

SWAC NOTES Oct 25, 2011

ATTENDING:

Councilor Mark Caillier
Councilor Brandon Smith
Tim Smith
Sam Kidd
Tom Bauer
Jon Unger (new)
Bill Lawyer
Rob Kissler
Elizabeth Sagmiller, Mike Griffin, Kat LaFever, Dorothy Diehl

Welcomed new attendee **Jon Unger** – referred to SWAC from the Volunteer Coordinator. He is non-voting member today. Holly will no longer be serving on the committee, so Jon may decide to take up the citizen-at-large position. Jon's background: Lifelong Keizer resident, works for Oregon Water Resources, currently in hydroelectric projects but has also served as Water Master, water well inspector and work with water rights interpretation. He also served 2 years in the Peace Corps in Armenia.

Program at a Glance Handout - Review of NPDES, TMDL, and UIC tasks for 2007/08 - 2011/12.

ELIZABETH: You can see that for NPDES, after we hired the staff we asked for, our entire backlog of To Do's are now done. We are in a good position now, with almost all the catch up being done this last permit year.

TMDL: There are still some to do's as you can see on the sheet. Revise the Imp. Plan, continue to implement current TMDL Plan elements. You can see from the second spreadsheet that the current TMDL Imp. Plan is basically all implemented. Still need to revise the new plan once we have current NPDES path forward..

NPDES Annual Report: Section from the report showing the 'above and beyond' items we achieved. We could have included many more things than even was written here. We really did a lot that was good and gives us 'gold stars' with the regulatory agencies.

ROB: *Perhaps one of the committee would like to Report to Council, on the SWAC and Stormwater accomplishments?* Council put out funding in a tough budget year to support the additional resources to 'catch up' with our regulatory requirements. We should just reiterate that the expenditure was fruitful.

COUNCILOR SMITH: The public and council should see that the money they spent/spend on additional resources was well spent. A councilor should not be the one to do it.

ACTION ITEM: *Eliz said she is willing to do it.* The group agreed, use the handouts you have from today, give something POSITIVE to discuss in Council. Could show on Channel 23.

COUNCILORS CAILLIER AND SMITH: Use the handouts, make them easier to follow, and make it CLEAR that you not only did your own work for the PY4, but ALSO caught us up on past year's backlog of items.

TOM: You should give Eliz credit too, as she's spearheaded this whole effort.

EROSION CONTROL: Six or seven active sites right now, some single family, Area B, new McDonalds. Billy went out and got his ODOT erosion control inspector certification. Brad Beverly also inspecting. Good internal processing developed. A little bit of pushback, from one single family builder, he's more annoyed than anything, so had to push back a little, no big deal, big project guys don't worry about it.

TIM: When can we Bypass DEQ permit with the City Erosion Control permit?

ELIZABETH: January, that's what DEQ said. I continue to push the envelope

OUTREACH: Dorothy has been leading in Outreach. She sought out the Forest Ridge Elementary, pulled together 3 field trips in Keizer Rapids Park, about 200 kids total. City Manager let staff from other parts of Keizer participate, so Dorothy lead the hikes, Mikey had the VacCon truck, Debbie Lockhart and Paula Collins told a learning story and served hot chocolate at the amphitheater. We anticipate higher demand for this kind of activity from other schools in the spring. We also had partnerships with Marion County and Marion SWCD.

Billy did an after school program at the Claggett Cr middle school, and we got a second successful grant for this. Dorothy then got a Clear grant as well, so she will be doing after school program this year with collaboration from City of Salem staff.

WATER BILL QUESTIONNAIRE: It's not meant to be scientific, but a quiz to get an idea on what people know about stormwater at the end of this permit period and start of next. Results will help us tailor our outreach based on what we've seen, plus its good outreach in itself. There has been very little negative response so far. Dorothy is tallying the results, and we are getting a LOT of responses!! Dorothy gave out pie charts to show the results (enter paper responses into Survey Monkey, gives Age demographics, answers in pie charts).

COUNCILOR SMITH: When did it go out?

DOROTHY: It went out to half the water bill customers last month, other half will go out this month. We've had about 500 responses in so far, on the first mailing.

ROB/COUNCILORS SMITH AND CAILLIER: Wow, great response! Usually water survey gets 600 back, max. And that's from a separate mailing.

ELIZABETH: We will publish the results with answers and results of survey in the paper.

NPDES PERMIT NEGOTIATIONS: DEQ said they'd be reading our permit renewal package in October (read, Dec), Negotiations in Dec (really more like Feb). Stormwater website has all our renewal docs posted online.

TMDL Implementation Plan: DEQ coordinator is one that likes us to propose what we should do and why. TMDL Imp. Plan is more and more rolled into NPDES process, so we will revise the TMDL Imp Plan once we hear back from DEQ on the NPDES permit.

JON: Asked about NPDES, what made Phase I's different, Sam answered partially, and Eliz said the two types of permits are becoming more the similar over time.

UIC DISCUSSION

JON: *[was providing information, not wearing his 'water resources' cap]* Water resources rule is that if it is a WATER WELL, it must have a licensed driller do the decommission, not just city staff. Not the same for sumps, just wells. So know that just because your following DEQ rules doesn't mean Water Resources rules are same, might need other things as well.

UIC BREAKDOWN SHEET:

COUNCILOR SMITH: This timeline is "within 3 years" of what exactly? ELIZABETH: Of 'permit issuance' or sometimes 'of discovery'.

JON: Within 500 feet from what kind of wells? ELIZABETH: Water or irrigation well.

ELIZABETH: When you get into the Category 3 & 4, we're talking a LOT of UICs to close within the ten year permit term. The good news is there is a GW protectiveness model, which can get us off the hook for closing some (very likely). The cost savings would outweigh model costs, again, very likely.

TIM: Is there any guarantee that the model will get us anything?

ELIZABETH: DEQ has bought off on the model; other municipalities are getting positive feedback and results.

JON: How reliant is Keizer on UICs? Can you do other stormwater?

ELIZABETH: If you just put into MS4, you hurt your TMDL pollutants, so there is no 'free' solution without consequences elsewhere. Plus the cost of building the system to do something else is often expensive or may not even be do-able.

ELIZABETH: One piece of good news is, we TV'ed 33,000 of the UIC system, and something like 7 UICs dropped off the list, not really UICs at all.

COUNCILOR SMITH: Are city staff doing the UIC decommissions? ELIZABETH: Yes.

BILL: We are contracting with someone to extend the MS4 to decommission a UIC right now.

TIM: The stormwater fee now covers the cost of NPDES and TMDL, but do we have enough to cover the cost of UIC permit?

ELIZABETH: We still don't know how much UIC permit will cost to implement, monitor, clean, decommission, etc.

ROB/ELIZABETH: We'll want to manage these more than decommission them.

COUNCILOR SMITH: Why not decommission a bunch?

ELIZABETH/BILL: It's expensive to decommission and we may not have other stormwater options that are as viable.

JON: Do you use Water resources site? Do you find out for sure it's 500 feet? Can you look at closing a well to fix a setback issue?

ELIZABETH: Yes, we are leaving no stone unturned when we consider how to make a UIC 'acceptable' again. But since we don't have the well data checks for GW, we only have well logs, so we made a groundwater model.

SWAC GOALS: Originally the committee came together to design programs and ordinances. What we've learned from the fee increase is that SWAC is very helpful to get the public/council to understand stormwater needs and issues. Future items for the group might include budget implications for UIC program.

ELIZABETH: I'll try to pull a meeting for November or early December, to talk about goals for the group and UIC things, generally plan out the remainder of the year. It helps to keep on base fairly regularly.

TIM: Actual meetings are important to me because it keeps me current, because stormwater regulations are dry stuff, so we need to have meetings to stay educated. It's important for us NON-stormwater folks to meet regularly so can keep up to speed and feel comfortable.

COUNCILOR SMITH: Citizen input is an important part of this group, reviewing the programs and having input.

COUNCILOR CAILLIER: I agree, let's have meetings because it's so much easier to absorb it in a meeting than trying to read a bunch of handouts, in the meeting things can be explained and make much more sense.

TIM - Citizens have given up some of our input because now there is expert staff. It's easier for me to sit back and feel comfortable that you are making good decisions. I like to see Sam here too. I like seeing Marion County and other jurisdictions being a part of our process. Please don't just buy everything the Feds ask for, because it will NEVER be enough to satisfy them.

ELIZABETH: Our aim is to fly right down the middle, not sticking out on either low or high end.

Group agreed it still wanted regular (monthly or 6 week) meetings.