

Mosier Watershed Council Meeting

Wednesday, April 25th, 2018

6:30-8:30PM

MINUTES

Attendees:

Abbie Forrest, *SWCD*

Kris McNall, *Co-Chair*

Todd Stevens, *Member*

Wade Root, *Member*

Karen Bailey, *Member*

Karen Lamson, *SWCD*

Walt Burt, *GSI*

Erik Thomasser, *OWRD*

Gary Calaba

Bryce Molesworth, *Co-Chair*

Susan Gabay, *Member*

Call to Order

Kris called the meeting to order and initiated a round of introductions. Kris thanked the agency folks for the technical assistance to make sure the minutes were correct and accurate. Erik Thomasser pointed out a few changes to the minutes that were corrected.

Todd moved to approve the minutes as corrected. Susan seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Derailment Site Restoration & Fire Cleanup

Mike Igo was not present so Kris provided the council with an update. She said Mike reported that he hasn't done any recent on the ground restoration but invasive species are still an issue at the site. The representative from the City of Mosier was not available to attend this meeting but Kris said she would be happy to talk with council members if they are interested. Council members were interested in hearing from the City and agreed to have their emails shared so they could be contacted. Council members were also interested in helping Mike collect seed and future plantings. Kris said she will follow up with Mike.

Derailment Oil Spill & Fire Cleanup

Bob Schwarz was unable to attend the meeting so Kris gave the presentation on his behalf. Kris briefly went over biosparging and shared the monitoring and sparge well maps that have been presented at every meeting. Kris said there were three analytes that were measured; gasoline, diesel and heavy oil and shared their maximum concentrations during November, December and January. Of the 66 Volatile organic compounds (VOCs) that are measured, there were only three detected during the latest three months reported. DEQ does not have ecological screening levels for these three chemicals that were detected. Bob's presentation shared a table showing the VOC's that were above the ecological screening levels (SLVs), ug/L (micrograms per liter, or parts per billion) and the max concentrations detected for reference. Maximum Polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) were also measured. Of the 18 chemicals that were measured, most were detected, but at concentrations below USEPA's "final chronic values" (FCVs) for ecological receptors. The presentation also shared contamination concentrations over time through graphs from 6/4/16 through 1/15/18.

Next steps include testing of groundwater and operating of the biosparge system will continue. UPRR has agreed to test groundwater for fire retardant chemicals. However, they have not yet approved their consultant's work plan for this task. DEQ agrees that contaminant concentrations are sufficiently low to allow shutting off the system to check for rebound of contaminants. However, DEQ has asked that UPRR test groundwater for the fire retardant chemicals before

shutting off the system. After testing, the system will shut off for 30 days and test chemicals again before deciding when the system will be removed.

Mosier City Well #2 Flow Test Preliminary Results

Walt Burt with GSI provided the council with an update on the Mosier City Well #2 testing. The purpose of the flow test is to assess vulnerability of the City's water supply to contamination from the spill. The approach is to evaluate potential for hydraulic connection between basalt aquifers and unconfined aquifer in sediments at the spill site and/or river. The presentation also shared an aerial photo of the quarry well, Mosier City well and Mosier Manor in relation to the waste water treatment plant. Walt said this work is to identify a pathway from the spill to the City's well and gather water quality samples from the two monitoring wells that were available and provide a special picture of what the aquifer is like. He said it is a highly bounded system but there was no connection in the immediate area. It is not 100% proof but good evidence.

The water quality samples did detect a couple of PAH's but the concentration levels were below method detection limits. Walt said the City has applied for a grant for a new well.

The conclusions are the pumping test data do not indicate the presence of a positive boundary that would suggest a hydraulic connection between the basalt aquifer and alluvial sediments or Columbia River that might provide a pathway for contaminants from the oil train spill site to migrate to Well #2.

Well Evaluation Update

Walt said there are 13-14 wells pending field assessments. There are three landowners with two wells each. GSI has obtained a water level at one well, with two more pending over the next few weeks and are optimistic about two more before the end of the fiscal year, however some landowners remain uncooperative. Bid documents for the next phase of well repairs is in the works. A question was brought up about water rights. Walt said he does not believe any water rights are associated with these wells as most of them are domestic, but he was not certain.

Well Replacements

Erik Thomasser, OWRD shared with the council a quick update on well replacements and the progress on using the Mosier Million. He provided a brief overview and shared a few lessons learned. Erik said lately the problem has been dealing with pump replacements. The cost of irrigation wells has increased and they have had to spend more money on flow tests for these new wells to avoid not giving the irrigators the proper yield to run their systems. Erik said Josh Thompson with the SWCD has been absolutely crucial to this project and deserves a ton of props for all of his hard work. Erik explained that OWRD and the SWCD have also been working on the rehabilitation of water rights on existing wells and assessing what the capacities of the pumps are, as well as filing the appropriate water rights applications.

To date there have been four new wells, one rehabilitation and one abandonment. Everything has been moving right along and so far on budget. The average hole cost has remained pretty close to what was predicated a few years ago; between \$18,000 and \$23,000.

Deep Wells Update

Erik also provided the council with an update regarding the first deep well and the next steps for the second well. Bryce's well is finally finished and passed the new well construction standards. Bryce's well came in \$200,000 over budget. Erik stated that the well is 1,223 feet deep and doesn't know if they fully penetrated the Grande Ronde aquifer and there is more than likely a whole lot more that OWRD does not know. They are waiting on age confirmation from their

water tests. Grant funds were exhausted on Bryce's well; roughly \$120,000 is left for a second \$700,000 well. The SWCD is in the process of applying for another grant. Hats off to Karen Lamson with the SWCD for all of her excellent work on the grant. Erik said he tips his hat to everyone involved on this project.

The data that has been acquired from Bryce's well will be used in the grant to help fund Wade's well. Construction start date is anticipated to be March of 2019.

Coordinating Board

Kris provided the council with a refresher on the purpose of the Coordinating Board. The Coordinating Board is an overarching council that was set in place per OWEB's guidance in order to receive Capacity funding. Bryce provided a little more detail stating the Coordinating Board handles most all Council business and reporting that is required by OWEB instead of repeating the same process 5 times at each local council. The Coordinating Board is made up of local council chairs who meet quarterly to exchange ideas, encourage one another, discuss issues and implement.

SWCD Update

Abbie provided the council with a quick update on what the SWCD has been up to. Shilah Olson SWCD District Manager, was invited to represent Oregon Conservation Districts and travel back to Washington DC to talk with congressmen about our programs and why they are important. It is a huge honor for her to have been selected. The SWCD has been working hard with \$5.75 million secured for active projects, and \$11.5 million awarded in grants for projects to date. Erik said he could not praise the SWCD enough, for administrative support and projects they have completed.

Council Business and Announcements

New Appointee

Kris stated the City of Mosier would like to have a representative on the Mosier Watershed Council. Kris asked the council for a motion, assuming the City would like to appoint Colleen.

Susan moved the Council ask the County to appoint Colleen, or another representative the City of Mosier chooses, to the Mosier Watershed Council. Karen seconded and the motion passed.

Co-Chair Elections

Bryce and Kris stated they are willing to serve as Co-chairs for another year, unless there is someone else who would like to take over.

Todd moved to re-elect Bryce and Kris as Co-Chairs. Susan seconded and the motion passed.

Announcements

Kris said she had a chance to speak with Representative Bonham who has replaced Representative Huffman. She said he seemed very interested in Mosier, the issues in our area and providing ongoing support.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday July 25th.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:10pm.

Minutes prepared by Abbie Forrest