



Minutes
Water Quality Advisory Council
April 11, 2017
Missoula City-County Health Department
301 West Alder 7:00 p.m.

Present:

Bev Young - WQAC
Bruce Simms - WQAC
Ron Russell - WQAC
Peter Bierbach - WQAC
Don Latham - WQAC
Jen Harrington - WQAC
Ian Magruder - WQAC
Travis Ross - WQD
Andrea Stanley - WQAC
Casey Ryan - WQAC
Peter Nielsen - WQD
Patrick Doyle – UM Masters Student

Yellowstone Pipeline - Letter

There was consensus for support of letter written to Yellowstone Pipeline expressing accolades for being proactive in replacement of sections of pipeline that cross water bodies in Missoula County. This effort is protective of our water resources.

Historically, after the tribes cut off access through the reservation, the pipeline looked to reroute through the Ninemile. The Water Quality Advisory Council was involved in these discussions

Structure of Water Quality District, Board and Advisory Council

The Board has authority to adopt certain types of regulations which it hasn't done. The City has the authority to pass ordinance that applies outside city limits (5 miles). The Water Quality District enforces that ordinance. The Health Code can be enforced by Water Quality District as well. The council would like the organizational chart to be circulated as well as the ordinance. This should be accessible through website as well.

Next meeting: We should go over a charge, organizational chart showing regulatory authority, research, etc.,

Smurfit Stone -

Conference call was this morning (4/11/17). There was a revised schedule presented. Sara Sparks discussed the pcb investigation. There are 3 operable units. The Millsite itself is Operable Unit 2. They are developing a work plan for areas in Operable Unit 2 right now and considering doing this as a time-critical removal (hopefully by the end of 2017). They will put the work plan on the website (EPA) with a two week comment period. This does not include the oily monitoring well (which was in OU 3).

Deep Groundwater Monitoring – The wells were installed and sampled in March along with background wells. We should see results in approximately 6 weeks. There are 3 wells on the Clark Fork Cattle Company property.

The PRPs did not agree to sample Clark Fork Cattle Company well. Sarah Edenberg with MDEQ spoke to this. They got water levels on 3 wells and sampled two of them.

Groundwater Monitoring – PRP's will be submitting an "Annual Groundwater Monitoring Plan". This will be on the website and available for comment.

Berms – They (EPA and PRP Consultants) did a walk through on March 29th and did not note any problems. It appears that they are still in negotiations regarding the Berms. MDEQ has concurred with the county that a thorough stability analysis needs to be conducted. EPA stated that negotiations continue with the PRPs.

Biological Technical Assistance Group – Agencies are looking at the site and making recommendations for filling data gaps. Sanchez, Denver, Susan Wall, Dan meeting with trustee organizations (BLM USFWS BLM Tribes). Trustee organization will make recommendations on further data collection.

Ecological Risk Assessment for Agricultural Lands has been completed. They are looking at contracting out the risk assessments for OU1 and OU2 rather than doing them inhouse.

Agencies are asking for similar dike evaluations and contingency plans.

The PRP's are currently negotiating development of contingency plans for berm failure. They are looking to the current property owner to monitor the dikes. The current owners are unlikely to put up resources necessary to monitor the berms. If the berms were breached, who would be responsible?

Motion by Bev Young: Ian approach Missoulian and Independent, Missoula Current to see if they're interested in picking up a story on the berm vulnerability and if not, to write an Editorial Opinion article to be circulated by council. Seconded by Don Latham. Unanimously passed.

There is no community advisory group meeting this week.

Haz Waste Days –

City is offering space for a collection facility on Scott Street with a collection frequency of twice per week using a new half time employee. Site costs were rising at the Wastewater Treatment Plant site which makes Scott Street more appealing.

Pacific Recycling

Most recent data shows levels of perchloroethylene to be declining however it is too early to determine that this is a trend. Monitoring will continue.

White Pine and Sash

Work is being done on North side of property (next to the new houses being built by Edgell). They are currently digging up saw dust which is a methane-generating issue. Next they'll be moving on to dioxin-contaminated areas later this year. East side of the site will be cleaned up to residential standards. Western side will be commercial standard. This site went through a 25 year old state superfund process. The portion of the site near zip beverage has been contaminated with Pentachlorophenol. Contaminated soil from this was originally planned to be treated with an onsite land treatment unit. If it is less contaminated, they may be able to dispose of it through landfills.

Caras Park

Apparent Low Bidder was Battle Creek Construction from Belgrade, MT. Contract will need to be approved by city council but the bidder came within the project's budget. Construction would begin in Fall 2017.

Submitted by: Travis Ross