



Missoula City-County Health Department

WATER QUALITY ADVISORY COUNCIL

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WATER QUALITY ADVISORY COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, June 12, 2018 at 7:00 pm

Health Board Conference Room #210 (Second Floor)

Missoula City-County Health Department—301 West Alder

Present: John DeArment, Jen Harrington, Michelle Hutchins, Kelley Willet, Kali Becher, Peter Bierbach, Todd Seib, Casey Ryan, Ken Crisp, Andrea Stanley, Cody Bodman, Vicki Watson, Bruce Sims, Don Latham, Lyndsay Wancour, Cat Wiachmann, Ian McGregor, Shannon Therriault, Travis Ross

Notetaker: Todd Seib

Agenda Items

1. Review Action Items from May meeting
2. Smurfit Stone – Flooding issues
3. Household Hazardous Waste Facility Update
4. Nominations (Chair and Vice Chair)
5. Stormwater Facility Plan – Public Process Timeline
6. Educational sign ideas on Clark Fork at Jacob's Island
7. Upcoming agenda items discussion
8. Public comment on items not included on this agenda
9. Adjourn

Meeting Notes

1. **Review Action Items:** Andrea will write letter of support for county for DNRC mine reclamation grant project on Ninemile Creek (forgot to review this)
2. **Smurfit Stone—Travis:** Travis gave background on the flood event and our involvement with Smurfit. As a result of the flooding an Emergency was declared for Missoula County and a Joint Incident Command was formed May 7th. The flood was basically a 20 year event on the lower Clark Fork. The Army Corp of Engineers (ACE) was in town as a result. At this point we hadn't been getting any word from the PRP's consultant or EPA about berm inspections and were prepared to exercise our emergency powers as Health Officers if need be to access the site. We were able to have ACE coordinate with Wakefield and obtained access on May 11th. This is basically when the river was peaking. Onsite the WQD, ACE, and the NewField's engineers noticed discolored water and multiple boils at pond 13. Elevations weren't taken during that inspection though. Around the same time we received some aerial photos (May 13th) that

showed some discolored water on the internal side of the berms at pond 13. The temporary fix for the boils was a ring seal to attempt to equalize the pressure differential. That didn't work so a seepage seal of 3500 cu yds of material (from pond 18) was used to further repair boil area. The county used a drone to get some footage of the repair on May 21st and in that footage it was evident that some tea-colored water was leaching from the site into the river. This prompted more public awareness through FB posts and news articles. State senators and the county commissioners wrote letters to the EPA and in response the EPA sent out their Emergency response team to develop an interim contingency plan. The plan stipulated daily inspections of the berm during flood stage, more specific communication, and included long term recommendations. We asked that they sample the site for dioxins and metals of the tea colored water and upstream/downstream area. A trend wasn't seen with dioxins. Challenge is that because the surface water standard is so much lower than detection limit a ND value can actually still be over standard. A high-volume sampling method does exist and gets detection limits closer to standards. **(Action Item)** Metals data indicates the contaminants are leaving site.

John mentioned the Natural Resource Damage program claim. The NRD is a multi-agency group (state, forest service, fish and wildlife service, tribes, etc.) that holds a resource in trust. They will make an assessment of damages and assign a value to those damages. The prps have 30 days to decide to participate in the assessment.

Still waiting on berm study and Risk Assessment draft. Monitoring plan isn't out yet (Addendum 8). EPA's Region 8 Administrator came out and (Doug Benevento) and apologized about communication and wants to know what our ideas were for monitoring and other plans for the remediation of the site. Andrea mentioned seepage meters to look for communication between the site and river. IR maybe or a dye study? **(Action Item)**

3. **HHHW – Travis:** We were looking to build a facility at the Scott St. City Shops. Since then we've considered the limits of the site including neighborhood, park, etc. and implications of partnering with city. The other location we considered is at the Health Dept's Junk Vehicle facility on DeChamps Ln. This site is out of the way and a new road would need to be built but county owns the land. Another consideration is siting the facility on Republic property since that's more of a convenient location for customers and similar to how other cities operate household haz waste disposal (it would be rare for a WQD to operate a facility). Options include we build it they operate, we build and operate, etc. Challenges for any include needing good traffic flow and figuring out how to charge people, especially if out of county. It was suggested that we see if other counties want to contribute funding. Anyway, we wanted a facility to be built by now but it's going to take longer. The last time we conducted a Haz Waste Days was in Sept of 2016 so we'll be doing one this Fall to stem the tide.
4. **Nominations:** Currently no vice chair on WQAC (it was Brett). Ian is Chair but happy to give that up if there is interest. Ken Crisp and Andrea Stanley are interested. We realized we need to get better at looking at this on annual basis. Initially decided to vote at next meeting since voting wasn't an agenda item but then voted by paper. Ken Crisp got the votes for the vice chair.

5. **Stormwater plan update—Travis:** The new stormwater utility has devised a Facility and Operations Plan. The plan goes to City Council on June 27th. Our issue thus far is the high level of proposed maintenance to the existing levees, including removing all vegetation. The cost to do this is \$684K and includes herbicide application over many years. For a little background, if there was a flood and Missoula suffered flood damage as a result of levees being damaged or breached, we could receive federal funding as part of the public law 84-99 Rehabilitation Program. But to be eligible for this program, the city of Missoula must comply with the USACE Rehabilitation and Inspection Program (RIP), which requires the removal of vegetation greater than 2 inches in diameter from levees. ACE does yearly inspections of levees to assess eligibility. A large part of vegetation removal justification is for easy access to the levees for their annual inspections. So the vegetation removal is more related to the PL 84-99 program. Certification of levees is different and is required by FEMA (not ACE), and neither one actually does the certification. Certification is done by an engineer and is more for risk classification by FEMA for flood insurance maps. Clark Fork and Grant Cr levees are both certified (map handout at meeting).

ACE was challenged at some point and vegetation removal is no longer a requirement for eligibility in the public law 84-99 rehabilitation program. King County, WA has found that that incorporating native vegetation in flood facility repairs decreases flood damage susceptibility while supporting the objectives of the Clean Water Act and Endangered Species Act. There is also research that shows that mammal holes in the levees cause more damage and areas are more susceptible to mammals if barren. We can comment as a council, go to city council to comment as individuals, or both. Group agrees this is good for water quality. **(Action item)**

6. **Jacobs island sign - Vicky Watson:** A sign exists at the Van Buran bridge by canal. Content is about Milltown progress but plastic is faded and info is out of date. City parks is in charge of it but old sign was from EPA. Council has permission to add new content but we would need to buy plastic covers. Grant for making new info? Rotate info? Some people showed interest in getting aquifer or other info in there. Need to discuss more at future meetings **(Action item)**.
7. **Public Comment:** I186 and I184 petitions made available by Vickie Watson.
8. **Upcoming agenda item suggestions:** (didn't get to this)
9. **Adjourned**

Action Items

1. Ian volunteered to send EPA note about using high volume sampling and start to collect comments about our concerns on the site (Doug Benevento request)
2. Ian will write letter to public works committee and send out to group (Michelle was going to send some research to Bruce, who was then going to get stuff to Ian)
3. Come up with ideas for Jacobs island sign content and discuss at next meeting