



Minutes
 Water Quality Advisory Council
 March 14, 2017
 Missoula City-County Health Department
 301 West Alder 7:00 p.m.

Present:

Kelly Willett – WQAC	Brett Rosenberg - WQAC	Vicki Watson – UM
Ron Russell - WQAC	Travis Ross – WQD Staff	Ian Magruder – WQAC
Peter Nielsen - WQD	Rachel Corley – WQAC	Becca Paquette – WQAC
Bruce Sims - WQAC	Andrea Stanley – WQAC	Peter Nielsen – WQD
Chris Brick – WQAC	Patrick Doyle – UM	Lucretia Olson – WQAC
Jen Harrington – WQAC	Graduate Student	Kali Becher - WQAC

Lolo Groundwater Investigation Project

The Water Quality District will be assisting the Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology in data collection for the Groundwater Investigation Project up Lolo Creek. This goal of this project is to determine why Lolo Creek appears to be going dry more frequently than historically. The Bureau will be looking at groundwater data, surface water data, temperatures, precipitation, climate data, etc and developing a water budget for the system.

Council members discussed potential causes of dewatering including; cumulative development of groundwater, irrigation practice changes, Interrupted flow to the mouth – due to aggradation/deposition of sediments and gravels from fires

Smurfit Stone Container

The council submitted comments in January on groundwater work plan. The revised work plan is out. There is a new deep groundwater monitoring well location (SMW-18).

One of the deep production wells (Deep Well 11) is being used as a background well. No. 4 and No 1 at 15700 Marcure Ln are being used for background. All the analytes will be sampled.

The monitoring wells have not been drilled. Jon Harvala was looking at data and noted that NFMW-2 had measurable PCB and the driller log noted oily material. The work plan has been revised to look at this area for PCB investigation. The topic of berm stability came up in December when EPA was here. EPA did request that responsible parties investigate the berm stability. They responded with a letter stating that it would be better to wait till investigation data came back. They did propose to have a site inspection in the next two weeks using one of the methods that we recommended which is Corps of Engineers method using a licensed engineer. Peter is going to request Matt Daniels from River Design Group to highlight some methods to use during the inspection. The council is concerned that one component of past berm stability was the hydrostatic pressure of the filled ponds. As the ponds are now drained, there is no hydrostatic pressure to resist the river. The biggest flood these berms have seen is a 30 year event in 1997. They had a leak out at one point through a rodent hole.

The council opted to not submit further comment on the revised work plan at this time and to wait until mid-April to review available data and decide.

Pipeline Safety

There was some discussion on developing an Op Ed piece to discuss relative risk of over land transport of fuels by rail/truck and the safety of pipelines. There was a bill in the legislature was to prohibit drilling petroleum pipelines under rivers. The bill did not make transmittal. The council opted to write a letter to Yellowstone Pipeline thanking them for recent safety upgrades (proactively replacing sections of pipeline under surface water). Ian will prepare this.

Submitted by: Travis Ross

Submitted by: Travis Ross