



MARION WATER QUALITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, October 19th @ 5:30 pm

Attendance in-person or virtually via Zoom

PRESENT: Members: Brent Stevenson, Mark Grenz, Jeff Crowther, Jake Hush
Zoom: Gary White

Staff: Stephanie Rosentrater - Marion County Environmental Services,
Matt Knudsen – Marion County Environmental Services, Cory Swartwout – Marion County Environmental Services, Roxanne Toepfer – Marion County Environmental Services

ABSENT: Brenda Sanchez, Richard Walker, Rick Massey

QUORUM: Yes

ADMINISTRATIVE (Information/Discussion/Action)

Roxanne called the meeting to order @ 5:32 p.m.

Member and Staff introductions:

Done. Roxanne welcomed Jake Hush to the Committee and Cory Swartwout as the new Environmental Services Admin, replacing Natalie Tomaszewski.

Public Input: None

Discussion: None.

Approval of July 13, 2023 Meeting Minutes:

Motion: Jeff moved to approve minutes; Gary seconded.

Discussion: None.

Results: Voice vote is unanimous – motion passes.

Erosion Control Training Class

Stephanie shared that Environmental Services is hosting CESCL (Certified Erosion & Sediment Control Lead) training for Marion County Employees and the public. Stephanie asked the Committee if anyone had recommendations on how to get the word out; Jeff asked if this was targeted towards public works, engineering, or construction staff. Stephanie mentioned that they are hoping for more engineering and construction staff. Jeff mentioned reaching out to Oregon Association for Water Utilities to see about targeting the Marion County area where they have operators and to check with the Home Builders Association. Matt asked if there was a current outreach plan; Stephanie shared the outreach plan, which included social media, website, email subscriber list, and sustainable business network. The training is Feb. 20 & 21 and Feb. 22 will be training for road maintenance staff, highlighting right-of-way training.

Private Water Quality Facility Inspection Process

Roxanne shared that with the NPDES permit we have some requirements under the post construction section. Private Water Quality Facility Owners must do inspections based off what is on the operations and maintenance manuals, once a year. It's Marion County's job to track those inspections. There is a notice that will be sent out to the Water Quality facilities, including a QR code, directing them to a Water Quality Facility Inspection form. Roxanne shared the form with the Committee. Gary asked if there was an accountability piece if they did not complete the inspection or if they reported it was in good functioning and Marion County found out it wasn't; Roxanne mentioned we will be bugging them with multiple notices and if things aren't being maintained to a certain standard, we could take action. Matt clarified that they are required under the engineering standards as well as code. They are responsible for the maintenance of their system and are responsible for reporting that information to the county. The process we are taking currently is an educational approach and the letters get more aggressive if they are not responded to. Brent asked if there was the ability to add a photo to the form; Stephanie and Roxanne said there was the ability and will add the option to the form.

Stormwater Budget

Matt discussed the Stormwater Budget, sharing the 515 Fund document with the Committee.

MWQAC Agenda Item Survey

Roxanne shared that they were wanting to survey the Committee to learn what the Committee would like to see in the MWQAC meetings. There will be a survey coming out shortly.

Committee Updates, Concerns, & Feedback

Gary revisited the topic of how to get the public involved and engaged in cleaning the stormwater areas. Roxanne shared that it is something they are still working on but have had other priorities that they have needed attend to.

Matt shared that we may be increasing the number of meetings in 2024. Next year we have our phase 2 permit, updated by DEQ and we will receive in March. We will be getting new maps between now and March. Marion County will seek recommendations from the committee regarding the county's fulfillment of the Mercury TMDL Construction Erosion and Sediment Control requirement. The committee will also be presented with an overview of the stormwater fee.

Brent asked if there were any efforts to have the County be the main contractor of educational opportunities to the smaller entities; Matt had mentioned that he thought it would be great opportunity to talk about that because there are some medium sized agencies that have their own outreach efforts but then there are smaller agencies that do not.

FUTURE TOPICS / EMERGING ISSUES / OTHER BUSINESS

Other comments: None.

Adjourn: Roxanne adjourned the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: TBD via Doodle poll