

Mosier Watershed Council Meeting

Wednesday January 25, 2017

6:30PM – 8:30PM

MINUTES

Attendees:

Abbie Forrest, *Coordinator*
Ken Lite, *OWRD, Member*
Bob Schwarz, *DEQ*
Aurora Bouchier, *OWRD*
Todd Stevens, *Member*

Kris McNall, *Co-Chair*
Walter Burt, *GSI*
Karen Lamson, *SWCD*
Phil Evans, *Member*
Jim Reed, *Member*

Bryce Molesworth, *Co-Chair*
Susan Gabay, *Member*
Pat Cimmiyotti, *ODOT*
Wade Root, *Member*

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.

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

Mike Igo, could not attend the meeting so Kris gave a very brief update on his behalf. She said the ODOT property was planted with a grass seed and grit mix, however the lower end of the site was not due to the snow.

Pat Cimmiyotti with ODOT provided the council with information regarding the restoration plan for the derailment site. ODOT is working with the City of The Dalles on a Transportation System Plan (TSP) which will include the Mosier area that will require a public input process. He strongly encouraged the council and Mosier residents to provide input and participate in public meetings.

Pat said the erosion control situation on the hill side took longer than anticipated, but they will progress into a more permanent restoration and landscape plan, once the TSP process is complete.

Pat also brought a preliminary design proposal, from one of ODOT's landscape designers, of what the site will potentially look like. Pat, Mike Igo and the City of Mosier originally looked at the restoration plan with items that were added to it, and began to build off that plan, and eventually came up with this preliminary design. He said this is just a concept for people to use as a starting point for more discussions and ideas; nothing is finalized. The designs are still in negotiation with the Railroad and the City of Mosier. The idea is to start with landscape features, and the details will come later, with the final design.

Kris asked if any changes have been envisioned with traffic flow, because this preliminary design looks similar to the old original plan. Pat said there hasn't been much discussion around traffic flow and this design is based off the 10 year old concept plan. Once all of the public input has been gathered, that information and plan will be sent to the Railroad who will then design and implement the final plan.

The council continued discussion around short and long term plans, as well as weed control, maintenance and future plantings. Kris will let council members and Mosier area residents know when a public meeting is scheduled for the TSP.

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

Bob Schwartz briefly reviewed background information regarding DEQ's role in the spill and monitoring efforts. He also shared an aerial photo of the site and locations of monitoring wells and sampling locations. He said DEQ decided to put the booms back in place from Dec. 3rd through Dec. 29th, but does not anticipate using them again. Bob reviewed the cleanup system, "biosparging" which pumps air into groundwater so the oxygen in the air stimulates the growth of naturally occurring microbes. The system started on August 18th and included five sparge wells. The system expanded in October with three additional sparge wells, as well as five sparge wells near the extraction wells.

Bob provided graphs that compare the background groundwater conditions with dissolved oxygen and the dates the biosparge wells were in operation for monitoring wells 1, 2 and 3. Other graphs included the

biosparge influence area groundwater conditions for monitoring wells 4 – 8 and release area groundwater conditions for the original two extraction wells.

Contaminants in monitoring well 4 (MW-4), originally above ecological screening levels jumped back up in December. Bob said it seems to be a dirty well with no dissolved oxygen, and contains more bacteria. He said most contaminants are below ecological screening levels, which is very good. DEQ will continue biosparging for at least several more months. Bob also shared a groundwater flows map with a defined gradient flowing to the North East, which corresponds with contaminants moving in that direction and showing up in different wells.

Well Updates – Ken Lite, Walt Burt

Walt met with Abbie and Shilah today to go over the contract agreements and any progress on the well effort. GSI will resume work in the next week, pending the weather. Outreach and well access are still concerns and have required a lot of preparation.

Ken informed the council that the Bond sale has been moved up and will now take place on March 20th, meaning money may be available by March 22nd. He said he is still waiting on the SWCD to sign the contract with OWRD. Ken explained that nothing can move forward until a contract is signed. There will be an RFP draft sent out soon to pool drillers. Walt and Ken will review the priority list and estimated costs for well repairs one more time.

As far as the deep well project, that money becomes available in the same bond sale. The only caveat is the water right permits. Ken said rights are in the initial review, which will require going back through the application details. He said he has been working diligently to get those permits to the top of the pile.

Ken also explained the change in location of one of the wells, due to electricity issues. Discussion ensued.

New Wells in Mosier 2016

Erik Thomasser could not attend this meeting so Ken provided his update. He shared a summary of the wells drilled in 2016 and highlighted wells drilled in the special standards area. Ken shared a 2015-2016 graph of all of the wells along with a table describing the well log ID, start card number, total depth in feet, seal depth in feet, completion int. in feet, yield gallons per minute as well as the aquifer unit. Ken said they are using the artesian well rules, if it has artesian pressure it is cased and sealed all the way to the top of the “water” so it’s not open to any other zones.

The council discussed comparing well costs, and whether to replace or repair a well.

Update Mosier Watershed Council Work Plan

Kris led the council through each line item of the work plan that Mosier is involved with. Todd said he is willing to continue to sample for *E.coli* through this summer season. Although *E.coli* isn’t a major concern in the Mosier watershed it is good to continue monitoring. The council decided to use some of the allocated funds from the SWCD to pay for Todd’s supplies. Abbie will report back to the council on any developments on an Oak Woodlands FIP and Kris will check in with Mike Igo on any new developments for restoration work.

Election of Co-Chairs

Susan moved to continue with the two officers (Kristen McNall and Bryce Molesworth) that are currently serving, as long as they are willing.

Kris said she is willing and Bryce also said he is willing for one more term. Ken asked if there is any other interest in the council; it’s important for other people to take their turn.

Wade and Phil seconded Susan’s motion, Motion passed.

Announcements and Set Next Meeting Date

There were not any new announcements. The next meeting is scheduled for April 26th, 2017 at 6:30pm at the Mosier Grange.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM. Minutes prepared by Abbie Forrest.