
Date: September 29, 2009
To: Environmental Quality Commission
From: Dick Pedersen, Director
Subject: Agenda Item P, Discussion Item: DEQ's Strategic Directions and EQC Retreat October 22-23, 2009 EQC Meeting

Purpose of Item The EQC meets periodically for focused work sessions or retreats around agency priorities, strategic directions and long-range planning. This discussion item is an opportunity for the commission to talk about an approach, topics and timeline for a retreat to check in on the agency's Strategic Directions and other areas emerging concern.

Background The EQC last discussed DEQ's Strategic Directions for 2006-11 in October 2007. The directions, which include improving air and water quality, protecting people and the environment from toxics, involving Oregonians in solving problems and promoting sustainable practices, have helped guide the agency and its legislative agenda. In 2007, the EQC decided not to modify the directions. A focused discussion and retreat in 2010 would allow the commission and agency to check in on current progress and begin the discussion on evaluating and updating the directions for coming years.

Retreat goals DEQ would like to discuss with the commission current environmental challenges, the planning processes necessary to address these challenges, outreach and involvement, and a process to review and update DEQ's strategic directions.

Possible retreat sessions and topics The following are some ideas for structuring a retreat discussion

- **Where are we now**
 - Brief presentations from headquarters' and regional programs on current challenges and projects, with a focus on the future
- **Strategic directions**
 - What they are, how they've been developed and changed, evaluation of their relevancy with discussion on potential plans to amend (we are now in year four of six in the planning cycle) with a full update anticipated in 2011/2012.

- **EQC meetings: format, content and type**
 - What kinds of meetings are most successful and relevant?
What kind of information, format or other issues would the commission like to see?
- **Two-year planning process**
 - Review of rulemakings, the legislature's timeline, locations for meetings outside of Portland, and possible joint meetings with other boards and commissions.
- **Outreach and involvement**
 - How to strengthen the outreach work at DEQ and make messages heard and understood with a focus on human health and the environment and their intersections for messaging.
- **Twenty-years from now: what are DEQ's long-range goals and what will Oregon's environmental priorities be in 2030?**
 - Highlight current projects with long-term (10 or more years) scopes or commitments and their intended outcomes.

Next steps

Discuss with the commission today their ideas and proposals for moving ahead with a planning session and retreat plan and return to the commission at the December 2009 meeting with an agenda for a retreat possibly in spring.

Approved:

Division: _____

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