



Missoula City-County Health Department

**WATER QUALITY ADVISORY COUNCIL**

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## WATER QUALITY ADVISORY COUNCIL

### Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 10, 2018 at 7:00 pm

Health Board Conference Room #210 (Second Floor)

Missoula City-County Health Department—301 West Alder

**Present:** Bruce Sims, Ian Magruder, Todd Seib, Travis Ross, Jen Harrington, Bev Young, John DeArment, Don Latham, Casey Ryan, Ken Crisp, Lauren Sullivan, Tyler Etzel, Lindsay Wancour, Patrich Doyle, Andrea Stanley, Kali Becher, Vicki Watson, Peter Bierbach, Molly Davidson, David Brooks, Karen Hughes, Cat Wiechmann, Cody Bodman, Kelly Willett.

**Notetaker:** Todd Seib

### Agenda Items

1. Updates/Review Action Items from last meeting – Ian Magruder
2. Caras Park Phase II Stormwater Treatment Retrofit – Molly Davison, Morrison Maierle
3. Max Wave update and discussion -- Molly Davison
4. Missoula County Landuse Map Revisions – Karen Hughes, Missoula County Community and Planning Services
5. Upcoming agenda items discussion
6. Public comment on items not included on this agenda

### Meeting Notes

1. **Recap/update from last meeting -- Ian Magruder:** Council submitted comments for the Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessment documents on Smufit site. Council members at EPA public CAG meeting in Frenchtown last night gave brief update. The impression was that DEQ and EPA are moving forward, defensive, and that there was a lot of talking past each other. The EPA addressed concerns on grid sizes and admitted they had made assumptions about what kind of development the county would allow. EPA reps also recognized that the dumps are a source of contamination to groundwater onsite but it's not clear if more dump soil or water samples will be taken. EPA invited all interested members to a site visit May 10<sup>th</sup> at 1pm.
2. **Caras Park Phase II Stormwater Treatment Retrofit -- Molly Davison:** The first phase of the Caras Park stormwater project was completed in fall 2017 and involved the installation of the HDS (hydrodynamic separator). This unit serves a capture area of about 60 acres and acts to remove floating debris and sludge prior to allowing discharge of stormwater to the outfall above Brennon's Wave. The idea is for this unit to treat first flow events that have highest level of contaminants. The HDS does a lot to treat contaminants but there are still concerns of

bacteria, suspended sediment, and temperature impacts of outfall. The second phase of this project involve installation of a infiltration basin to further address these impacts and treat water further. A DNRC planning grant has been awarded and now M&M are trying to get implementation dollars. The DNRC Renewable Resource implementation grant is due mid May, grant award would be July 2019, and design/construction would be 2019-2020. Council volunteered to write support letter for the implementation grant.

- 3. Max Wave update and discussion -- Molly Davison:** Approximately 4 yrs ago the Brennan's Wave group initiated a project known as the Max Wave. The location would be along the main channel of the Clark Fork River south of the Broadway island across from the Osprey stadium. The island is formed by an irrigation channel along the north side. The plan is to have two wave structures. The main benefits of the project include better irrigation diversion, more recreation opportunities, ADA access, economic development, bank restoration, adding vegetation, and removing current concrete slabs and junk out of river. Planning has taken into account fish passage. For example they've modeled flow velocities and designed AOP (aquatic organism passage) channels adjacent to wave structures. This was part of a response to address concerns from FWP. A bridge is planned to allow access to and from the island as well as increased ADA river access to main channel at Osprey park. She said they will need to install a diversion dam during construction of wave structures. Private donors are involved with funding the project.

There were some concerns and responses from council members and the public. One concern was about public comment and involvement opportunities. Some people not aware of the project at all. The Army Corp of Engineer permit will require public comment. That will start next week. The DNRC also has to follow NEPA or MEPA which involves EIS and comment opportunity. The Clark Fork Coalition (CFC) has consulted with M&M on this project but does also have concerns. Namely that there are diverse interests for the river corridor and Max Wave may not reflect what the community wants. There is a fear that Max Wave could set a precedent for engineering rivers for whitewater use. In contrast to Brennan's Wave which was sold as irrigation structure with side benefit of wave, Max wave is basically engineered whitewater for the sake of whitewater. CFC wants more conversation with stakeholders to see if we want to be like other states (Colorado), where river channels are all engineered for whitewater. Molly indicated that for rivers to be good candidates for engineered waves there needs to be good hydraulic drop and so there is not a lot of opportunity to add waves anywhere. Trout Unlimited added that their group basically adds all the same benefits to the river that this project does minus the need to add materials to develop the wave. In other words, this structure basically doesn't have to be here in order to get the benefits. However, Molly explained that this project's funding sources are in place largely because of the wave and that other agencies are not offering to pay for a restoration project. Some council members see benefits as going beyond that of solely adding a whitewater feature and include cleaning the dangerous debris and having better irrigation diversion control. There will be opportunities for the council to weigh in on the public comment periods if we feel there are water quality issues we want to see addressed.

- 4. Missoula County Landuse Map Revisions – Karen Hughes:** The Missoula Area Mapping Project is basically a guide for community development and land use. The last time a map was developed was in the 70s. Missoula is seeing growth at about 2000 people per year and it is

time for an update to the map. One exception was in the Target Range area where they developed a “neighborhood plan” a few years ago and updated a land use map at that time. The planning group is talking to communities about growth and what values of communities are. They are asking “What don’t we want to lose?” and “What could we gain by good planning?”. They are not doing entire county all at once, instead starting at urban area. One goal will be to update the maps of the neighborhood plans as a result of this process. They are seeing diverse interests in terms of how to manage and plan for growth thus far. Land use map would be adopted by commissioners and isn’t enforceable but it could guide new zoning. Zoning and subdivision regs are really what determines how communities are developed but since only 6% of county is zoned it doesn’t cover everything. Karen demonstrated how to use the map online and add points and comments to the map. The link is: <https://www.missoulaareamapping.com/>. Along similar line, a Parks, Recreation and Open Space plan is also currently being developed. If the WQAC has resource info (nitrates, soils, etc.) info that is relevant we should submit comments to Andrew Hagemeyer but of course everyone is welcome to comment on map as individuals.

#### **5. Upcoming agenda items discussion**

- Council may submit Max Wave comments, group didn’t feel strongly that it is a big water quality issue. Would have 30 days after request opens.
- Household haz waste facility update from WQD staff
- Site visit to Smurfit is slated for May 10<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm. We may want to talk about what we are going to be looking for.
- We’ll have responses to our comments on the HHRA and ERA back from EPA by next meeting to talk about
- Options for mitigation or removal of rattlesnake dam.

#### **6. Public comment on items not included on this agenda**

Vicky Watson reminded group that Earth week is coming up. University display called walk through time around Oval that we are all invited to visit. Also the Clark Fork and Kootenai River Basins Council will be hosting their second annual meeting April 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. Meeting will take place at the University Center in Missoula. Agenda can be found online. It includes a field trip to Lolo Cr on Monday as well as a field trip to Smurfit-Stone site. Free event.

#### **Action Items**

1. Council Support letter to M&M for DNRC implementation grant for Phase II of Caras Park stormwater project.
2. The Missoula County Planning group leading the land use map project (Andrew Hagemeyer) would like information that would be helpful like high groundwater areas, our comments that relate to water quality/quantity. We can send to him directly or use online map. Basically think about what could come with growth, what the trade-offs are, and what is the most responsible way to move forward.