

# Water Quality Roundtable

## Meeting Notes

October 10, 2018

1:00 pm to 3:00 pm

Oregon DEQ Lloyd District Building

700 NE Multnomah Street, Floor 3

Portland, Oregon 97232



State of Oregon  
Department of  
Environmental  
Quality

### List of attendees

Abbie Laugtug, Oregon Business and Industry  
April Snell, Oregon Water Resources Congress  
Bob Baumgartner, Clean Water Services  
Derek Heitz, Clear Creek Systems  
Heath Curtiss, Oregon Forest and Industries Council  
Jeff Stone, Oregon Association of Nurseries  
Kathryn Van Natta, Northwest Pulp and Paper  
Michael Campbell, Stoel Rives  
Jerome Rosa, Oregon Cattlemen's Association  
Samantha Bayer, Oregon Farm Bureau  
Scott Dahlman, Oregonians for Food and Shelter

Susie Smith, Oregon Assoc. Clean Water Agencies  
Tami Kerr, Oregon Dairy Farmers Association  
Tracy Rutten, League of Oregon Cities  
Annalisa Grunwald, DEQ  
Jennifer Wigal, DEQ  
Justin Green, DEQ  
Michele Martin, DEQ  
Nancy Bennett, DEQ  
Rian Hooff, DEQ  
Ron Doughten, DEQ

### Water Quality

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

| Time      | Topic  |
|-----------|--|
| 1:00 p.m. | Welcome, Introductions   |
| 1:10 p.m. | DEQ and Water Quality Division Organization  |
| 1:20 p.m. | Status Update: DEQ permit backlog  |
| 1:45 p.m. | 2019/21 Agency Request Budget Overview   |
| 2:00 p.m. | WQ Projects and priorities<br>(MS4 Phase II Permit, Willamette TMDL, and Mercury Compliance) |
| 2:10 p.m. | Group Discussion   |
| 2:50 p.m. | Next Steps   |
| 3:00 p.m. | Adjourn  |

### Comments

- Based on feedback from stakeholders and partners, DEQ is holding separate roundtables. Suggestion to combine both audiences for one or more quarterly roundtables.
- Place the DEQ organizational chart on the website.
- Links to documents discussed:
  - [Statewide Permit Issuance Work Plan for Federal Fiscal Year 2019](#)
  - Fact sheet: [2019 Water Quality Permit Issuance Work Plan](#)
  - [NPDES Permit Program Enhancement Report](#)  
The purpose of the NPDES Permit Program Enhancement Report is to provide an evaluation of DEQ's organization, permitting procedures, permitting resources, and training, and identify and prioritize potential enhancements that will maximize DEQ's potential to achieve their permit issuance goals.

DEQ will use this report as a guide for program improvements. The NPDES Permit Program Enhancement Report is a recent companion piece to the [Recommendations and Implementation Plan](#) published December 2016 (Chapters 5 and 6).

- DEQ to communicate with permittees about permit template changes. The method for this communication is being discussed internally and DEQ is open to suggestions from roundtable attendees.
- DEQ could select drafts of IMDs to review with future roundtable attendees for input.
- Recommendation for DEQ to talk with permittees one to two years prior to permit renewal about recent additions to the permit template, and the history of the permit, especially in the case of individuals that may not have been the contact for the most recent permit.
- Support and develop expertise in the Legislature about TMDL issues.
- Support an integrated work plan for standards, TMDLs, other permitting efforts.
- Address issues with using variances for mercury TMDLs.
- Recommendation to prioritize water quality standard attainability.
- Provide Water Quality fees in the context of Land Quality and Air Quality, and be more explicit about the Water Quality fee impacts on program work.
  - Heightened concerns amongst some stakeholders about potential for the general fund/permit fee (called other fund) split to be altered through legislative process. Recognize that there may be need at some point in the future to revisit this, but should be done so in open and transparent manner as part of broader discussions.
- Discuss changes in the General Fund in relation to increasing fees.

### **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>.