

2021 Water Quality Standards Triennial Review

Public Informational Meeting

6 p.m. April 21, 2021

Project website: <https://www.oregon.gov/deq/wq/Pages/Triennial-Review.aspx>

Zoom meeting logistics

- During the discussion portion of the meeting, “raise your hand” to comment by clicking on the **raise hand** at the bottom of your screen. You can also type your question into the **chat**.
- Please wait until we call on you to speak.
- If you are listening by phone, press *9 to raise your hand, and *6 to mute and unmute.
- Please state your first, last name, and organization before speaking.



2021 Water Quality Standards Triennial Review

The Clean Water Act requires states to hold a public hearing and update their water quality standards at least once every three years.

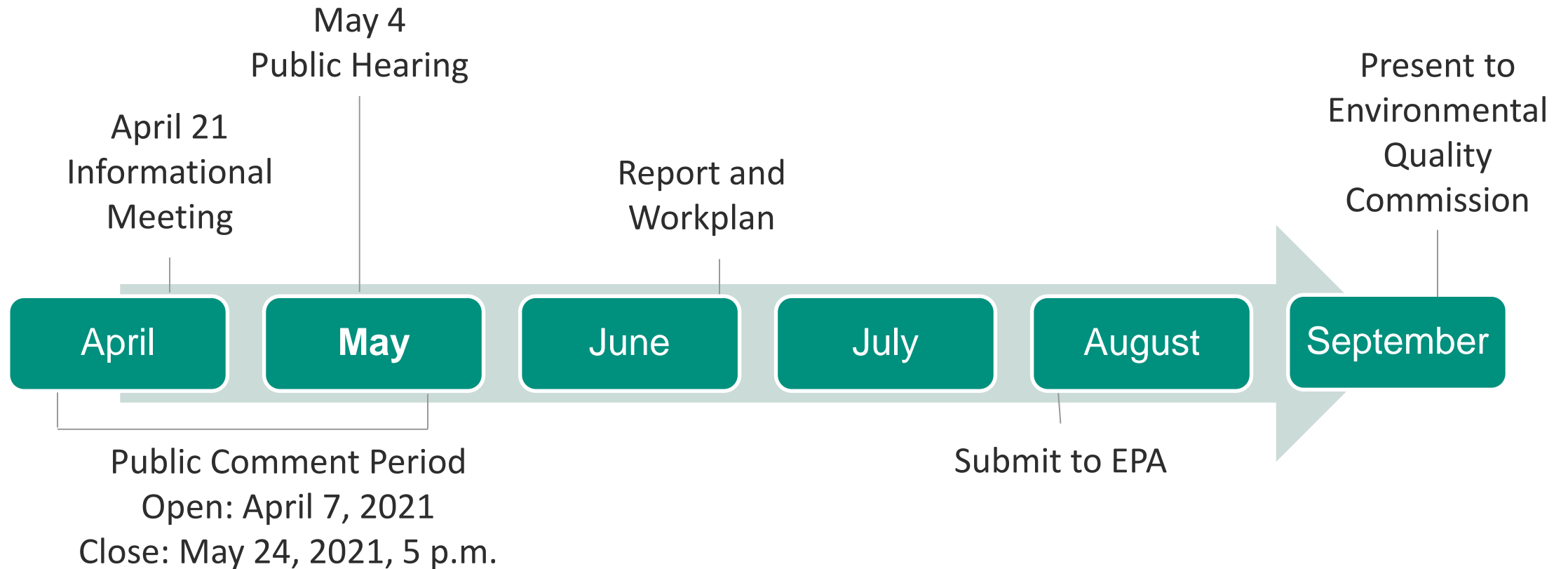
Workplan for revising standards

The Triennial Review will result in a workplan of priority projects that the Water Quality Standards Program plans complete or initiate in the next three years.

2017 Triennial Review High Priority Projects

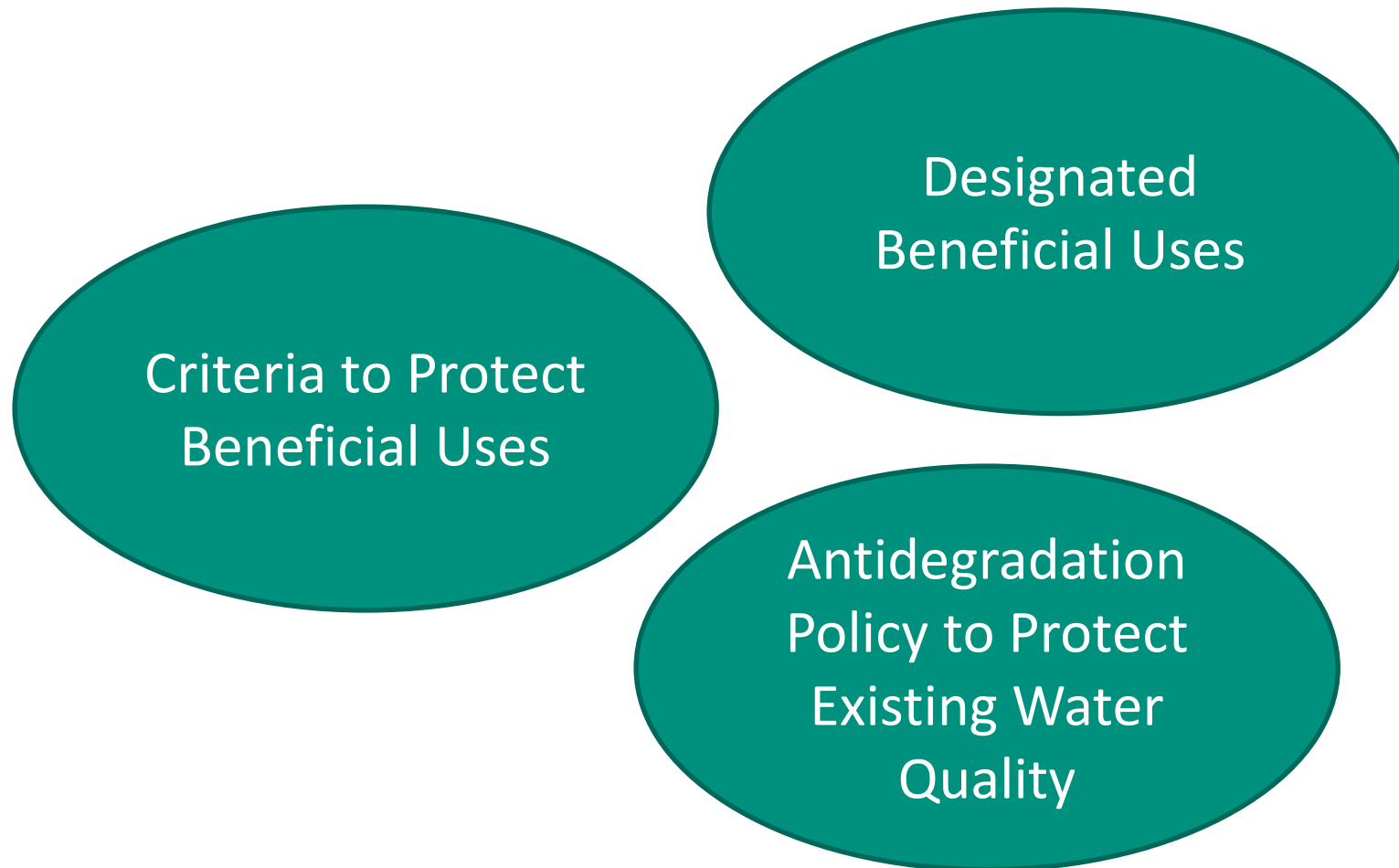
Project	2017	2018	2019	2020
1. Multiple Discharger Variance for Mercury	←→			
2. Clean Water Services Variances for Mercury	←→			
3. Lower Willamette Cold Water Refuge Plan	←→			
4. Dissolved Oxygen Clarifications		←→		
5. Fish and Aquatic Life Use Updates		←→		
6. Temperature Strategy	←→			
7. New aquatic life 304(a) criteria evaluation				←→

Timeline

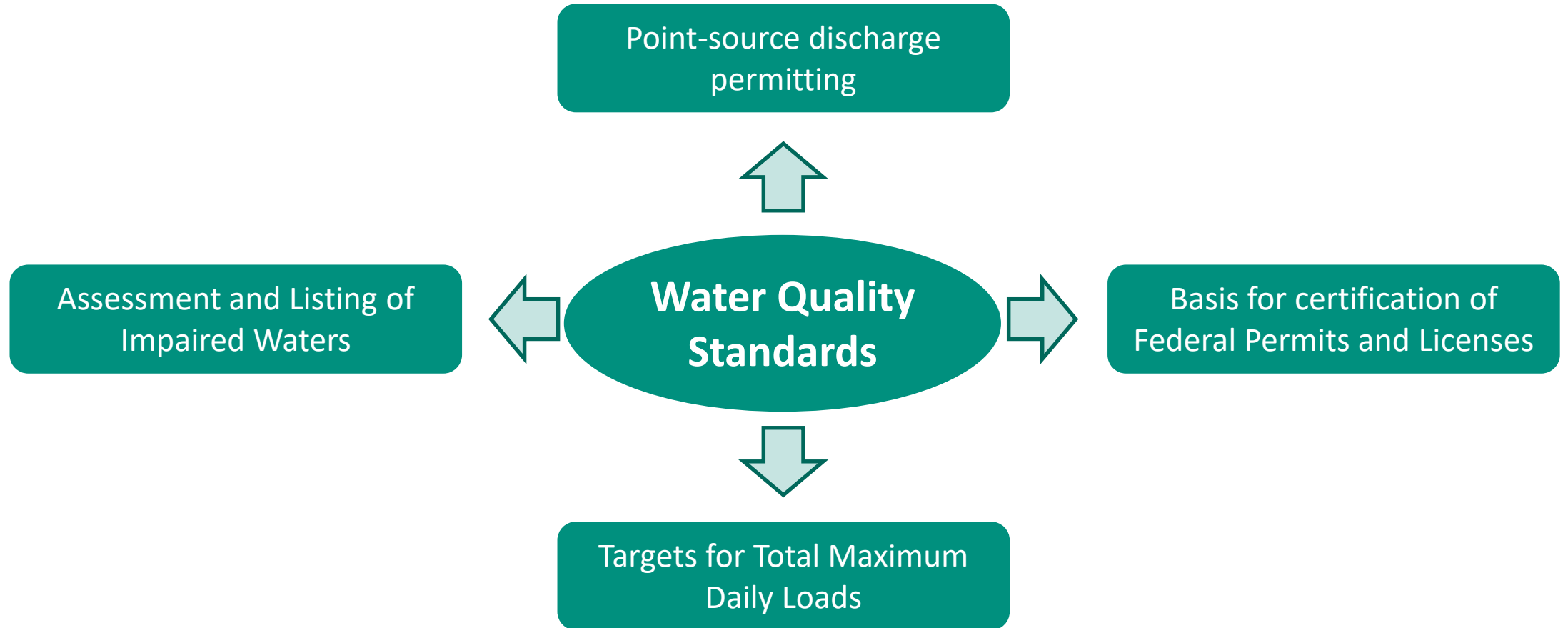


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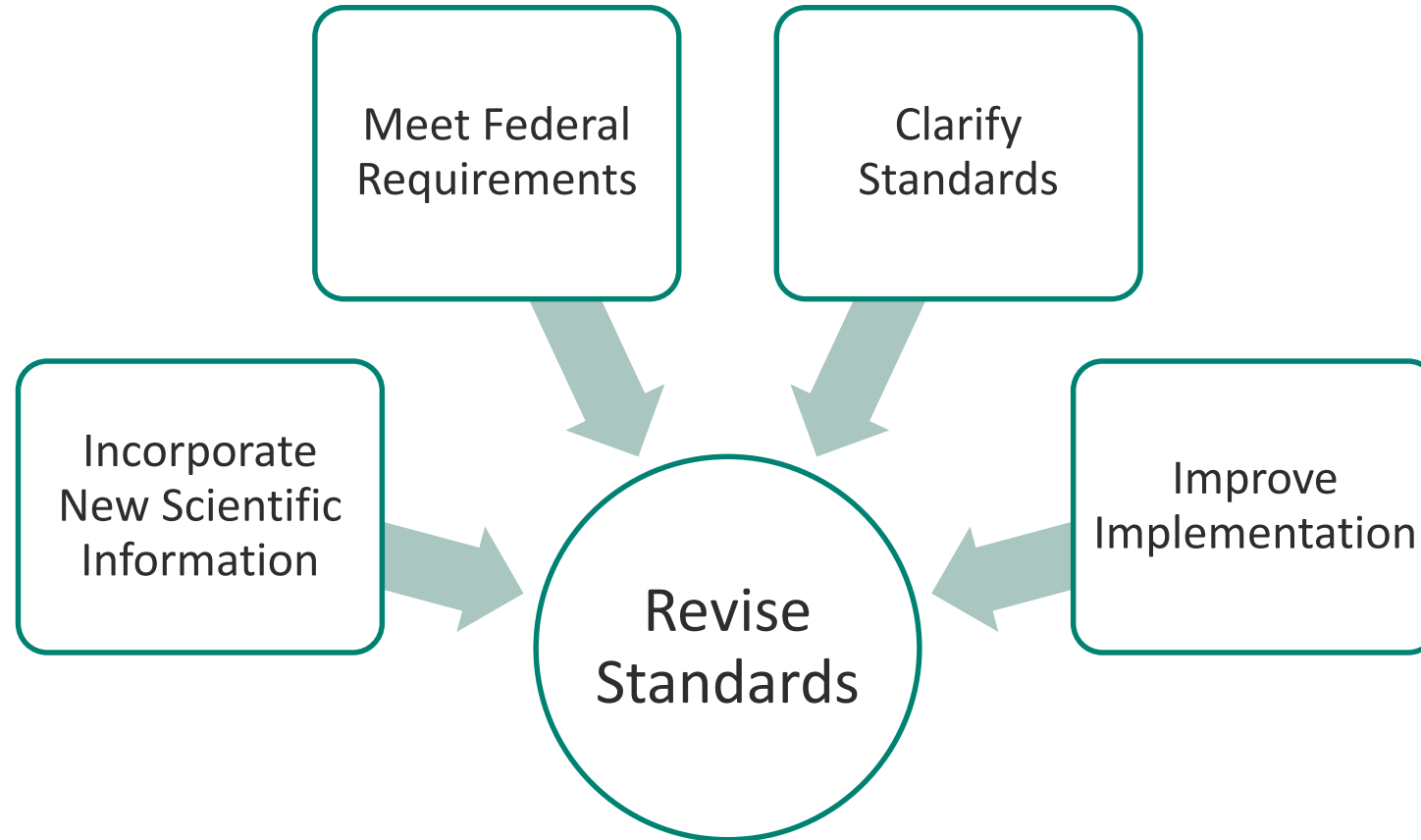
Components of Water Quality Standards



Water Quality Standards: Foundation for other Programs



Why revise standards?



What kinds of projects?

Develop new standards

Revise current standards

Develop procedures to apply narrative standards

How did DEQ prioritize projects?

Value

- Environmental
- Administrative

Urgency

- Work in progress
- DEQ work impeded?
- External drivers

Effort

- Resources required
- Guidance available?
- Project scope

Risk

- Level of experience
- Availability of data/information
- Approvals needed

Draft highest priority projects

In Progress

**Aquatic Life Use Updates:
Temperature**

**Aquatic Life Use Updates:
Dissolved Oxygen**

Variance Procedures

Temperature Variances

Toxics - aquatic life criteria

Biocriteria

Sedimentation

Toxics - narrative criterion

**Excessive Aquatic Plant and
Algal Growth**

High Priority Project: Aquatic Life Use updates

Aquatic Life Use Updates

Temperature
Dissolved Oxygen

- Correct and update aquatic life use designations based on the best available data
- Accurate application of the temperature and dissolved oxygen standards
- *In progress*

High Priority Projects: Variances

Variance Procedures

- Clear procedures to evaluate and grant variances
- DEQ anticipates a need for variances in order to issue permits
- *In progress*

Temperature Variances

- For dischargers who cannot meet permit limits based on temperature criteria
- *In progress*

High Priority Projects: Toxics

Aquatic Life Toxics

- Update Oregon's aquatic life criteria
- Aquatic life protection

Narrative Criterion

- Procedures to apply Oregon's narrative toxics criterion
- Human health and aquatic life protection

High Priority Projects

Biocriteria

- Develop procedures to apply and implement the narrative biocriteria
- Aquatic life protection value

High Priority Projects

Excessive Aquatic Plant and Algal Growth

- Consistent procedures to apply narrative criterion for excessive aquatic plant and algae growth
- Procedures to apply the chlorophyll-a action value
- Protect waterbodies from impacts of nutrient loading

High Priority Projects

Sedimentation

- Procedures to apply the narrative criterion pertaining to suspended and bedded sediment
- Aquatic life protection value

Examples of medium priority projects

Ocean acidification

- Assist with assessment methodology; review criteria to protect aquatic life from ocean acidification

Dissolved Oxygen - marine water

- Assist with assessment methodology; review criteria to protect aquatic life from ocean hypoxia

Numeric Nutrient Criteria – for priority waterbodies

- DEQ may establish numeric nutrient criteria for priority waterbodies, in addition to procedures to apply the narrative criteria

Examples of medium priority projects

Toxics - human health criteria

- Review of Oregon's criteria compared to most recent EPA recommendations

Designated Use - public water supply, constructed waterways

- Correct and update use designations for Drinking Water supply, and for constructed waterways, such as irrigation canals and drainage ditches

pH

- Review the pH criteria for the Crooked River, Columbia River, and some coastal basins

Where to find more information

Triennial Review information, including instructions for providing comment, can be found on our website:

<https://www.oregon.gov/deq/wq/Pages/Triennial-Review.aspx>

How to provide comment

1. Public Hearing May 4, at 1:00 p.m. on a Zoom meeting
2. Fill out the comment form online and submit directly to DEQ:
<https://www.oregon.gov/deq/wq/Pages/wqstandardsrev.aspx>
3. Email: triennialreview@deq.state.or.us
4. Mail or Fax (see public notice document on website)

Deadline: May 24, 2021, 5:00 p.m.

Discussion

- What would you like to hear more about?
- Questions?
- What have we missed?

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