



Minutes
Water Quality Advisory Council
March 8, 2016
Missoula City-County Health Department
301 West Alder 7:00 p.m.

Present:

Bev Young – WQAC	Travis Ross - MVWQD	Amy Chadwick - WQAC
Brett Rosenberg – WQAC	Jen Harrington – WQAC	Kali Becher – WQAC
Ron Russell – WQAC	Rebecca Paquette - WQAC	Ian Magruder – WQAC Chair
Bruce Sims – WQAC	Vicki Watson – WQAC	Chris Brick – WQAC
Henry Fassnacht – Msla Resident	Deb Fassnacht – Watershed Education Network and Msla Resident	

Pacific Recycling – Perchloroethylene in groundwater, update and regulatory change

Pacific Steel and Recycling (2600 Latimer) investigated hydrocarbon contamination in stormwater injection wells on the northern part of the recycling yard. As part of the investigation of the site, they had 4 monitoring wells installed. In June, 2015 the first round of sampling showed detections of perchloroethylene in 3 of the 4 monitoring wells with one being slightly above the drinking water standard of 5 ppb. Pacific continued monitoring the wells in October and January. Levels in monitoring well #3 increased from 6.2 ppb to 15 ppb and then to 22 ppb over the monitoring period from June 2015 to January 2016. The Missoula Valley Water Quality District conducted monitoring of private drinking water wells within the vicinity of the site. Properties are not uniformly served by public water in this area. These wells, typically deeper, open-bottomed wells show much lower detections of perchloroethylene (all below the reporting limit of 1 ppb). Because the onsite monitoring well data show groundwater is contaminated above drinking water standards, the District notified DEQ Enforcement division. This complaint is being referred to the groundwater remediation division who will likely issue a notice of violation and work with the responsible party with input from the District towards investigation and remediation. In the meantime, Pacific wants to ascertain whether or not the contamination is coming from off-site. To that end they are installing at least two wells in the generally-accepted up-gradient edge of the property. Pacific has purchased land for a new site at the Wye which is located over a thick clay layer with stormwater managed through a retention pond rather than infiltration. The District feels that this site is far more protective of groundwater than the current location. The current location is for sale. The aquifer has had a history of perchloroethylene contamination albeit levels on this site are among the highest recorded. Since the early 1990's shop floor drains that use subsurface disposal have been closed and the sale of perchloroethylene has been prohibited to reduce levels of perchloroethylene in groundwater. This has been effective.

Update on Smurfit-Stone Remedial Investigation comments

The comments from the Water Quality Advisory council have been forwarded to Sarah Sparks, EPA. The District has recently contracted with River Design Group to provide guidance on proper evaluation of dike stability. Data from the first round of the remedial investigation is anticipated to be available in April. A meeting is scheduled for agencies and organizations committed to site cleanup and restoration to

coordinate. The council would like to have a representative present at this meeting. Jen Harrington will attend and represent the council.

Update on Caras Park Stormwater Project

Responses from the Request for Proposals have come in for final engineering for a stormwater pretreatment device (hydrodynamic separator) at Caras Park. This project was initiated in 2013 and seeks to provide treatment on a 30 inch pipe that discharges to the Clark Fork River at Brennan's Wave and serves approximately 80 acres of impervious surface downtown. Funding for design and construction has been approved by the legislature for \$125K. Remaining funding will come from the City of Missoula, Missoula Redevelopment Agency and the Missoula Valley Water Quality District. Proposals will be reviewed this week with the project going out for bid in late summer. Construction would possibly take place in late fall/winter 2016.

Update on Yellowstone Pipeline Rattlesnake Creek Crossing

The Missoula Conservation District is reviewing Yellowstone Pipeline's application for a 310 permit to trench in a replacement section of pipeline under Rattlesnake Creek at Creek Crossing Rd. The trench is proposed to be 10 feet wide and bury the 10 inch pipeline 5 feet under the creek bed. The current pipeline is 1 ft 7 inches below the creek at the shallowest location. Construction would take place in August to avoid Bull Trout spawning and work in the channel would take approximately 4 hours. There is no diversion/coffer dam proposed. There is a site visit planned in the next month which Peter will attend. The council has several questions/comments:

- Daniel Westberg has drilled wells in the neighborhood. Says the boulders extend for about 17 feet below ground surface with clay below that. Has geotechnical investigation occurred below this depth to ascertain that directional drilling is not practical?
- How would the pipeline be abandoned in place? (Filled with concrete?)
- There's a Northwestern Energy pipeline that's very close (within 20 ft) and other sections of that pipeline have recently been replaced (Summer 2015). Could these replacements be combined and placed in the same trench under the creek? Has anyone checked in with NWE to see about replacement plans?
- There is a 3rd party pipeline shown in the layout? What is this pipeline? Old water main?
- Consider temporary diversion to the irrigation ditch (Brookside) of a portion of the flow to limit turbidity in the main channel.
- Restoration work should be irrigated to ensure long term survival.

Next Meeting: If Remedial Investigation results are available, this should be a topic

Public comment on items not on the agenda: Jen Harrington attended the public meeting in the Potomac Regarding Kennecott Mining Company's mineral exploration in the Garnet's (Ashby Creek). Core samples did not show enough copper content to make mining in the area profitable. The company is abandoning exploration efforts at this time though this might change as other supplies diminish or the market changes.

Submitted by: Travis Ross