



MARION WATER QUALITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, October 5, 2022 @ 5:30 pm

Attendance in-person or virtually via Zoom

PRESENT: Members: Gary White, Richard Walker, Rick Massey

Zoom: Brent Stevenson

Staff: Stephanie Rosentrater - Marion County Environmental Services, Brian May - Marion County Environmental Services, Matt Knudsen - Marion County Environmental Services, Natalie Tomaszewski – Marion County Environmental Services

Guests: Zach Diehl

ABSENT: Brenda Sanchez, Mark Grenz

QUORUM: Yes

ADMINISTRATIVE (Information/Discussion/Action)

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

Member and Staff introductions: Done.

Public Input: None

Discussion: Matt shared that Zach is not seeking reappointment for the MWQAC so he will be running the meeting. Matt thanked Zach for his service.

Richard asked about other positions being able to fill the chair or vice-chair positions; Matt stated that discussion regarding the bylaws could be placed on the agenda for next meeting.

Approval of May 4, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Richard Walker moves to approve minutes.

Rick Massey seconds.

No discussion.

Voice vote is unanimous – motion passes.

Stormwater Engineering Standards Update

Matt shared that they have been adopted by the Board of Commissioners and the implementation of them is in February of 2023. Max Hepburn's team is now working on the implementation side of things. Matt thanked the advisory committee, the engineering community and the different cities that provided feedback on those.

Richard asked if they are looking into additional staff to process those permits; Matt stated that Max's team is making sure they are properly staffed. Matt and Rocky's role will be making sure Marion County is meeting those DEQ requirements.

Gary White asked what they will be doing in terms of educating new applicants; Matt shared the plan is to reach out to the same home builders and engineering community members that they reached out to about the standards feedback. They will also post it on their website as well. Matt also brought up the option of having Max and his team present to anyone that needs additional information.

Mark brought up the topic that Mark has discussed before about the detention requirements and asked if further discussion was needed; Mark was surprised about the county taking maintenance ownership. Matt stated that would be a good topic for the future and they could have Max attend that meeting as well.

Matt and Mark discussed the difference between private and public detention maintenance. The advisory committee thought that would be a good discussion to have in the future and make sure it's clear.

NPDES Permit Year Review

Matt shared the annual report that Marion County submits to DEQ for the NPDES permit. It used to be a narrative process where they described what they did and created an Excel sheet but now DEQ gives out a PDF fillable sheet with specific numbers to target and it includes more yes/no questions about compliance.

Matt shared that their report has been primarily revolving around outreach and education, but DEQ asked them to focus more on post-construction of roads and those types of things. Marion County's outreach is being done in house by their Communications Coordinator, Yancee and they are considerably high than the threshold for outreach and public involvement activities.

Stephanie shared the Water Quality Social Media calendar with the advisory committee. They focused on topics such as pet waste, earth day event, water safety, and outdoor information. The report requests those submitting to focus on one highlight and Stephanie discussed the Earth Day event, a joint Environmental Services effort, that they chose to focus on. Matt shared that ArcGIS, the creators of the hub platform where the Earth Day website was held, shared the event across their platforms because it was a great use of the platform.

They are trying to provide the public education and outreach to the community as a whole so that cities who have permit requirements can share Marion County's information and meet those requirements.

Matt shared the MS4 Annual Report with the advisory committee and touched on some of the requirements. Matt stated that within the stormwater management area, cars leaking, and unhoused populations have been most of what they're responding to. Outside of the stormwater management area, it's a little trickier because they have to send it to the appropriate agency or send it to the Oregon Emergency Response System.

Matt that new staff that are working with the Construction and Erosion permit are trained within 30 days. Marion County also has an in-house construction erosion training program. Matt shared that they really try to have an educational component first before taking the next step to compliance.

Matt shared that in the past, Marion County was required to inform property owners to maintain their rain garden system, but now they are required to ensure the maintenance of that system.

Matt discussed the good housekeeping aspect of the permit with providing backup documentation to their statements and stated this is primarily Stephanie's role.

Matt asked how the advisory committee would like to review this report in the future; Mark stated knowing what DEQ is looking for would be good as that's constantly changing and evolving.

Matt brought up the option of having quarterly meetings for the MWQAC and TMDLs would be their next topic. They will try to have their next meeting in January and talk about having a chair and vice-chair elected.

FUTURE TOPICS / EMERGING ISSUES / OTHER BUSINESS

Other comments: None.

Adjourn: Matt adjourned the meeting at 6:41 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: TBD via Doodle poll