

# Water Quality Roundtable

## Meeting Notes

### DEQ Water Quality Roundtable

January 15, 2019  
10:00 am to 12:00 pm  
Oregon DEQ Lloyd District Building  
700 NE Multnomah Street, Conference Room Floor 3  
Portland, Oregon 97232

#### List of attendees

##### In-person

Ken Yates, Oregon Water Resources Congress  
Bob Baumgartner, Clean Water Services  
Morgan Gratz-Weiser, Oregon Environmental Council  
Mark Landauer, Special Districts Assoc. of Oregon  
Chandra Ferrari, Trout Unlimited  
Kathryn Van Natta, Northwest Pulp and Paper  
Jerome Rosa, Oregon Cattlemen's Association  
Susie Smith, Oregon Assoc. Clean Water Agencies  
Jennifer Wigal, DEQ  
*WIGAL.Jennifer@deq.state.or.us*  
Justin Green, DEQ  
*GREEN.Justin@deq.state.or.us*  
Michele Martin, DEQ  
*MARTIN.michele@deq.state.or.us*  
Rian vanden Hooff, DEQ

*HOOFF.Rian@deq.state.or.us*

Jeff Navarro, DEQ

*NAVARRO.Jeffrey@deq.state.or.us*

Annalisa Bhatia, DEQ

*BHATIA.Annalisa@deq.state.or.us*

##### By phone

Tracy Rutten, League of Oregon Cities

Tami Kerr, Oregon Dairy Farmers Assoc.

Jenny Dresler, Oregonians for Food and Shelter

Ellen Miller, Oregon Home Builders Assoc.

Kelsey Wilson, for Oregon Business & Industry

Peggy Lynch, League of Women Voters of Oregon

Katie Fast, Oregonians for Food and Shelter

Tammy Dennee, Oregon Dairy Farmers Assoc.

Justin Green, DEQ

Katie Fast, Oregonians for Food and Shelter

Tammy Dennee, Oregon Dairy Farmers Assoc.

Tammy Dennee, Oregon Dairy Farmers Assoc.

Tammy Dennee, Oregon Dairy Farmers Assoc.

Tammy Dennee, Oregon Dairy Farmers Assoc.



State of Oregon  
Department of  
Environmental  
Quality

#### Water Quality

700 NE Multnomah St.,  
Suite 600  
Portland, OR 97232  
Phone: 503-229-5696  
800-452-4011  
Fax: 503-229-6762  
Contact: Justin Green  
[www.oregon.gov/DEQ](http://www.oregon.gov/DEQ)

*DEQ is a leader in restoring, maintaining and enhancing the quality of Oregon's air, land and water.*

#### Agenda

Time	Topic	Who
10:00 a.m.	Welcome, Introductions	Justin Green, WQ Division Administrator
10:10 a.m.	2018 NPDES Permit Issuance Plan Update	Jeff Navarro
10:20 a.m.	DEQ Budget FY 2019-21	Rian vanden Hooff, (Interim) Legislative and Policy Analyst
10:30 a.m.	Updates: Recent actions and activities	Jennifer Wigal, WQ Division Deputy Administrator
11:00 a.m.	Impacts from Federal shutdown	Justin Green and Jennifer Wigal
11:10 a.m.	Group Discussion	All
11:50 a.m.	Next Steps	Justin Green
12:00 p.m.	Adjourn	

## Comments

- Request to see the list of NPDES permits that are backlogged and the years each of them are administratively continued. DEQ will provide this list with its Annual Permitting Program Report, scheduled to be issued shortly.
- Request for DEQ to continue online reporting of the progress on the NPDES permit backlog.
- Comment about making sure the NPDES permits are implementable and take into consideration customer service and accountability.
- Recommendation to communicate with the 2018 NPDES permit holders about their experience with the permit process; what worked well and what can be improved.
- Comment about TMDLs, in support of ensuring DEQ has the resources to monitor quality and standards while NPDES permits are being worked on for issuance.
- DEQ commented that the permit issuance process is iterative and the permit planning and permit readiness reviews are used for permit development.
- Recommendation for DEQ to include permit holders in the planning and readiness reviews and include trade associations and interest groups in these conversations.
- Request for sufficient flexibility in issuance plan implementation. When unanticipated permitting challenges are encountered with a specific facility, DEQ should have the ability to re-consider the prioritization schedule and shift attention to other permits, if necessary.
- Request to ensure the Legislature has a clear understanding of the importance of standards and TMDLs in permit issuance [to support this essential work].
- Recommendation to coordinate with stakeholders regarding messages provided to the Legislature, prior to February, about standards and TMDL work.
- Discussion about unfunded work in the Governor's Recommended Budget, e.g., Standards, TMDLs, the Integrated Water Resource program, lab equipment, and harmful algae blooms.
- Comment to provide communication about the effects of the updated 303(d) list for current permit holders.
- Request for DEQ to share with stakeholders Oregon's comment letter in response to the EPA Waters of the U.S. when it is submitted to the EPA.
- Comment for DEQ to schedule a meeting or communicate with EPA and stakeholders about the inclusion of aluminum monitoring with the copper biotic ligand model (BLM) monitoring. A draft aluminum monitoring policy has been discussed within DEQ and the Permit Strategies Group.
- Request for follow-up information about Hells Canyon 401 and status of Willamette cold-water refuge effort.
- Inquiry about how DEQ will respond to a drought and how DEQ will incorporate a multi-agency response.
- DEQ will begin working on incorporating the changes in the 303(d) list due to EPA's recent action to add impaired waters.
- Recommendation to DEQ to meet with individual, new Legislators prior to DEQ's Ways and Means presentation.

## Alternative formats

For questions about accessibility or to request an accommodation, please call 503-229-5696, or toll-free in Oregon at 1-800-452-4011, ext. 5696. Requests should be made at least 48 hours prior to the event. Documents can be provided upon request in an alternate format for individuals with disabilities or in a language other than English for people with limited English skills. To request a document in another format or language, call DEQ in Portland at 503-229-5696, or toll-free in Oregon at 1-800-452-4011, ext. 5696; or email <mailto:deqinfo@deq.state.or.us>.