

MINUTES OF THE WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE MEETING
November 19, 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, November 19, 2014. Members present were Chairperson Jamie Mills, Steve Hager, Bonnie Allen and Mark Chandler. Ken Pesnell, Dave Gosselin, and Dave Dumas were absent and excused.

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. The minutes of the September 17, 2014 meeting were read and discussed. Numerous changes need to be made, so consideration of the minutes was tabled to the next meeting.

Water Testers Report: The water testers indicated that Woahink Secchi Disk readings were lower than they had been for a long time, 15 to 19 feet, but that there was a lot of surface chop. They reported that the lake has “turned over”. No big surprises in Dissolved Oxygen test results. Siltcoos had a 5.8 feet Secchi Disk reading and its temperature was cooler than Woahink. pH readings were all okay.

TMDL Meetings: Steve Hager reported that there is now a new app for the Bacteria working group that gives data for every testing site from Lincoln City to the Siltcoos river. He also reported that the Sediment working group took a survey of the participants and came up with 150+ factors affecting sediment. They ran 116 of those factors that were preliminarily identified as most important through the model to determine important factors that impact sediment. The factors identified as most important are: rainfall in the past 3 years, creek flow vs. slope, bedrock vs. sandstone vs. basalt (geology), elevation – most were primarily climate and geology issues. Surprisingly, population density and private forest ownership rate very low on the list of factors that increase sediment.

Steve Hager reported that the Bacteria Technical Working Group (TWG) is spending a lot of time discussing the model that is being used. Steve reported that he and Dave Waltz both agree the hydrology portion of the model has a problem in that the method used to calculate flows is flawed.

OLD BUSINESS:

Boat Washing: Bonnie Allen indicated that there were not a lot of volunteers who came forward to observe the boat ramp and that perhaps boat washing/flushing was not as big a concern as initially believed.

Water Tester Training: Bonnie Allen and others feel that the best training is done hands-on on the boat. The others present agreed and it was decided not to pursue training videos.

Website Update Status Report: Mark Chandler reported that all of the water testing data has been given to office staff for inclusion on the website.

NEW BUSINESS:

NOAA HAB Grant: Jamie reported on the NOAA grant funding available for harmful algal bloom research, planning and mitigation. The current cycle is in research (2015), then planning (2016). The next cycle for mitigation in the coastal lakes area is in 2017.

Goal Setting/Budget: Committee goals were discussed briefly with two goals being identified immediately. 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. Mark Chandler reported that he has a number of records that will need to be delivered to Dunes City, but he wants them to be preserved and backed up well before he drops them off permanently. Further goal setting discussion was tabled to a future meeting.

INPUT/SUGGESTIONS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND GENERAL PUBLIC:

Bonnie Allen expressed a concern regarding a septic system in her neighborhood. Jamie indicated she would look into the matter.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 17, 2014 at 3:00 p.m. Jamie announced that there will be a going away/ retirement party Mark Chandler immediately following this meeting. There being no further business to come before the Water Quality Committee, upon motion made by Steve Hager, seconded by Mark Chandler, and passed unanimously, the meeting adjourned at 4:10 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):
7.0 HOURS (Does NOT include water tester volunteer time)*