

Final Meeting Minutes – WSNA – 2018-06-18
(amended – changed 1 word “transportation” to “comprehensive”)

Jim Allhiser called the meeting to order at 7PM. 24 members signed the roster. EM Easterly moves to approve minutes – second by Micki Varney. Vote unanimous approval.

Presentation: Steve Powers – City Manager – Water Situation Update:

It is my job to rebuild your confidence in OUR city water system. This is the first year that cyanotoxins have made it into the city water system. The water is safe for consumption for all populations, but the advisory remains in effect such that each person can make an educated decision for themselves and their families. Since the 1930s, the natural sand filtration method for filtering Salem’s water has been sufficient. The slow sand filtration system has been in place since the 1950s, as it is today. The city is moving forward with a plan to use powdered activated carbon to remove cyanotoxins from the water as a stage, or in combination with the existing slow sand filtration system. Testing is underway to get the mixture and balance exactly right. The 2017 Water Quality Report shows data that confirms that Salem’s city water has been exceptionally clean. Future fixes may include treating the water with ozone. Plans continue on all fronts to discover and evaluate the most effective means for treating Salem’s water. Water is being sampled at 12 locations, including above, in, and below Detroit Reservoir. Consultation is increased with US Forest Service, BLM, State Forestry, and the Army Corps of Engineers to study the areas around Detroit Reservoir.

Question – Les Margosian – “When will the city’s new testing be “live”?”

Wednesday the 20th. However, we will continue to use the lab in Ohio, which has proven to be the fastest turnaround, most accurate, and most quality-assured results available in the country. Our own tests will provide additional confirmation of Ohio’s results.

Question – Les Margosian – “Is Oregon Health Authority (OHA) sharing any cost or assisting in joint efforts?”

The city will pursue any options for cost sharing, if any present themselves. The toxins are an unregulated toxin. That is, there are no required tests mandated by either the State OHA or Federal EPA. We do work jointly with OHA for temporary rule development, and we look for advice from their public health experts.

Question – Kathleen Dewoina – “Will studies of the water include effluent dumps into the river from properties between Detroit Reservoir and the City of Salem’s water inlet?”

We will look at all causes and sources that could make the water “nutrient rich.”

Question – Kathleen Dewoina – Can you talk about the proposed “water tower” from the Army Corps of Engineers that may be used to increase the water temperature at Detroit?

The temperature control tower as currently proposed is to maintain a healthier habitat for fish. However, recent legislation in process from representative Kurt Schraeder looks to mandate the Army Corps of Engineers to consider municipal water systems and effects on those systems, when planning these sorts of projects.

Question – WSNA Resident – Can you talk about the extreme variance in testing results?

OHA and other authorities confirm that it is normal for tests to vary as widely as they have been reported. It is the nature of the beast, and is considered expected behavior. The tests are drawn from physically the same locations such that results from day to day, or even hour to hour, are comparable.

Question – WSNA Resident – Are there any aquifers or wells within the city to utilize as an alternate source?

There are aquifers and wells, but none sufficient to utilize as a city water source.

Question – Steve Anderson – Can you talk about the thermoclines in Detroit?

We take tests at the surface, at 22 feet, and 160 feet to measure water in different thermoclines.

Question – WSNA Resident – Can you talk about lowering the water level?

See previous response about working with Army Corps of Engineers.

Question – Micki Varney – Can you talk about the State DEQ's role?

We work to utilize any testing capabilities the State DEQ has that can help in this matter. We've actually found a great partner in a Willamette University Professor of Microbiology. The city has been able to use the University's lab facilities to refine its own testing procedures and train and educate city staff in performing these tests as manual lab exercises (as compared to automated testing available through other labs).

Question – Jim Allhiser – Can you talk about the 10-day exposure window?

Yes. The levels and advisories, when speaking about a population, means that a healthy adult would need to consume the water, in a quantity of 2 ½ liters of water, per day, for 10 days, before any adverse health effect could be measured. The quantity for at-risk populations may be less than 2 ½ liters of water per day, but still, would need to consume a quantity for 10 days before any adverse health effects could be measured.

Question – E.M. Easterly – When will the city be capable of applying the powdered activated carbon to the city's actual water filtration system?

Provided all tests go as planned and the proper mix can be determined through testing with 1 of 3 sand filtration systems, the potential go-live for activated carbon would be the end of this month, end of June. The city must also consider the public's opinion and tolerance for taste and odor of the city water.

Question – Nick Fortey – Can you discuss the water system interconnects and mutual aid?

The mutual aid through "OR-WARN" has been outstanding. The water tanks and distribution points throughout the city were made possible with help from Eugene's EWEB, Tualatin Valley Water District, City of Portland, and others. Additionally, plans and table top exercises inviting local grocery stores and their distribution capabilities have set up preliminary plans for distribution of bottled water in case the advisory were to increase to an all-population advisory. We've also utilized lessons learned from this event, already, specifically about how to distribute water to our homebound population.

Question – Herb Shaw – Interconnects with Keizer?

There are concerns and technical reasons that utilizing the interconnects with Keizer may introduce the contaminated water into Keizer's water system. The under-river connections to West Salem only serve a small sub-population and it is not known if that system could be interconnected with more of West Salem's water. Further discussion deferred to email or later follow up when a water system engineer can be consulted for correct information.

Question / Statement – Steve Anderson – Disaster preparedness, use lessons learned, potentially utilize funding sources to stage equipment in West Salem.

Question – Herb Shaw – Brown Water distributed in West Salem Park behind Safeway?

The city never distributed water behind Safeway in West Salem Park. The only distribution site was at Wallace Marine Park. Furthermore, the water at the official distribution sites is tested before being placed into the tanks, and after the tanks are driven to the distribution sites, tested again. Marion County has had staff assisting with the testing and certification that all official water distribution sites have been distributing clean and safe water. Please take care when using social media, as there has been significant misinformation at times on Social Media regarding the water event. Use official communications channels and consult the city's website for all of your water event related questions.

Reports:

Salem Police – Officer Susan Slivkoff

Crime report for the 5th to 14th of June – 2 stolen vehicles, 1 business burglary (open window), 1 unlocked car property theft, 1 locked car (broken window) property theft – visible purse. Juveniles starting small fires in dumpsters, bushes near Eola Drive, and potentially a house fire. Crime investigations unit is looking into the series of events. The police dept. has a form, called the “TLC” form for “Trespass Letter of Consent” that property owners may fill out and file with the city. The form requires 2 signatures with Date of Birth, Name, Phone Number, Address, and other information. DOB is required such that when complaints are registered, the complaint can be correlated with the letter as being an authorized person to request action at a property. The intent is that with the letter on file, anyone who is present on the property that isn’t listed on the form, can immediately be considered a trespasser and if necessary, arrested and removed from the property, without having to contact the property owner.

Question – Nick Fortey – Concerned about running trails and other trails in Wallace Marine Park, specifically around the softball fields, regarding transients living in the area.
Noted.

Compliance Officer – Brent Hedrick

24 active cases in West Salem. 2056 Turnage St is a derelict property, in foreclosure. The bank, property owner, and others have been contacted with letters, and receipt of letters has been confirmed. If the property is not kept transient free, and secured, the city will assess a monthly fine for keeping the site secured. 1 parking ticket issued. 1 vehicle towed. It’s that time again to be on the lookout for RV use. RVs may have guests, when parked appropriately and in compliance with code on private property (no derelict vehicles), for 72 hours without a permit. After that, occupants may apply for a permit to stay an additional 14 days, for \$15. There is an online permit and it requires permission of the property owner.

Disaster Preparedness – Mike Evans

Public request that Salem Emergency Preparedness manager and Fire Chief Niblock please consider the input of the public when revising the Salem Emergency Management Plan (SEMP). The latest water event has highlighted the need for personal disaster preparedness. Please prepare yourselves for 3 weeks without assistance. Coming up in a while is the “Great Oregon Shakeout” – a day of earthquake drills and earthquake preparedness. Check the website about how you or the business you work at can become involved and participate.

City Councilor Jim Lewis –

Water – it is sad that confidence has been broken. We must now do what we can to rebuild that trust. Thanks to Governor Brown for providing resources from Oregon Emergency Management and the Oregon Army National Guard.

As recently mentioned in the transportation subcommittee, NOW is the time to get involved. The city is starting to work on its latest revision of the master Comprehensive Plan. This is the time to become involved and shape the plan, as it will be the direction this city is headed in for at least the next 30 years. Get involved. Now. The development code for the city will be modified to incorporate and support this new plan.

Land Use – Wes Hill

There are only a few current land use actions in the works at this moment. All items are available for comment on the WSNA Land Use facebook page. The weekly newsletter from DLCD will also be

distributed, as was the monthly update from the Oregon State Bar Association regarding Land Use. On May 24th, Wes and Jim attended a great presentation and meeting put on by the city. Brady Rogers has a presentation Wes will try to get a copy of that we can attach to these meeting minutes, regarding the prioritization of code enforcement. Brady's team has published and publicized a list of priorities for code enforcement, as of May 11th.

Traffic & Infrastructure – Nick Fortey

Safe Routes to Schools – June 25th Grant Workshop – 3 to 4:30pm at Chemeketa Center for Business and Industry (High St.) – Processes, what is possible. Letter of Intent (not that onerous) due by August 31st.

City coordination is necessary as city or county must sponsor and do a 20% funds match for any projects proposed. Criteria include K-8 schools, and a 1 mile radius around those schools, with an eye on improving walking/cycling to and from those schools.

Comment – contact Julie Warnicke at the city for coordination.

Comment – contact SKSD as they probably have great information RE: which schools need what

Edgewater – Steve Anderson

June 16th 's Super Saturday was awesome. Over 400 in attendance. Catering by Garibaldi's. Ofc. Pinkerton and his K-9 partner.

Thursday Farmer's Market – 10am to 2pm for 13 weeks. July through September. Edgewater, between Kingwood and Gerth. Lisa Sherman is the market director. You can share ideas and voice concerns to her – lisas@salemsaturdaymarket.com or 503-585-8264.

Look forward to a July 22nd event with our downtown neighbors.

Watershed – E.M. Easterly

The GGWC and Rickreall WC were awarded an OWEB collaboration grant to fund deeper effectiveness, cooperation and collaboration between the two councils.

New Business –

The meeting in July will occur as regularly scheduled. Jim will be available to conduct and his wife, Bree, will take the minutes and attendance for the meeting.

Other questions –

The property at the T of Eola and Kingwood. Is that space available to use as a future city park, or as simple green space?

The city considered it, but due to safety concerns did not pursue purchasing the site. The property did sell to an adjacent land owner.

The meeting concluded at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted – Chris Wilhelm – WSNA Secretary