



MARION WATER QUALITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, February 11th @ 5:30 pm | Attendance in-person and virtually (via Teams)

MEMBERS PRESENT: Brenda Sanchez, Vice Chair, Member at Large
Jeff Crowther, Member at Large
Richard Walker, Member at Large
Jake Hush, Member at Large

STAFF PRESENT: Stephanie Pulvers, Marion County Public Works
Cory Swartwout, Marion County Public Works
Roxanne Toepfer, Marion County Public Works
Ryan Wade, Marion County Public Works

GUESTS: Lyle Schellenberg
Angela Plowhead

ABSENT: Rick Massey, Land Development
Brent Stevenson, Agricultural Industry
Gary White, Chair, Member at Large
Mark Grenz, Home Builders Association

QUORUM: No

MEETING OPENED Brenda called the meeting to order at 5:36 p.m. Attendance was noted, and introductions were made. Due to the lack of quorum, no votes or official actions were taken. The committee proceeded with general discussions and updates as outlined in the agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA **Meeting Minutes**
Approval of November 12, 2024, Meeting Minutes:

- Quorum not met. Approval has been postponed until the next meeting.

BYLAWS
SUBCOMMITTEE
REPORT The bylaws subcommittee provided an update on their ongoing review of the committee's governing documents. Topics discussed included membership structure, eligibility for officer roles, training opportunities, and the use of Robert's Rules of Order. The committee also reviewed attendance requirements and the process for tracking participation. There was discussion on whether the committee should continue meeting quarterly or consider additional meetings as needed. The subcommittee will meet again to finalize a draft for full committee review.

STAFF UPDATES

Outreach Events:

Staff reported on upcoming outreach initiatives, including:

- Tree Planting Event (March 8th): Aiming to plant 500 trees in the riparian zone to combat Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) infestations.
- Annual Earth Day Event: Planning remains in progress, but staffing changes have created challenges.
- Stormwater Walk: An educational event involving local schools in East Salem to highlight stormwater infrastructure and wetland importance.

NOAA Grant Application:

Marion County has applied for a \$2M NOAA Fish Passage Barrier Removal Grant to assess and improve culverts across the county. The goal is to shift from emergency repairs to a more proactive approach. A decision on funding is expected by the end of the year.

Rockwood Stormwater Project:

Staff provided an update on the Rockwood Stormwater Project, which addresses erosion and infrastructure concerns in the ESSD drainage ditch at a local apartment complex. Due to severe erosion, the road is beginning to fail. The county is in the early stages of permitting and project design.

Budget Update:

The budget is currently under review and has not been finalized. A future meeting will include a breakdown of planned expenditures.

REGULATORY UPDATES

Mercury TMDL (CSRC):

The committee reviewed the latest updates regarding the Construction Site Runoff Control (CSRC) regulations. The preferred option was presented to the Board of Commissioners, who approved moving forward with an outreach and education-based approach (Option #3).

Temperature TMDL:

The Oregon DEQ has delayed its decision on the Temperature TMDL until June 28, 2025. The committee discussed preparations for a shade gap analysis, which could cost up to \$150,000. Funding options are still being explored.

TMDL for New Pollutants:

No new developments were reported.

MS4 Phase II Permit:

The updated MS4 Phase II permit is still pending.

COMMITTEE UPDATES/FEEDBACK

Committee members expressed interest in discussing the Detroit Reservoir Drawdown at a future meeting, particularly its potential impact on water quality and municipal water supplies. Other areas of interest included:

- More details on budget allocations for water quality projects.
- Annual reports and performance metrics for MWQAC programs.

- Marion Soil & Water Conservation District provided updates on staffing changes and upcoming conservation initiatives.

PUBLIC INPUT None.

MEETING ADJOURNED Brenda adjourned the meeting at 6:28 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: May 13, 2025, at 5:30 pm – Marion County Public Works