

Minutes of the
PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
Thursday, March 11, 2010
Council Chambers

Members: Chair Michael Jackson, Members Mark Albrecht, Richard Bertellotti, and Jenee Pearce

Excused: Mike Stanley

Staff: Public Works Director Mark See, Public Works Cruz Flores, Street Specialist Tracy Sund, Wastewater Utility Worker Trevor Mount, and Administrative Assistant Stephanie McGuire

Guests: Charlie Plybon, Oregon Field Manager for Surfrider; Bob Lundy, Ecola Watershed Council, Barbara Linnett

CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Jackson called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m., and stated that the storm water quality discussion would be the first item on the agenda. Attendees were introduced.

STORM WATER QUALITY OUTREACH

Jackson asked Charlie Plybon to begin the discussion of storm water quality. Plybon stated that elevated bacterial levels have occurred in the past, but that the source has been uncertain. Jackson asked Plybon to identify the role of *Surfrider*. Plybon stated that the organization had been testing bacterial levels on the North Coast near shore for the past two years. The testing lab is located at Astoria High School, which is funded by the Portland Chapter of *Surfrider*. It was his opinion that the State of Oregon would be establishing total maximum daily loads limits in the near shore in approximately five years. He said that *Surfrider* would like to help the City to be in compliance with any future State regulatory changes. *Surfrider* is gathering near shore data. The Federal Beach Act Funding pays for beach monitoring in each State, which *Surfrider* accesses. Beach Act Funding can only be used for salt water testing. DHS tests fresh water sources. DHS regularly tests about six months per year, beginning in March. He said that *Surfrider* is an advocacy group for near shore water quality. Plybon stated that *Surfrider's* goals in Cannon Beach are to support the community, rebuild trust within the community, and to work collaboratively on source identification strategies.

Pearce asked if signage could be developed for posting on the beach if there are high bacterial counts. See stated that the City operates the signage within the City for DHS. There are five locations in Cannon Beach with DHS signs. Typically, the signs on either side of the high bacterial location, as well as the location itself, are posted by flipping signs that notify the public that bacterial test results are high. See noted that there are approximately forty beach access locations within the City of Cannon Beach. Plybon stated that it would be important to involve the community in the development of any signage. Jackson advocated uniformity in signage and procedures, stating that the water quality problem exists nationally. Linnett spoke about positive signage that she had seen used in Georgia. Plybon stated that it is important to recognize and convey to the public when there is good water quality and the positive protection efforts of the watershed. Plybon reported on the efforts made by *Surfrider* and the City of Newport to identify and mitigate problems within their storm water system. See asked if the City of Newport had combined sewer and storm water systems at one time. Plybon said that Newport has had separate systems for at least forty years. However, there were parts of the system that were old and had clay pipes. In Plybon's opinion, the loads are too heavy for the systems to handle. Plybon said that it would be important to map the City's wastewater system and to test the system for cross connections.

Jackson stated that he had identified four items to that could be addressed collaboratively: 1) Education and public notification; 2) Testing and testing protocol; 3) Regulation (which is established by other entities, such as the State of Oregon and the Federal government); 4) Reduction or elimination of the problem, if there is one. See reviewed the efforts of Public works staff. Albrecht stated that it would be important to identify what the measure of success is. Plybon advocated the treatment of storm water, but stated that mechanical mechanisms should not be installed. Plybon said that he had read about the City's Sustainability Committee. Jackson stated that he was a member of that committee, and that there are long-range, general sustainability goals for the community to strive for. See reviewed various sustainability goals that are being incorporated into Public Works and municipal projects. Plybon advocated the implementation of green building codes. Bertellotti asked if there were solutions for existing development. Plybon stated that green development standards are best applied to new development. See stated that the Gower Street outfall has been mapped to assist in the investigation of source contamination. However, he noted that there are many elements contributing to possible source contamination, such as roof drains, ditches, wild areas, and commercial areas. See stated that tests are being taken weekly.

Plybon asked if concrete actions could be identified pursuant to the four points identified by Jackson. Pursuant to education, Jackson noted that there was a sign in place at the Gower Street outfall, and asked if other signage could be reviewed within a subcommittee. Plybon stated that *Surfrider's* education efforts include an assembly program addressing plastics slated for the Cannon Beach Elementary School in April. *Surfrider* has printed leaflets available for distribution, which he made available. Plybon also suggested the organization of a public forum on the topic of storm water quality using the program *Liquid Assets*. See noted that Public Works staff had attended the viewing of *Liquid Assets* at Seaside a year ago.

Regarding testing, it was noted that DHS testing is underway. Albrecht asked if there was a procedure for standardized testing between all the testing entities. See stated that he is working with DHS and working with the City Manager to have the testing results posted on the City website. Plybon stated that he would ask *Surfrider* to send their test results directly to the wastewater plant. Jackson asked for a plan on the coordination and graphing of the test results. He noted that he and Lundy have been working on that data, but that there were no obvious indicators at this point. Jackson also asked that the statistics of all the test results be reviewed for patterns. Plybon noted that "real time" testing is underway in Newport.

Plybon stated that he thought that natural storm water filtration devices should be investigated for possible use in the future to improve storm water quality. Linnett asked if testing in other areas of Cannon Beach could be expanded should funds become available. See responded that the focus at this point is where storm water outfall intersects with human contact.

Jackson stated that he would like to maintain communication with *Surfrider* pursuant to community outreach efforts. Plybon stated that members at the recent organizing meeting had asked if smoke testing of wastewater laterals within the City of Cannon Beach could be undertaken. See stated that daily inspections for possible contamination sources are being undertaken and expanded.

Sund reviewed the storm water map pertaining to the Gower Street outfall, including the main pipe, ten sub-drainage basins and trunk lines. Sund suggested that daily testing could be undertaken for a short time if a high reading was obtained, which could assist in possible identification of source point contamination. Sund stressed that an extremely large natural area drains into the Gower Street system. Sund stated that lines and basins should be cleaned before any smoke testing. Sund also reported that additional pet waste boxes are being constructed by Oregon State Corrections, and that riparian enhancements are currently being installed on this system. Plybon suggested photographing or video taping efforts that the City is making and providing that material to *Surfrider* for distribution.

The Committee thanked Plybon for attending the meeting.

APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 11, 2010, MINUTES

Motion: Pearce moved to approve the minutes of February 11, 2010; Albrecht seconded the motion.

Vote: Albrecht, Bertellotti, Jackson, and Pearce voted AYE. The vote was 4/0 in favor and passed.

UTILITY RELIEF REQUESTS

Motion: Pearce moved to approve the utility relief request as recommended by staff; Bertellotti seconded the motion.

Vote: Albrecht, Bertellotti, Jackson, and Pearce, voted AYE. The vote was 4/0 in favor and passed.

PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS

See updated the committee on the Elkland Pump Station renovation. See stated that the application for the downtown restrooms will be considered by the Design Review Board in March. A grant application has been submitted to the Oregon State Parks for funds to be used for trail construction. Plans are underway for an emergency cache site at the sports park area.

TRAIL COMMITTEE REPORT

See reported that the final findings were adopted by the City Council. The appellants have twenty-one days to appeal to LUBA. See stated that both the Trail Committee and the *Friends of the Trail* organization would be maintained.

SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE REPORT

See reviewed the sustainability elements incorporated into the downtown restroom project design.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Jackson announced that Grosshuesch has resigned from the Committee.

Bertellotti stated that he has noticed that the paving has deteriorated in various areas within the City. He also brought up possible site distance issues within the City. Bertellotti mentioned that the *Municipal Memo* may be a good place for the biannual Public Works Committee announcements.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

Stephanie McGuire, Administrative Assistant