



City of Cedar Rapids
INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
City Hall – Council Chambers
Wednesday, March 15, 2016

Meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Council Member Scott Olson.

Committee Members Present: Council members Scott Olson, Chair; Ralph Russell and Justin Shields.

City Director Team: Jen Winter, Public Works Director; Emily Muhlbach, Communications Coordinator; Sandra Fowler, Assistant City Manager Development Services; Steve Hershner, Utilities Director; Jeff Pomeranz, City Manager.

Presenters: Ralph Russell, Friends of Cedar Lake; Bruce Jacobs, Utilities Engineering Manager; Jon Durst, Sewer Superintendent; Tim Mroch, Project Engineer.

1. Approval of Minutes from March 1, 2016 meeting.

ACTION: Meeting called to order at 4:00 p.m. not 4:30 p.m. The minutes were approved as corrected. All in favor.

2. **Presentation/Handout** – Aquifer Modeling Project – *Bruce Jacobs*

Update provided on how the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) will use airborne electromagnetic surveys to create a Cedar River alluvial aquifer model with a completion date set for September 2017. Future public outreach will alert citizens to this unique diagnostic tool that will characterize the aquifer and where to go in the future to produce water and better understand hydraulic connectivity between the river, the alluvial aquifer, and the bedrock formation.

Response to Committee questions:

What do you hope to gain from the study? Provide ability to plan for changes in the aquifer capacity and to locate future municipal wells.

What do City wells produce? 70 million gallons per day (mgd) is our estimate under normal circumstances; average plant production is 36-38 mgd and max day was 54 mgd.

What does the study tell you? A mathematical model to predict water levels in wells and practical limit of supply.

How long has this project been underway? Discussion began after 2012 drought; fall 2012 drought contingency plan was created. Began working with USGS in detail on this study in 2014.

Is Cedar Rapids ahead of others? Yes this is cutting edge technology.

How far above ground? Helicopter flies 150 feet above ground pulling sensor.

What about water quality – nitrate reduction from river to raw water? We see a nitrate reduction of about 50% as a result of riverbank filtration.

Will AEM results be verified? Will there be boring? Calibrate with existing wells. Some new observation wells have been installed.

Will this predict silt level and leakages? An objective of the model is to predict the effect of siltation in addition to looking at water flow from or to the bedrock formation to determine recharge.

Any other type of testing planned? Not at this time.

3. **Presentation/Handout** – Cedar Lake Study Committee – *Ralph Russell*

This committee began a year ago and is comprised of representatives from Alliant Energy; City of Cedar Rapids; Linn County and the Friends of Cedar Lake. The activities and interest of each committee makeup are included in the handout. This would be a great opportunity to partner with Linn County on a project.

Response to Committee questions:

Cost estimates of redevelopment and where funding from? The Friends of Cedar Lake Master Plan estimate 8.8M

Will this be a statement facility/destination similar to Grays Lake in Des Moines? Will hold Council work session to review what possible uses are and get feedback.

What about area around lake? Work session will look at what Alliant owns and surrounding properties.

Is dredging part of the plan? If fishing/boating than yes it would be necessary.

Containment concerns? Focus of Phase 2 is assessing the environmental aspects. Phase 1 focused on past use of lake and land around.

4. **Update/Handout** – Street Maintenance Projects – *Jon Durst*

An update was provided on current cleanup efforts, snow removal, asphalt repairs which are currently cold patch until mid-April. Concrete crews are busy with Paving for Progress projects. Current project is on 3rd Street SW then will begin F Avenue NE

We have 6,500 sand bags available and current river level is 6 feet. There is a 5-10% chance of peak around 16 feet under model projections.

Response to Committee questions:

Are projects ahead of schedule? 2-3 weeks ahead of normal construction season.

Who maintains 33rd Avenue SW under I-380? IDOT maintains ramps, City maintains street

5. **Update** – Paving for Progress – *Tim Mroch*

The full list of 2016 projects will be provided by Doug Wilson at the April Infrastructure Meeting.

Projects that have been bid and are under contract are 42nd Street from I-380 to Wenig Road; 74th Street from White Ivy Pl to C Ave; B Avenue NW from Highland Drive to 8th St; West Post Road from Gordon Ave to Midway; Oakland Road NE from H Ave to J Ave; Leroy St SW and Spencer; and Park Place NE.

Upcoming projects to be bid are Edgewood Road NW E Avenue to F Avenue; 8th Avenue SW L Street to 7th Street; Seminole Valley Road – Phase 1; 6th Street SW from South of Wright Brothers Blvd to the Linn County line; McCarthy Road; 7th Street SE; 29th Street SE.

Response to Committee questions:

Any discussion, feedback or recommendation by Committee member(s) should not be construed or understood to be an action or decision by or for the Cedar Rapids City Council. Further, any recommendation(s) the Committee may make to the City Council is based on information possessed by the Committee at that point and time.

How are the quadrants covered? Each four quadrants have a supervisor with an additional supervisor for the concrete crew. Supervisors are reviewing quadrant projects to see if additional work can be started by crews.

What are plans for 6th Street SW? Design is underway and work will begin from 15th Avenue to Wilson Avenue FY17 followed by Wilson Avenue to 33rd Avenue and out towards airport.

When will data collection start for update on condition of streets? New contract with Iowa DOT has been completed. Do not have a set date but anticipate summer with report in early 2017.

6. Public input

Robin Kash – enjoy seeing progress on Cedar Lake and hopes it can be cleaned to a level where swimming is possible and can be kept clean. Watershed runoff needs filtered with permeable bricks/pavers and regulate residential use of chemicals. Test runoff into Cedar Lake.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Holmes, Administrative Assistant I, Public Works Department