

SWAC Meeting Notes – March 19, 2019

Committee Members Present:

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

Staff:

Bill Lawyer
Elizabeth Sagmiller
Keare Blaylock
Mike Griffin

Call to Order: Mark called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m.

Elizabeth started the meeting with a discussion on changing the meeting date in order to ensure everyone could attend. The Committee agreed to change the regular meeting date to the first Tuesday of every month (4 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.). Because the March meeting was postponed one week, staff would not have time to prepare materials for discussion before the next meeting (April 2nd), the Committee agreed to forego the April meeting. The next meeting would therefore take place on May 7th. Keare said she would send out a reminder regarding the update.

Elizabeth went over the regulatory updates starting with notifying the Committee that the new General Permit went into effect on March 1st and that staff had received a copy of Keizer's official permit.

In review of the last meeting, Elizabeth explained that staff had completed most of the planning portion for the first two minimum control measures, Public Education and Public Involvement. She said that finalization of those plans would take place after a new Environmental Outreach Coordinator was hired. Staff is currently in the process of recruitment. Staff will provide more details of the Public Education Plan soon.

With regard to the Public Involvement control measure, Elizabeth provided the Committee with a handout showing the goals and best management practices (BMPs) staff has planned to meet the new requirements. She drew attention to the fact that staff was still considering options for the stewardship opportunity BMP (PI-3) and again, was waiting for new staff to help develop that program. As an example of what a stewardship opportunity might look like, Elizabeth referred to a program that Albany is working on called "Make a pact to pack it out." This program is an incentivized photo contest intended to encourage people to properly dispose of trash and to pick up litter while enjoying nature. Contestants would submit photos to Instagram using a unique hashtag. Winners (selected on a monthly basis) would be chosen and awarded a prize like a reusable water bottle.

The other two BMPs were the website, which the group has already discussed, and utilization of the SWAC Committee to develop the Stormwater Management Program Plan, or SWMP.doc. Elizabeth

pointed out that the SWAC would be meeting monthly from March 2019 through February 2020 to assist with the development of the SWMP.doc. After that document is complete, the Committee would only meet bi-annually in spring (May) and fall (Sept) throughout the permit term (until 2023).

Next, Keare presented the Committee with a handout on the Geographic Information System (GIS) and mapping requirements from the General Permit. A brief discussion occurred regarding what GIS is and how staff (and Public Works) will utilize it to assist with implementation, tracking, and assessment of program efforts. Bill noted that the handout only showed the needs of the Environmental & Technical Division and said that the Department is considering creating a GIS Analyst position to support the mapping requirements of the Environmental & Technical Division, as well as other Public Works Divisions such as Parks, Storm, Streets, and Water.

Keare continued by stating that the Division's GIS program was robust and that staff relied heavily on GIS for mapping and spatial analyses, but explained that data needs to be updated frequently and that a process for quality control would need to be implemented. Training users was also going to be a priority moving forward. The handout also listed some of the GIS and mapping exercises used to meet the requirements of the city's Total Daily Maximum Load (TMDL) and Water Pollution Control Facility (WPCF) programs.

Elizabeth then directed the Committee's attention to the two Illicit Discharge handouts in their packet and explained that the civil infraction ordinance (IDDE Ordinance) is not sufficient to meet the conditions of the permit because the enforcement process is too slow to effectively prevent pollution from entering the waterways. Councilor Parsons asked about options for enforcement. Elizabeth said that the way it is now, when an illicit discharge is discovered, staff has to notify a property owner by mail which can take several days. Then, we allow a specified time-frame for the property owner to comply with the ordinance before taking action to eliminate or abate the pollution. Councilors Reid and Parsons supported a change to the ordinance. Elizabeth added that other language changes would be necessary as well, including the list of prohibited discharges (items 1-10 on the IDDE Ordinance handout).

Discussion regarding discharges of wastewater resulting from hosing or cleaning gas stations, auto repair garages, or other automotive service facilities focused on understanding the preferred behaviors (i.e., what auto service professionals should do instead of hosing paved areas into the street or drains). Bill clarified that the drains at gas stations were sanitary sewer drains and not storm drains. As such, it would be acceptable for them to hose the paved area into their drains – just not into MS4.

Bill then defined "MS4" for some members, saying it was an acronym for "municipal separate storm sewer system". Mike added that the difference between the types of drains is important to understand and often confused by the general public. He said that some municipalities have combined storm and sewer systems meaning that wastewater and stormwater travel in the same pipe to a treatment facility. In Keizer, the systems are separate where wastewater/sewer is carried to the treatment plant through pipes owned by Keizer, but maintained by the City of Salem. The stormwater, he explained, is carried through storm or street drains directly to waterways without treatment. Elizabeth said the separate systems were more typical in Oregon, though Portland had some combined systems.

The next topic centered on the discharge of wash water from cleaning impervious surfaces, which includes power-washing and hosing off patios, driveways, sidewalks, etc. (#5). While Bill pointed out that it only applies when detergents are used, it was acknowledged that educating businesses and the

public would be challenging and yet critical. Anita said she was curious about why the permit did not include language about pressure washing buildings – a problem they have seen quite often in Salem.

Mark Caillier brought up a concern about landscape professionals blowing yard debris and dirt into the streets. He suggested staff reach out to that industry to educate them on alternative practices. Elizabeth said that staff was already pursuing opportunities to provide training through outreach partners (Mid-Willamette Outreach Group). Additionally, she said staff and MWOG partners were pursuing training for real estate agents on the benefits and functions of green infrastructure like the vegetated swales that are now in neighborhoods across Keizer. She confirmed that staff would continue to pursue opportunities related to this.

Adding a final comment on the requirements to train all staff (and new staff within 30 days of employment) on illicit discharge identification and response, Elizabeth closed the discussion. She said that the Committee would continue to discuss this at the next meeting, as there were still several important topics to discuss on illicit discharge.

Mark Caillier adjourned the meeting at 5:05 pm.