

Mosier Watershed Council Meeting

Wednesday August 28th, 2017

6:30PM – 8:30PM

MINUTES

Attendees:

Abbie Forrest, <i>Coordinator</i>	Kris McNall, <i>Co-Chair</i>	Ken Lite, <i>OWRD, Member</i>
Walter Burt, <i>GSI</i>	Susan Gabay, <i>Member</i>	Mrs. Ken Lite
Bob Schwarz, <i>DEQ</i>	Karen Lamson, <i>SWCD</i>	Aurora Bouchier, <i>OWRD</i>
Phil Evans, <i>Member</i>	Dwayne Person, <i>Driller</i>	Bryce Molesworth, <i>Co-Chair</i>
Todd Stevens, <i>Member</i>	Wade Root, <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.

Ken provided clarification and a correction to the minutes. Paragraph two, last sentence under Derailment Oil Spill & Fire Cleanup. Change “*Mosier Well’s number 4 and 5...*” to “*Mosier Monitoring Well’s number 4 and 5...*”

Susan moved to approve the minutes as corrected, 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. Bob moved quickly through the first part of his presentation because most of those in attendance have heard the background information on the crash site, monitoring wells, and biosparging system.

A new UPRR monitoring well (MW-9) was drilled on the south side of the old highway. There has been some contamination detected, with one (chloroform) testing above the Risk Based Concentrations (RBC what DEQ considers safe for drinking water). Bob does not believe the contamination is related to the derailment spill. There were a total of eight contaminants detected, with three of those having an RBC of No Level (NL meaning there is no level for screening). However DEQ will be in discussion with consultants about what are actual appropriate levels.

Bobs presentation included maximum contaminant concentrations, for July 2017 for all monitoring wells with only one, Benzo[a]pyrene, having a detection above the Ecological Screening Level (ESL). Bob reviewed groundwater levels and flow. He also shared with the council the porewater results (testing water in between soil particles in the wetland). A wetland map was provided for reference containing the sample areas. The porewater results were similar to other data from wells; some chemicals were detected but the detections were very low. CH2M is preparing a status report that will be available on the DEQ website for those interested in viewing. Bob stated DEQ is also planning to shut off the system for 30 days to observe and see if it rebounds.

Kris asked if there are any plans to test for the chemicals that were used in the fire suppression foam, that are very toxic. Bob said there are currently not any plans to test for those chemicals and it is not required. He said the testing is mainly done in places where it has been used for years for training purposes. Kris stated the chemicals could have an impact on Mosier’s future water supply and want’s to confirm, there is not a chemical as dangerous as this in Mosier. Discussion ensued regarding cost and who is responsible for further testing. Bob will report back to Kris and Phil.

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

Mike reported the restoration effort is on hold. As soon as politics are done Mike and the rest of the restoration team can resume work and get plants in the ground. UPRR has to read and approve the restoration plan by the 3rd week in September. The offer sheet was put together by UPRR, but will still require final approval by the Fire department, School and City board.

Dry Wells – Where Depth & Patterns – Aurora Bouchier, OWRD

Aurora provided the council with a dry well investigation update for the Mosier Creek Area basalt aquifers. She has been fielding a majority of landowner calls with concerns of their wells going dry. Aurora provided a map of Mosier and the Dry Creek basins, elevations as well as a critical area outline with points of the monitoring well locations.

Aurora explained the trend with the dry wells in the Mosier Creek and Dry Creek areas based on well construction and total depth. The dry well in the Dry Creek area appeared that it should have a water level trend similar to wells which are shallower in the system and show no substantial decline. The dry wells in the Mosier Creek area should have water level trends similar to wells which are showing substantial declines. OWRD is monitoring one well located near the top of the ridge between Mosier and Dry Creek, projecting the water level trend should be around 1,040 feet below land surface. However when Aurora measured the well with her etape (which is 1,000 feet long) did not encounter any water.

She also shared graphs showing the stratigraphy and observation well data and groundwater elevation with the four Dry Creek Road wells, as well as the Mosier Creek wells.

Mosier Deep Well – Dwayne Person, Driller

Dwayne shared with the council an update on the Deep Well project for Bryce's well. Dwayne and his crew ran a mud rotary to 450 feet and then ran a 16 inch pipe down the hole where they drilled to 620 feet. Water level zones were at 690 feet, 739 feet, 832 feet and 860 feet. However water levels were around 361.5 feet about every time. His crew cemented and redrilled down 1,116 feet. From 860 feet to 1,116 feet the well was dry. Past that they lost all water in the well back to 361 feet. They continued drilling and picked up a sulfur smell at 1,177 feet. Dwayne and Erik videoed the well on August 27th and were seeing a lot of water from the grand ronde to the Frenchman springs, which shouldn't be possible. Dwayne said they are going to try and stop the flow with casing and cement the grand ronde to stop the commingling to the Frenchman springs.

The general target depth is 1,400 feet. They are at 1,220 feet right now. The plan is to seal and case to 1,220 feet. If water is found at 1,225 feet they are done drilling. The second well will be deeper, and is expected to be closer to 1,600 feet deep.

As of this point in time they are not over budget, which is a good thing. They are behind schedule and there is still a ton of work to be completed.

Project Updates – Walt Burt, GSI

Mosier City Well #2 Flow Testing

Walt said there is still more leg work to be done talking with DEQ regarding the Mosier City Well #2 flow testing. The goal is to get a sense whether there is a connection between the well and the Columbia River. The water will be discharged into the ODOT sediment basin by the Rock Creek quarry. They have not set a date or time but testing will be about a week long. Transducers will be in three wells. GSI is not anticipating an erosion problem and believes the water will go into the ground before it gets to that point.

Mosier Million

RFP's so far have turned up 5 drillers with interest. Request for bids will be opened next week on Monday at 1:00pm. The approach with bids is to hopefully be able to move quickly when a landowner decides to participate, instead of having to wait for the entire bid process for each well.

Outreach

Not much has changed as far as outreach; the same list of folks exists where we are trying to gain access. There have been a few problems with irrigation when folks need their wells so access at that time was not possible. There is also a mistrust on government being a trend for why people are not cooperating. The

council discussed having Representative Huffman get involved and making contact. This council and partners have bent over backwards to get peoples objectives taken care of. Bryce stated that we, the council and District, are at the point where we will tell people we are going to decommission their current well and drill them a new one. Walt agreed with Bryce's statement and added repairing wells at this point to save a little money carries too much risk. Ken added there may be growing interest once landowners start watching what their neighbors place.

The wells that are going dry can be deepened, however the rules are very different now. The landowner would have to case all of the well. Discussion ensued regarding access and the number of wells that will be covered through the Mosier Million.

The next meeting was scheduled for October 25th, 2017 at 6:30pm at the Mosier Grange.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30PM.

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.