

State of Oregon
Department of Environmental Quality

Memorandum

Date: Nov. 20, 2013

To: Environmental Quality Commission

From: Dick Pedersen, Director

Subject: Agenda item E, Informational item: DEQ's system for planning, choosing and implementing solutions to environmental problems
Dec. 11-12, 2013, EQC meeting

Purpose of item DEQ staff will present an overview of the agency's new process to plan, prioritize and implement solutions to environmental problems. The process was developed in 2012 through the application of the agency's outcome-based management system.

Background DEQ identified a need for a formal and centralized planning and prioritization process for new projects that could solve environmental problems. This approach was developed by a team of staff from various agency locations and disciplines over the course of about a year, using the outcome-based management system and framework. The team created, revised and finalized a series of project planning and management tools that will help any DEQ staff members initiate and complete a project through its development, refinement and implementation stages. One tool, new to DEQ, is a method to identify and document the most appropriate level at which to make the decision whether or not the project will move forward.

The team also developed an online ideas registry that all DEQ staff can access to see past suggestions, supporting documentation for those ideas and the fate of the ideas – were the proposed solutions implemented or were there considerations that kept an idea from moving forward? By centralizing and sharing this knowledge, DEQ can benefit from the expertise of its staff, maintain a record of past ideas that did not come to fruition, and why that may have happened, and encourage innovative approaches to outcome-driven solutions to Oregon's environmental concerns.

Kevin Downing, Alex Liverman, John Taylor and Karen Williams will present this item at the December 2013 EQC meeting. They will demonstrate the ideas registry and the planning process staff use to develop environmental solutions.

Attachments None

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*Report prepared by Stephanie Caldera from
information provided by the presenters*