



Missoula City-County Health Department

WATER QUALITY ADVISORY COUNCIL

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WATER QUALITY ADVISORY COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, July 10, 2018 at 7:00 pm

Health Board Conference Room #210 (Second Floor)

Missoula City-County Health Department—301 West Alder

Present: Deb Fassnacht, Lauren Sullivan, Andrea Stanley, Kelley Willet, Casey Ryan, Patrick Doyle, Todd Seib, Travis Ross, Bev Young, Bruce Sims, Tyler Etzel, Ian Magruder, Ken Crisp, Shannon Therriault.

Notetaker: Todd Seib

Agenda Items

1. Review Action Items from last meeting
2. Educational sign ideas on Clark Fork at Jacob's Island – Group discussion
3. Overview of Water Quality Advisory Council – Travis Ross/Ian Magruder
4. Water Quality Advisory Council Charge
5. Upcoming Agenda Items discussion
6. Public comment on items not included on this agenda
7. Adjourn

Meeting Notes

1. **Review of Action Items – Ian/Travis:** The letter about levy vegetation management was submitted to the Public Works committee at the city council meeting and concerns relayed by Tod and Michelle. The rate study will go back in front of city council in August. Ian mentioned the concerns levy engineers have about deep rooted vegetation and the effects them falling. This is what Bob and the engineers have mentioned as well. The EPA letter about dioxin testing methods was sent out to the group and will go out to the EPA if there are no other edits/suggestions.
2. **Educational Sign at Jacob's Island:** Vicki brought this up at the last meeting (see June meeting notes). Basic idea is the content of the sign is outdated and the plastic cover is currently faded making the content unreadable. We offered to come up with different ideas for replacement content. Vicki's concept was something that changed content periodically and offered one idea would be to highlight the Clark Fork and Kootenai River Basins Council and State Water plan info. Ideas from the group included a "Stewards of Streams" concept where the different local conservation/watershed groups are showcased (also adding a QR code so passerby's can learn

more about each organization), “how to be a good steward” idea with info about using the river responsibly, having a “Then and Now” type display showcasing the positive post-dam impacts on the river and floodplain (it was mentioned that Sean Sullivan had a success story with benthic macroinvertebrates, Andrew Wilcox might have images and sediment research related results, and Mike Castudio might also have photos). It was also pointed out that the current sign is not in reference to where you are. The Rattlesnake creek dam is coming out too and is close to that actual location of the sign. There could be “you are here” map on the display and then different topics could be explored in context of that map over time like Milltown dam removal then and now, then rattlesnake cr. dam, maybe one that is general about the Missoula Valley Aquifer and Glacial Lake Missoula. Other ideas tossed out include one about flooding impacts and history, and river habitat. The WQD has a river habitat sign that was put together by JoAnne Yardley. Group agreed that it would be nice to have some signs that were able to be made or that are already available through other groups. In terms of size we have two 42” square panels. **Action items** – Kelly will organize our thoughts and send out a ranked list and Travis will contact Mike Castudio about Milltown.

- 3. Overview of WQAC – Travis/Ian:** Given our newer membership Travis and Ian wanted to give an overview of the WQAC. This conversation spanned duties and formation of the WQD, the board, the WQAC, the “charge”, and how all these interrelate:

Title 7 chapter 13 MCA was established in 1991 and allowed local county commissioners to establish Water Quality Districts (WQDs). Ours did that in 1993. That same law stipulates that the county commissioners are to appoint a board of directors. The board of directors have duties, including implementing a water quality program. The board is made up of 3 county reps, 3 city reps, a physician, and a conservation district member. Currently the board members are Julie Armstrong, James Stevens, Jean Curtiss, Ross Miller, Pamela Boyd, Debbie Johnston, Robert Senger, and Paul Parson. The role of the WQAC is to advise/offer guidance to the board of directors. But the WQAC can also advise the health board as well. Our WQAC was actually established prior to the formation of the WQD. The advisory council can be thought of as a technical team that advises the board on water quality topics. Common ways for an advisory council and a board to interact is for the advisory council to look at new rules, recommend that letters be sent, make recommendations for the board to implement through the WQD, etc.

Title 75-5-311 MCA gives the municipalities and county the ability to adopt local ordinances and gives DEQ authority to monitor activities of WQD’s. Because our ordinance is a city ordinance, it is applicable to the city limits and 5 miles outside the city limits because it is a health-related ordinance (has to do with extraterritorial powers of the Mayor). The district has its own geographical boundary which is set by initial resolution and can be changed by the board of directors. The weird thing is that the ordinance boundary and WQD boundary aren’t the same thing. One topic that was brought up is that we will likely be revising our ordinance in the near future.

Accreditation requires the Health Department to review documents every so often. The Water Quality District is a part of the City-County Health Department. One document is the “WQAC Charge”. The board gives the council the charge. This needs to be updated/adopted this year. Likely to be on boards’ agenda before end of year.

There was discussion about how agendas/topics for meetings are set. The charge does require us to only discuss items listed on the agenda. The question came up as to whether a board member should have more of a role in setting agenda. Typically a board member would come to council meetings and be a liason. We could start doing that again. Currently (and for awhile), a WQD person (Peter and now Travis) looks back at “upcoming agenda items” from previous meeting minutes and proposes an agenda and then Ian approves it. **Action item:** we all review it, send suggestions to Ian, and then the council will make a statement to board about it.

4. **WQAC Charge - Travis/Shannon: this was basically wrapped into the previous agenda item.**
5. **Upcoming Agenda Items:** Household Hazardous Waste Facility, Homeless camps on the river, Berm stability study and LIDAR results from Smurfit. 2018-19 Groundwater monitoring plan for Smurfit.
6. **Public comment:** none

Action Items

1. Sign ideas organized and then re-discuss next meeting.
2. Travis contacting Mike Castudio (Milltown)
3. Review charge and come up with recommendations.