhood Association
ABSENT:	Rick Massey, Land Development
QUORUM:	Yes

MEETING OPENED	Gary called the meeting to order at 5:36 p.m. Attendance was noted, and introductions were made.
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CONSENT AGENDA	Meeting Minutes Approval of November 12, 2024, Meeting Minutes: • Motion: Jake moved to approve minutes; Jeff seconded. • Discussion: None. • Results: Voice vote is unanimous – motion passes. Approval of May 13, 2025, Meeting Minutes: • Motion: Jake moved to approve minutes; Jeff seconded. • Discussion: None. • Results: Voice vote is unanimous – motion passes.
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DETROIT DRAWDOWN UPDATE	Staff provided an update regarding the Detroit Lake drawdown and related turbidity concerns affecting downstream drinking water systems along the North Santiam River corridor. The deep drawdown, originally ordered to support endangered salmon passage, will not occur in fall 2025. Instead,
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operations will continue with standard fall drawdown and temperature management practices.

The deep drawdown has been postponed to allow further analysis through a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS), expected to be completed in early 2026. The SEIS will evaluate deeper drawdown requirements for fish passage and potential elimination of hydropower as a project purpose. City of Salem actions and concerns related to drinking water supply vulnerabilities were discussed.

Committee members asked clarifying questions regarding turbidity monitoring, future drawdown timing, and potential delays

CITY OF SALEM/COFFIN BUTTE LEACHATE FOLLOW-UP

Staff followed up on questions raised at the prior meeting regarding landfill leachate being sent to the City of Salem wastewater treatment plant. It was noted that this practice has occurred for many years and is highly regulated, with monitoring, reporting, and flow controls in place. Discussion included PFAS concerns, regulatory oversight, and the possibility that some wastewater facilities may limit or discontinue leachate acceptance in the future.

BYLAWS SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATE

Staff reported that proposed bylaw revisions are currently on hold due to concerns raised by the Board of Commissioners regarding the update process and template. Work will resume once a revised template and process guidance are provided. Committee members were thanked for their efforts and advised that updates will be shared when available.

STAFF UPDATES

Grant Updates

Staff provided updates on multiple grant applications, including:

- A DEQ grant for updating the **East Salem Service District Stormwater Master Plan**, with intent to award received and agreement anticipated in October.
- A planned DLCDC grant application to expand stormwater planning countywide across the MS4 area.
- A NOAA fish passage grant focused on culvert and bridge assessments, which has advanced through scientific review.
- A technical grant application to support **temperature TMDL planning** and stream shade analysis.

Pesticide Class

Due to staffing reductions, Oregon State University is no longer able to offer the pesticide class in the near term. Online resources were provided as interim alternatives.

REGULATORY UPDATES Temperature TMDL Replacement

Staff presented an overview of the temperature TMDL, including designated management agency responsibilities, stream shade requirements, and challenges related to private property. Efforts are focused on developing a voluntary, incentive-based approach, supported by grants and partnerships with watershed councils. Discussion included canopy data development, success metrics, and long-term implementation timelines.

MS4 Phase II Draft Permit

Staff summarized the draft MS4 Phase II permit update, including timeline extensions, registrant feedback, and anticipated public comment processes. Key discussion points included expanded stormwater management areas, data collection requirements, and post-construction standards. No final permit language has been issued at this time.

TMDLs for New Pollutants

Staff noted that emerging issues such as aquatic trash and PFAS remain under review, with no new updates at this time.

**COMMITTEE UPDATES,
CONCERNS, &
FEEDBACK**

Colleen Busch raised concerns regarding beaver activity and standing water affecting a neighborhood area, with potential water quality and property impacts. Discussion included wetland constraints, regulatory jurisdiction, potential agency contacts, and available resources. Staff offered to follow up with appropriate partners and provide contact information.

Staff also shared upcoming staffing changes and transitions within Marion County Environmental Services.

MEETING ADJOURNED Gary adjourned the meeting at 6:49 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: TBD