



**City of Cedar Rapids
INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
City Hall – Council Chambers
Tuesday, August 16, 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: Mike Duffy, Street Superintendent; Jim Flamming, Utilities Process & Facilities Engineering Manager; Cara Matteson, Storm Water Coordinator; Matt Myers, Traffic Engineer; Doug Wilson, Engineering Program Manager.

1. Approval of Minutes from July 19, 2016 meeting.

ACTION: All in favor.

2. **Presentation** – WPCF Nutrient Reduction & Solids Facilities Plan – *Steve Hershner/Dave Dechant*
Update on the efforts that are currently underway to prepare the WPCF for future changes in regulatory requirements regarding nutrient removal and the need to renovate the 36-year-old solids handling/disposal process operation. The new nutrient removal requirements will be directly linked to how resources are covered, wastewater is treated, and solids will be generated or handled at the WPCF which is why these elements were combined for this planning effort. The Utilities Department is currently in the process of completing a study with the assistance of HDR, Inc. The final report will also serve as an update to the 2011 Solids Facilities Plan sections related to secondary treatment and solids handling in the 2006 WPCF Master Plan.

Response to Committee questions:

Is there additional funding/grants available? No. Legislature may have Water Quality funding for smaller municipalities.

How will this affect industries? Anything industries can do towards source reduction benefits everyone. Credits will be allowed based on efforts, and financial assistance for capital investments will come from revenue bonds or State Revolving Fund.

Is our facility the largest in the state? Des Moines handles more flow but Cedar Rapids Utilities Department Water Pollution Control Division has much larger organic strength component.

Cedar Rapids would be second in size after Des Moines in drinking water treatment capacity.

What needs to be done to plant? As facility is reaching life span (started operation November 1980) we need to look at future nutrient capacity and meeting regulations.

What resources could be captured? Biogas for natural gas distribution or electrical renewable energy credits and nutrients (mostly phosphorous) for possible sale and re-use.

How many industrial pretreatment facilities in use? Only two industries currently pre-treat any portion of their waste streams. Industries are categorized by user group; Group 3 = 9; Group 2 = 20 and all other residential/small commercial users are considered Group 3.

Industries currently pre-treating mainly focus on BOD and solids removal? Yes

Besides rate increase, is there a sinking fund that can be used towards improvements? Will follow-up with that information.

What are nutrient limits? Based on current waste strength we need to reduce influent levels by 66% for nitrogen and 75% for phosphorus.

What is nitrogen level in river? Depends on many variables, focus is on nitrate component as it relates to our drinking water. Nitrate has been measured at 18 milligrams per liter (mg/l) and in colder weather less than one mg/l. Phosphorus is weather event driven.

Will City be held to concentration? At the end of the nutrient reduction strategy process there will be an annual average concentration in milligrams per liter. Nutrient Reduction Strategy process includes, submitting biological nutrient removal feasibility study within two years of NPDES permit renewal and then negotiating technology standards with DNR. Timeframe would be 2-year feasibility study; 3 years' negotiation and refinement of rates; 5 years' for construction and then completion of an 18-month optimization study before discharge limits are formally amended into the facilities NPDES permit. Permit amendment discharge limits are based on operation of process constructed and the 18-month optimization period.

Recommending rate increases soon? Focus will initially be on capturing and using biogas, Infrastructure Committee and Council will be informed throughout this study, future proposed process changes and budget development on funding options and needs.

3. **Recommendation/Presentation** – Financial Options and Adoption of Storm/Sanitary Sewer Master Plans – *Dave Wallace/Casey Drew*

A presentation provided on financial considerations for both master plans along with preliminary timeline provided. Will continue to enhance plans over the next four years with renewal in five years. Request approval and recommendation to Council for adoption of 2016 Stormwater Masterplan and 2016 Sanitary Sewer Masterplan.

Response to Committee questions:

Besides revenue bonds are there other ways to fund? Moved away from General Obligation Bonds in 2007 and switched to revenue bonds that do not count against debt capacity.

Is 75% excessive revenue needed to retire bonds? Yes.

Is that indicative to Stormwater? Usually it is the norm for AA bonds.

What is done with excess revenues? Issue less revenue bonds and build Capital Improvement Programs.

Is public aware of bond to raise capital?

How are sanitary sewer needs determined to be immediate or 10 years? City continues to grow, maintenance needs

ACTION:

Recommend approval to Council for adoption of 2016 Stormwater Masterplan and 2016 Sanitary Sewer Masterplan.

4. **Update** – Paving for Progress – *Doug Wilson*

List of Paving for Progress projects bid for contractor construction and status was provided along with upcoming public hearings and bid openings. Projects scheduled for 2017/2018 with professional services agreements on Council agenda are E Avenue at Stoney Point Road to Highway 100; Cherokee Trail which includes E Avenue to Morgan Creek and Oakland Road/Old Marion Road. Planning phase for 6th Street from 33rd Avenue to Wilson Avenue to include bio swales and E Avenue NE near Tomahawk Park has infiltration practices and permeable pavement.

Response to Committee questions:

Are projects on schedule? Yes. Northwood and Wenig Road will be open tomorrow.

Storm water to drain from street

Sidewalks are not included in Paving for Progress funds? Correct.

Are curb repairs included? Yes, they are part of the street.

5. **Update** – Traffic Striping and Two-Way Conversions – *Matt Myers*

Information on current striping projects and status of two-way conversions was provided. Currently 49% of striping program completed. Looking at overtime and increasing seasonal in order to complete by second week in October. May be opportunity to move up the conversion of Oakland Road and Center Point Road.

6. **Update** – Upcoming Utility Projects to be Filed – *Bruce Jacobs*

Filing plans and specifications for Water and WPC Plant projects provided. Water Main Projects planned in conjunction with Paving for Progress and other Public Works projects also presented. Update provided on USGS Aquifer study with cost split of 60% City and 40% Government.

7. **Public input**

Robin talked on point source solutions and that cities contribute 10% towards the problem. He commended Des Moines waterworks for being advocate.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Holmes, Administrative Assistant
City of Cedar Rapids Public Works Department