

Mosier Watershed Council Meeting

Wednesday April 26th, 2017

6:30PM – 8:30PM

MINUTES

Attendees:

Abbie Forrest, <i>Coordinator</i>	Kris McNall, <i>Co-Chair</i>	Joseph Abbott
Ken Lite, <i>OWRD, Member</i>	Walter Burt, <i>GSI</i>	Susan Gabay, <i>Member</i>
Bob Schwarz, <i>DEQ</i>	Karen Lamson, <i>SWCD</i>	Karen Bailey, <i>Member</i>
Aurora Bouchier, <i>OWRD</i>	Phil Evans, <i>Member</i>	Erik Thomasser, <i>OWRD</i>
Todd Stevens, <i>Member</i>	Jim Reed, <i>Member</i>	Mike Igo, <i>Member</i>
Peter Dalke, <i>Member</i>		

Call to Order

Kris called the meeting to order and initiated a round of introductions.

Bryce moved to approve the minutes as distributed, Ken seconded and the motion passed.

Derailment Oil Spill & Fire Cleanup – Bob Schwartz, Oregon DEQ

Bob Schwartz has been attending the watershed council meetings to discuss the contamination since the train derailment. He briefly reviewed background information regarding DEQ's role in the spill and monitoring efforts. He explained the biosparging cleanup system; when the system started in August and when it was expanded in October.

Bob reviewed the data collected with the latest samples. He said they noticed a little rebound, with some samples being above the ecological screening levels from January to February, which is worth noticing. DEQ is only focusing on those four chemicals (Methylnaphthalene(-1), Toluene, Xylene(o-) and Xylenes (m&p) in Mosier Well 4 (MW-4). Bob explained that the sample levels bounced around a lot up until the additional sparge wells were added, then the levels decreased, meaning the system is working. Only one contaminant in Mosier Well 5 was above the ecological screening level. Mosier Well's number 4 and 5 will continue to be DEQ's focus for contaminant concentrations.

The presentation also contained graphs showing the groundwater elevation contour. Groundwater level flows are important because that is the direction the contaminants flow. Since January, there has been consistent flow to the North East and groundwater has been very high. Bob shared graphs of dissolved oxygen showing background groundwater conditions, biosparge influence area groundwater conditions, and release area groundwater conditions. DEQ has also added metals concentrations to their list of data collections in MW 1, 4, 5, and 8. The metals being monitored are: Arsenic, Barium, Cadmium, Chromium, Lead, Mercury, Selenium, and Silver. MW-1 has the highest concentrations of Barium, Lead and Mercury.

DEQ's next steps will be to conduct a pump test at City Well #2, install an additional groundwater monitoring well and porewater sampling from the wetlands.

Contamination Testing of City Well #2 – Walt Burt, GSI

GSI has been working with a city engineer contractor to look at any damage to City Well #2. CH2M did test the well but no contaminants were detected. GSI is tasked with determining the vulnerability of the well. Walt briefly explained the timeframe for pumping the well, recon to look at the aquifers and complete a pump test, pump the city well, and monitor nearby wells. Pumping will take place for seven days, which should be long enough to see if there is a connection between the City well and the Columbia River (a positive boundary means there is a connection to the river). It will take one to two months to complete a vulnerability assessment. Discussion ensued.

Mosier Train Derailment Site Restoration & Surface Projects Discussion – Mike Igo

Mike has been working at the spill site since the incident. Back in November, Mike along with folks from Humble Roots put seed down and planted the ODOT area. He said every species has lived, which should make the site thick with nice vegetation. The hardscape for the native planting from West Gate to Rock Creek is confirmed and will start planting as soon as possible. Mike added Rush Skeleton Weed is a problem throughout the entire Mosier area, however he is waiting for an applicator to come help control the noxious weed. He announced at 10am on Saturday, April 29th he will be at the sewage treatment plant to walk folks through what is going on with the restoration process.

Mosier Fish – Jason Seals, ODFW

Jason Seals, Fish Biologist with ODFW attended the meeting to answer any questions council members may have about the monitoring efforts in the Mosier watershed. Jason said ODFW hasn't completed any large scale research projects in this basin. Mosier Creek above the falls is dominated by Coastal cutthroat, a protected and native migratory fish. Cutthroat have been found almost everywhere, even in pools, and it's not uncommon to see them above the falls. Fifteenmile is the Eastern most population of Coastal Cutthroat. Sculpin are another species that have been found above the falls. Jason said there are some Steelhead that use lower Rock Creek but ODFW doesn't believe it's a high density area. Coho spawn around Rock Creek and Mosier Creek below the falls.

Mike said he has observed smolts coming down stream in Rock Creek. Peter asked about any knowledge on Lamprey. ODFW has never had any reports on Mosier or Rock Creek. Adult Lamprey are visible in the spring but they are hard to sample (sampling is conducted by shocking the water to catch the fish).

Water Level Measurements – Aurora Bouchier, OWRD

Aurora attended the meeting to share water level measurements compared to prior years. In this basin there are the Dalles formations, Pomona, Grande Ronde, Lola, Frenchman Springs, and Preist Rapids. Aurora shared a geologic map of the different faults and reviewed graphs of the select observation wells that OWRD has been monitoring. She said the Pomona is connected to Dry Creek, an area where OWRD has observed commingling.

Aurora shared information on observation well data; the hydrograph of select wells in "Mosier Net" and other Pomona wells in the Mosier area. Graphs also included a closer look at groundwater elevations from the select observation wells from 2000 through 2016. Aurora also shared precipitation information compared to groundwater elevation. The hydrograph of WASC 2759 shows a decline in the groundwater elevation from with the cumulative departure (in) for precipitation from 1975 through 2015.

Ken said what we are learning is the increased flow in the creek provides a recharge pulse and then a recess. One can actually see the recharge and pressure response from the creek in the aquifer. Susan asked if an average of 3 feet loss per year was realistic, and the answer was yes.

Well Projects – Abbie Forrest, SWCD & Ken Lite, OWRD

Abbie provided a quick update on the deep wells project. She said the RFP is out and proposals are due Monday, May 1st. The District Board will make a decision to award one driller at the May 10th District board meeting. Bryce, Ken, Erik, Wade and Shilah are on the evaluation team. Ken provided more detail around the deep well project itself. Council members discussed the depth of the wells and how deep you could actually go.

Five drillers have been selected for the Mosier Million project. Shilah is currently working on Agreements to Agree (ATA's). There will be another RFP issued soon, in hopes of adding at least three more drillers to the pool.

Landowner Outreach

The main question has been how do we persuade the people who have critical wells, but won't engage with the evaluation process? Walt said there is still more analysis to be completed in the next few weeks. Kris said there are still roughly 15 wells we want to evaluate. Some will be easy, some will need to be worked with and some will need Ken to continue gathering data and try a new approach. Council members shared frustration with the people who do not want to participate and be cooperative. Kris will continue to follow-up.

Erik said he has been collecting data with invoices based on total depth drilled, including full 6in casing, (not including liner, wage, etc.) and estimates costs at around \$20,000 per well.

Abbie stated there is a collaborative effort being made towards putting together another Oak Woodlands FIP.

Next meeting was scheduled for July 26th.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15PM.

If you would like to view presentations from previous meetings visit the Mosier Watershed Council website at http://wascoswcd.org/wcswcd_021.htm

Minutes prepared by Abbie Forrest.