

Mosier Watershed Council Meeting

Wednesday April 27, 2016

6:30 – 8:30PM

MINUTES

Attendees:

Abbie Forrest, *Coordinator*
Todd Stevens, *Member*
Ken Lite, *OWRD, Member*
Susan Gabay, *Member*

Kris McNall, *Co-Chair*
Wade Root, *Member*
Walter Burt, *GSI*
Erik Thomasser, *OWRD*

Bryce Molesworth, *Co-Chair*
Karen Lamson, *SWCD*
Mike Igo, *Member*

Call to Order

Bryce called the meeting to order and asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the last meeting.

Kris moved to approve the minutes from the last meeting, Susan seconded, motion carried.

Surface Water Committee Update

Weeds

Mike reported that knapweed has been bolting up in areas and is ready to be pulled. He noted that the weeds are not yet blooming and if people would pull them when they see them it will help to control them.. Mike said Skeleton weed is also becoming a problem at Rock Creek. Karen Lamson said she has been working with Merle Keys, County Weedmaster. He told Karen that if folks want to flag areas with weeds needing to be sprayed he will come through and treat them. The weed department is limited on funds but he does drive State Road once a year in May. Mike added that the Hood River watershed council and the Master Gardeners have a weed of the month. They put posters around the area so people are aware of the weed and can treat, pull, or flag it.

Baby Oaks

Mike said he lost all of his baby oaks over the winter. He has a handful that he will be planting and if anybody else has any there is still time to plant them. Be sure keep them watered until fall. However, he said if there are too many leaves, don't plant. Mike said there has only been .5 inches of rain for April so the rainfall for spring isn't looking good.

The council decided to have a walk-through monitoring day at Rock Creek on May 14th. Meet at the rock quarry at 9:00 AM. Mike said he has been seeing fry in Rock Creek but the water level is dropping fast.

Urban Forest Management

The city of Mosier has developed a species list and locations of the native trees. At some point Kathy would like to go to those locations and count trees to get a handle of what is there and see how many Ponderosa Pine were killed by beetles, and those that are dying.

Well Monitoring Data

Ken Lite passed a worksheet around that showed a tally of the year to year change in ground water levels. He said this is the worst year to year decline he has ever seen; a lot with 5 foot declines. He did point out one well that wasn't used last year has gone up 20 feet. Ken showed a comparison of wells; one that had been deepened and one across the street. The one that was deepened declined 5 feet. He said when deepened these wells on Dry Creek are tying into what's happening on Mosier Creek.

Ken announced that out of 37 proposals, the grant that was submitted through the SWCD was ranked at number 5 and will more than likely be funded.

Well Prioritization

Kris provided the council with a new map that clarifies the slope of the valley in relation to the wells. It was the same map that Ken provided at the last meeting but this one shows the aquifer slope direction in relation to the Rocky Prairie Thrust Fault.

The council discussed the prioritization plan that was presented at the last meeting. The council also discussed other well issues such as: access, lined wells, or if there is still opportunity to prioritize a well based on location, construction and year. The council also briefly discussed well number 3, where it was located, if it is actually sealed, and if there has been any affects due to its decommissioning.

GSI Progress Report & Discussion

Kris reported to the council that GSI has completed 5 field assessments, but have not found any major comminglers. There has only been a trickle <1 gallon/minute found in one of the wells. They have not yet found any wells requiring repairs. They haven't gotten to some of the wells they feel may be comminglers. The water levels are low, so there may be more that start to commingle later on. There are 2 more wells waiting for assessment and funds are available for 6 more.

Well Outreach/To-Do List

Wade made the point that when people are turning down having their well assessed we could tell them they will have a hard time selling their property. There was continued discussion on how to persuade well owners that may be backing out.

Kris went through the outreach list and asked for additional information the council has gathered on their outreach efforts. The council members volunteered to continue making contact with landowners.

Co-Chair Elections

Bryce and Kris were re-elected as Co-chairs. Both accepted.

Wade moved to re-elect both Co-chairs, Susan seconded, motion carried.

Announcements

Kris asked Todd if he is still interested in sampling for E.coli. He said he is still willing to do it as long as he can get some money to help with the cost of his expenses.

Kris also announced that she has been gathering the City's water data and there is opportunity for water conservation. She will talk to Kathy and follow up at the next meeting.

Mike announced May 3rd there will be a public hearing and they will be taking input, on the BNR double track at 3:00 PM at the Discovery Center in The Dalles.

The next meeting is scheduled for July 27th, 2016.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15.

Minutes prepared by Abbie Forrest.