

MINUTES OF THE WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE MEETING
December 17, 2014, 3:00 p.m.
Dunes City Hall

A meeting of the Water Quality Committee of Dunes City was held at the Dunes City Hall, on Wednesday, December 17, 2014. Members present were Chairperson Jamie Mills, Steve Hager, Bonnie Allen, Dave Dumas, and Ken Pesnell. Dave Gosselin were absent and excused. Also present was Mark Chandler.

The meeting was called to order at 3:11 p.m. The minutes of the September 17, 2014 meeting were read and discussed. Upon motion made by Bonnie Allen, seconded by Steve Hager and passed unanimously, the minutes, as amended, were approved. The minutes of the November 19, 2014 meeting were read and discussed. Upon motion made by Bonnie Allen, seconded by Ken Pesnell and passed unanimously, the minutes, as amended, were approved.

Water Testers Report: The water testers indicated that Woahink Secchi Disk readings were good at 23.7 feet. Dissolved Oxygen tests were also good.

Siltcoos looks “soupy.” Turbidity was high at the Westlake boat ramp (about twice as high as normal). New samples were taken just before the meeting and will be put under the microscope and examined after today’s meeting.

Mark indicated that Jerry Curran agreed to be the water testing scheduler and provided Jamie with Mr. Curran’s contact information.

TMDL Meetings: Steve Hager reported that there have been no meetings since the last meeting of the Water Quality Committee.

OLD BUSINESS:

Website Update Status Report: there is nothing new to report. Jamie was asked to check with City staff regarding the status of putting the information on the website.

Boat Flushing: Jamie reported that one of the councilors at the last meeting suggested that the signs posted by Dunes City be changed to say “boat flushing” rather than “boat washing.” Another councilor suggested contacting a graduate student to determine how much boat flushing is actually taking place at Woahink. The Mayor had indicated that boat manufacturing companies should be requested to change their handbooks so that they do not recommend boat flushing in freshwater lakes after saltwater boating activities.

Bonnie suggested that the committee look at the science to evaluate the actual threat to the lakes. Discussion followed. Bonnie reminded the committee that Dan Schewlakow was agreeable to the installation of a “counter” at the boat ramp to determine usage. Jamie was asked to invite Rich Miller or some other Portland State representative to come speak to the Committee about the water quality risks of boat flushing.

Goal Setting/Budget: Committee goals were discussed. Jamie reviewed the two goals that had been previously set. Those two are: 1) to successfully continue the water testing program after Mark Chandler leaves; and 2) to ensure that all water testing data is preserved safely, backed up sufficiently, and all kept at Dunes City. Other goals identified are: 3) Change the Dunes City signs to say “boat flushing” rather than “boat washing”; 4) develop or obtain a handout or sign at the boat ramp that shows the location of boat flushing facilities; 5) keep the highway 101 barrier on the list, but put it on the back burner unless an opportunity arises to address the concern; 6) prepare newsletter articles about the importance of riparian areas to drinking water protection and property values; 7) plan and establish a water quality sampling program for Siltcoos Lake that relies on volunteers to take samples off their private docks; 8) prepare HAB mitigation grant to be ready to submit to NOAA in 2017; and 9) work with Honeyman State Park toward installation of concrete or rock steps to control erosion at the dive park.

In furtherance of these goals, Jamie was instructed to contact Dan Schewlakow and ask him to attend a future meeting to discuss the dive park and boat flushing issues. She was also asked to see if Rich Miller, Vanessa, or Mark Sytsma could come to meet with the committee to discuss the threat posed by boat flushing and possible HAB mitigation activities on Siltcoos Lake.

NEW BUSINESS:

Steve Hager asked how many meetings had been held by the Committee during 2014. Discussion followed. During the discussion, Jamie inquired as to whether the water testers were still signing in on the volunteer sign up sheet for Dunes City. The answer was negative. Jamie will check to see if volunteers still need to sign up in order to be covered by the City’s insurance. It was also suggested that Committee Chairman should prepare end of the year reports of committee activities for the year.

INPUT/SUGGESTIONS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND GENERAL PUBLIC:

Jamie reported to Bonnie that the septic system she was concerned about had passed inspection and been pumped, but that she intended to check the file to see what type of system it is and if it has been inspected again recently.

Another committee member expressed concern about a tree removal project in the neighborhood, indicating that the trees had all been removed down to the lake’s edge. Jamie indicated she would look into the matter to ensure the City was aware and that Conservation Committee had done an inspection before tree removal was done.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 21, 2014 at 3:00 p.m. Jamie indicated she did not know if she would still be chairman of the committee at that time, but would work with any new committee chair to ensure a smooth transition. Jamie reminded those who might be interested that they were going to look at the Siltcoos Lake water sample under the microscope following the meeting. There being no further business to come before the Water Quality Committee, upon motion made by Dave Dumas, seconded by Bonnie Allen, and passed unanimously, the meeting adjourned at 4:46 p.m.

Jamie Mills, Secretary of the meeting

The proceedings of the Dunes City Water Quality Committee meeting were recorded on tape, and are on file at Dunes City Hall. Once approved by the Water Quality Committee, these written minutes will be available at Dunes City Hall and online at www.dunescity.com

*VOLUNTEER HOURS (this meeting only, includes minutes, document, and meeting prep):
14.0 HOURS (Does NOT include water tester volunteer time)*