

## **Polk County's TMDL 5<sup>th</sup> Year Review Report (January 1, 2013 – December 31, 2017)**

Revised November 2018

### **Matrix #1- Temperature, Mercury and Bacteria**

Over the previous five years, Polk County has continued to implement their stringent local riparian area setback standards found in Polk County Zoning Ordinance (PCZO) 182.050(B), which require a minimum setback distance of 25 feet from all inventoried significant wetlands. Within the riparian setback area, structural development is prohibited, and certain activities that are considered a conflicting use, such as vegetation removal, road construction, and timber harvesting, requires a management plan coordinated with the appropriate State or Federal managing agencies. Between January 1, 2013 and December 31, 2018, Polk County reviewed and approved 17 riparian area management plans.

The existing riparian management plan inventory contains the following information: file number, date approved, property owner, location, and water body. In order to improve the riparian management plan inventory, over the next five years all additional management plans added to the inventory will include an estimation of vegetation gains vs. losses. Providing additional information on vegetation gains and losses will allow Polk County to quantify the effectiveness of management plans acting as a filter for pollutants and providing shade to reduce river and stream temperatures.

### **Matrix #2- Temperature, Mercury and Bacteria**

Over the previous five years, Polk County has completed, or partnered with other organizations to complete, five riparian restoration projects. Due to limited staff and funding resources, Polk County believed grants remain a viable option for potential riparian restoration projects. Over the next five years, Polk County will continue to explore grant funding for stream bank restoration in County road and park projects. The only proposed change to Matrix #2 is to also include the location and size of all restoration projects under the "Measure" column.

### **Matrix #3- Temperature, Mercury and Bacteria**

Over the previous five years, Polk County staff has maintained the stormwater website as a method to provide stormwater information to property owners and construction operators. The stormwater website provides information on stormwater runoff, on-site-retention and infiltration, post-construction best management practices, and maintaining vegetation along riparian areas. In addition, the website provides links to other online resources regarding vegetated/grassed swales, bioretention, porous asphalt, rain barrel construction, and training opportunities. Supporting documents and web links are regularly verified to ensure they are working properly. New training opportunity announcements are added to the web site as they become available. Between January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2017, the stormwater website had a total of 787 page views, 579 of which were unique viewers and 238 were repeat viewers. Polk County believes that maintaining the stormwater website is an effective way to communicate stormwater information to targeted audiences including property owners and construction operators. No changes to Matrix #3 are proposed at this time.

### **Matrix #4- Bacteria**

Over the previous five years, Polk County has received 37 complaints from the public regarding either failing or inadequate septic systems. In addition, over the last five years Polk County has

issued 135 septic repair permits. All code enforcement complaints regarding failing systems are treated as extremely high priorities and are investigated by either the Polk County Code Enforcement Officer and/or the Polk County Sanitarian. Polk County believes the existing Code Enforcement procedures for failing septic system complaints remains effective. Therefore, no changes to Matrix #4 are proposed for the next five years.

#### **Matrix #5- Bacteria**

Over the previous five year, Polk County developed a program to geocode all new septic system locations as a way to create an inventory of new system locations and installation dates. Implementation of this program was tested and completed near the end of 2017. However, no new septic system permits have been issued since testing was completed.

Over the next five years, Polk County will continue to build an inventory of all new septic system locations. Polk County will also expand on this program by also geocoding all existing septic systems that received an on-site inspection, such as a repair, alteration, site evaluation, or authorization. Because Polk County has invested resources in developing a program to collect and maintain georeferenced septic system locations, it would be beneficial to expand the inventory to include older systems as well. Expanding this program would require little additional staff time or funding to collect data on existing septic systems that receive an inspection.

In 2017, Polk County issued 50 new septic system construction permits, and 103 other types of septic permits that receive an on-site inspection. By expanding this program to geocode all septic system locations that receive an on-site inspection, approximately 324% more septic systems will be georeferenced on an annual basis.

#### **Matrix #6- Mercury and Bacteria**

Between January 1, 2013 and December 31, 2016, the Polk County Public Works Department conducted monthly meetings to educate staff on erosion and sediment control Best Management Practices (BMP's). In 2017, rather than holding monthly meetings to discuss BMP's, weekly meetings were held when projects were scheduled that would require the use of erosion and sediment control BMP's, such as ditch work or bridge construction. This approach ultimately resulted in more meetings annually, and ensured that proper implementation of BMP's was discussed during the same week that staff was expected to implement those BMP's. Over the next five years, the Public Works Department will continue this approach by conducting meetings to discuss erosion and sediment control BMP's at the beginning of each week when projects are scheduled that involve ditch work, bridge work, or other types of projects located in or near waterways.

In addition, the Polk county Public Works Director evaluates the Operations and Maintenance Plan on an annual basis to determine whether revisions are advisable. Over the next five years, the Public Works Department will continue to evaluate the O&M Plan on an annual basis and make any changes that are determined necessary.

#### **Matrix #7- Mercury and Bacteria**

Over the last five years, Polk County has ensured that restroom facilities are available at all 10 County parks and no septic system repairs or alterations have been required. In addition to County parks, there are also three large Oregon State Parks properties located within Polk County's jurisdiction that are frequented by the public; Sarah Helmick State Park, Fort Yamhill Heritage Area, and Luckiamute Landing Natural Area. Sarah Helmick State Park is located adjacent to the Luckiamute River, Fort Yamhill is located adjacent to Cosper Creek, and

Luckiamute Landing is adjacent to the Luckiamute River. Polk County will amend the existing County Park List and research the amenities that are present at these additional State Parks properties. Because these State Parks properties are all located adjacent to a major receiving water body, it is important to gather more information about potential pollution and contaminant sources that may be occurring at these sites which are regularly visited by the public.

#### **Matrix #8- Mercury and Bacteria**

The Polk County Building Division currently distributes a stormwater brochure with every building permit issued by Polk County. The existing brochure contains information about DEQ's 1200-C permit and provides guidance to property owners and construction operators when a development requires a 1200-C permit. Over the next five years, Polk County will revise this stormwater brochure to also include information on DEQ's 1200-Z permit, which is required for industrial stormwater runoff. Polk County contains several Industrial zoning designations that permit uses which may require a 1200-Z permit. Updating the existing stormwater brochure and continuing to distribute it with all building permits issued by Polk County will increase public awareness of the 1200-Z permit requirements.

#### **Matrix #9- Mercury and Bacteria**

Polk County's Code of Ordinances (PCCO) Section 80.133(1) states, "Building permits shall not be issued until all construction stormwater permits required by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality have been obtained." Every building permit is reviewed by Polk County staff to verify whether a 1200-C permit would be required by DEQ for the proposed development project. If it is determined that a 1200-C permit is required, then no building permits are issued until evidence is submitted that a 1200-C permit has been obtained. Over the last five years, one development project that disturbed more than 1 acre required a 1200-C permit. This development project involved the construction of single-family dwellings on multiple lots that are part of a common development project. Prior to issuing any building permits, a 1200-C permit issued by DEQ was required. Polk County believes the existing strategy for reducing stormwater runoff from construction sites remains effective. No changes to Matrix #9 are proposed at this time.

#### **Matrix #10- Mercury and Bacteria**

Polk County's Code of Ordinances (PCCO) Section 43.057 prohibits throwing, draining, or otherwise discharging any pollutants, or waters containing pollutants, into the storm sewer system. This ordinance allows Polk County to maintain the legal authority to enforce upon violations. Over the last five years, Polk County has received six complaints of potential unauthorized discharges into the storm sewer system. All complaints submitted are investigated by Polk County's Code Enforcement Officer. Polk County believes the existing ordinance and code enforcement procedures are an effective way prohibit unauthorized discharges and resolve violations. No changes to Matrix #10 are proposed at this time.

#### **Matrix #11- Mercury and Bacteria (Within the Salem UGB)**

Polk County's Stormwater Management Plan (SWMP) was developed to meet the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit requirements of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES). Polk County's NPDES permit expired on February 28, 2012. Polk County submitted a permit renewal package on August 30, 2011, which included an updated

SWMP that would span for the new permit cycle from February 29, 2012 through February 28, 2017. As of the writing of this report, Polk County has not been issued a new NPDES permit, and the second permit cycle expired on February 28, 2017. Polk County received confirmation from DEQ that a permit renewal application was not required, and the current permit must continue to be implemented until further notice.

Over the past five years, Polk County has continued to successfully implement Polk County's SWMP. DEQ is in the process of issuing a new general permit to Phase II MS4 communities, which will ultimately change certain aspects of Polk County's existing SWMP. Once Polk County's updated SWMP is completed, it will be submitted with future annual TMDL reports.

#### **Matrix #12- Mercury**

Polk County has continued to hold two Household Hazardous Waste Events annually. One event is held in Independence and the other is held in Dallas. Since 2013, Polk County has collected nearly 100,000 pounds of household hazardous waste materials, and over 120,000 pounds of latex and oil based paints. This program has been a successful way for the public to properly dispose of hazardous waste and reduce the potential for hazardous waste ending up in local waterways. Over the next five years, Polk County will continue to implement this program and no changes to Matrix #12 are proposed at this time.

#### **Matrix #13- Temperature, Mercury and Bacteria**

Over the previous five years, Polk County created a Targeted Education and Outreach Program (TEOPS), intended to expand outreach efforts to property owners who would benefit from information related to riparian and wetland restoration. This program used Geographic Information System (GIS) to identify properties that contain fish bearing streams, identified on Polk County's Significant Resources Areas (SRA) Map, and are primarily managed for agricultural crop production. The results of this analysis provided approximately 400 mailing addresses associated with these targeted properties. Polk County developed a brochure that contained information on local riparian area setback requirements, management plans, and local resources that are available for riparian restoration projects. Polk County coordinated with watershed groups to determine appropriate parameters for identifying the targeted properties. Watershed groups also reviewed draft copies of the brochure prior to it being finalized. Because the targeted properties mailing list contained more addresses than anticipated, Polk County divided the list into four separate mailing lists that each contained approximately 100 addresses. This allows Polk County staff a better opportunity to provide consultation to those targeted property owners. In 2016 the brochure was sent to the first mailing list and in 2017 the brochure was sent to the second mailing list. To continue these efforts, Polk County will send approximately 100 brochures per year until all targeted properties have received the outreach material.

#### **Matrix #14- Mercury (New)**

Over the next five years, Polk County proposes a new strategy for reducing mercury levels in stormwater caused from roadside litter. Polk County's Public Works Department currently administers the "Adopt-A-Road" program, which is a volunteer based program for cleaning up roadside litter. To advance this existing program, Polk County will update the stormwater website to include forms and general information about the program to the public. Polk County will also publish one advertisement in the local newspaper annually to solicit volunteer participation. Polk County believes that increasing awareness of this program to the general public, local community groups, and local businesses will increase the number of Adopt-A-Road

participants and ultimately will reduce the amount of litter along County roads. Implementation of this strategy will be by the end of 2018.

**Matrix #15- Bacteria (New)**

Over the next permit cycle, Polk County proposes a new strategy for reducing bacteria in stormwater caused from animal feces. Polk County will work with the Human Resources Department to install signs and/or animal waste receptacle at County Parks. Increasing awareness and making it more convenient for people to pick up after their pets will reduce the amount of animal feces bacteria entering streams from entering streams. Implementation of this strategy will be by the end of 2019.

**Matrix #16- Mercury, Temperature, and Bacteria (New)**

During the next permit cycle, Polk County proposes a new strategy for increasing public involvement and participation in reviewing Polk County's TMDL Implementation Plan and annual reports. Polk County will post a draft copy of the Plan and annual report on the Polk County website at least two weeks prior to submission to DEQ every February. Increasing public participation and involvement allows the public to express concerns and/or share their own implementation ideas and strategies. Implementation of this strategy will be in 2019.