

SWAC Meeting Notes – February 14, 2019

Committee Members Present:

Mark Caillier
Councilor Laura Reid
Councilor Marlene Parsons
Anita Panko
Matt Knudsen

Staff:

Bill Lawyer
Elizabeth Sagmiller
Keare Blaylock

Absent:

Councilor Dan Kohler

Call to Order: Mark called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Elizabeth started the meeting by drawing attention to the Statesman Journal article from February 9, 2019. She explained that cities listed in the article as filing suit against DEQ were all paying a consultant who is a retired employee from the City of Albany. Elizabeth explained that this individual had been involved with the committee working with DEQ for about 5 years on the new permit. Councilor Parsons asked if the committee members all had the opportunity to provide input throughout the process. Elizabeth indicated that they had. Bill Lawyer said that a lot of the really problematic issues with the first drafts of the permit had been resolved – not all, but a lot.

Elizabeth went on to say that the significant increase in stormwater fees listed in the article were not grounded in any real truth. Councilor Parsons asked if Keizer stormwater fees would be going up sharply. Bill Lawyer indicated that he didn't think there would be any significant fee increases in the upcoming year, but he emphasized that staff hasn't really spent a lot of time exploring that concern. Elizabeth indicated that the bulk of the work load would occur within the next couple of years and that staff would be evaluating potential fee implications a little further down the road.

Matt Knudsen reported that his staff had met with the Board of Commissioner's a few weeks ago to provide an overview of the permit and to present the County's options regarding the General Permit. He said that if they found that they could not meet the requirements that they may make a request to DEQ for an Individual Permit, an option that Keizer also has.

Elizabeth said that Keizer staff would focus on moving forward with the General Permit, which becomes effective March 1, 2019. She added that, per requirement, Keizer would continue to implement existing best management practices (BMPs) until new practices could be put into place. Staff is currently working on writing the new Stormwater Management Program Document (SWMP.doc) which will outline how Keizer plans to implement the six minimum control measures (MCMs) to meet the new requirements. Staff has already begun work on the Public Education Plan (MCM 1) and Public Involvement (MCM 2) portions of the program.

Based on the new requirements, Elizabeth said that Keizer would need to provide more educational content to the public and be able to track and assess progress. Keare then presented the committee with a short presentation showing a mock-up of the anticipated changes to the Environmental & Technical Division website. Mark Caillier asked Keare if she/they would add links to partners like the Claggett Creek Watershed Council and Marion Soil & Water Conservation District. Keare agreed to add those links in addition to cross-linking content with other City of Keizer pages. Keare then showed the committee how staff will utilize Google Analytics from the website to evaluate education strategies and practices for effectiveness. She said that combining analytics with social media metrics will also help staff set priorities for future efforts.

Councilors Parsons and Reid suggested that staff invite neighborhood association members to a work session as a way to educate homeowners on the purpose and responsibilities of public stormwater facilities like vegetated swales. Elizabeth indicated that she intended to host an open house to engage the public on the changes to stormwater management and subsequent changes in ordinances, but that staff would definitely explore the work session idea.

In conclusion, Elizabeth asked the committee for a recommendation on whether or not to continue meeting after they completed their review and approval of the draft SWMP.doc. Many felt that the meetings were important but could be held less frequently as staff finished the development stages and moved toward implementation. The committee agreed to continue meeting on a monthly basis until that time.

Mark Caillier concluded the meeting at 5:15 pm.