# MEETING SUMMARY

**SUBJECT:** STORMWATER COMMISSION MEETING

**MEETING DATE**: Monday – May 2, 2016 at 5:00 pm

**ATTENDANCE LIST**:
- ☒ Carole Teator, Commission Chair, term expires 6/30/17
- ☒ Mike Dryden, Commission Member, term expires 6/30/17
- ☒ Craig Seeley, Commission Member, term expires 6/30/16
- ☒ Stacie Johnson, Commission Member, term expires 6/30/18
- ☒ Mike Butterfield, HDR, Inc., term expires 6/30/18
- ☒ Sandy Pumphrey, Project Engineer, City Staff
- ☒ Cara Matteson, Storm Water Coordinator, City Staff
- ☒ Martin Smith, Friends of Cedar Lake Organization Member
- ☒ Tammy Schnell, Administrative Assistant II, City Staff

## DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Meeting called to order at 5:02 p.m. by Commission Chair, Carole Teator

2. The minutes of the 3/7/16 meeting were approved.

3. **Introductions**
   No introductions were required.

4. **Public Input**
   A. Speaker: Martin Smith
      *1)* Remind residents there is one ton of organic matter free each day from compost site.

5. **Stormwater Commission Charter Review**
   A. Speaker: Carole Teator, Commission Chair
      *1)* Sandy emailed the charter to the Commission members about three weeks ago.
      *2)* Carole stated the Storm Water Commission is an advisory level commission, offering advice to the City Council.
      *3)* Discussion was held on the enforcement ability of the Commission when it comes to Construction Site Runoff Control or Post-Construction Runoff Control. The Commission provides policy recommendations or guidelines to consider and some initiatives too.
      *4)* Discussion was held on policies the Commission has put forth, including reviewing concerns people brought forward to the staff. The Stormwater Commission also approved the storm water utility with its incentive, by passing a Motion to recommend the utility fee.
      *5)* Discussion was held on what the role is between the various commissions and the City Council. When stormwater issues come up, should there be a presentation or discussion between the infrastructure committee and the chair or rep from the stormwater commission, or should it be from the City Council liaison appointed to the Commission. Justin Shields is the liaison for the Commission.
      *6)* Stacie Johnson stated she endorses this Charter, but would like to know how it can get some traction and policy and input. Discussion was held on how the Stormwater Management Plan will give us a platform to start addressing some of the policy.
      *7)* The Master Plan was discussed:
         a. Sandy advised the purpose for the Master Plan originally was because it hadn't been updated since 1998. The core of a master plan document really isn't policy, it's more to look at the City as a whole to determine where our problem areas are across the City, and then suggest some policy items.

b. The Master Plan has not yet been adopted. It has been presented to the Infrastructure Committee, updating them on where we are at in the process. At some point we will be requesting City Council adoption of the documents. The Commission has been updated as a whole, on the progress of the Master Plan.

c. Mike Butterfield added the Master Plan is created to be a living document. About 85% of the scope of the overall project and the relative level of effort was on the model, and the rest of the sections are reviewing the City's asset management plan (which is under a pretty comprehensive overhaul right now), and making recommendations and turning them into practice. Mike discussed the models and how they will continue to build over the years, and that is what he feels will happen with the policy recommendations section. He will arrange for an executive summary when it's finalized of everything and will distribute it the City Council members and this Commission as well.

*8)* Discussion was held about getting all of the Commissions together to talk to get various inputs into the City. Stacie stated this was attempted at one time with Planning, but standing staff at that time didn't want to that. Carole stated that since we're not a voting body, this commission could reach out to other commissions.

*9)* Carole stated that one thing the Commission is not currently doing, but could be doing, is helping more with education. Carole asked Cara to let the Commission know when she is doing education activities, so that they could attend and support it. Carole and Stacie also said they would volunteer if ever needed.

6. **4" Topsoil Status**

A. Speaker – Sandy Pumphrey

*1)* Sandy reiterated this should be called just the Topsoil Rule and not the 4" Topsoil Rule. It is becoming a rule about topsoil treatment, rather than a minimum amount of topsoil that should be left on a site.

*2)* There is still some pushback from the Development Community. The thought was originally to try and have it passed prior to this construction season, but that has not happened and there is still some further discussion. Instead of trying to fight it hard and attempt to pass it at this point, we will continue to work with the Development Community, helping them to see the benefits of it and that their costs aren't going to be what they think they might be, and continue to work slowly over the next several months and get ready for the FY17 Construction Season.

*3)* It will be brought back to the Infrastructure Committee mostly likely in August. They will continue to work the back and forth with the Developers until then.

*4)* Mike Butterfield asked if there has been any outreach to residents in newer developments who may have had to spend thousands of dollars to refurbish their lawns. Sandy is not aware of any such outreach. Carole suggested the Committee could spend some time brainstorming on how they could help with this outreach and education on this.

*5)* Discussion was held on adding wording such as "top soil needs to be restored' in the Development Agreements. It was determined that any change would not be well received by the Developers, even if it doesn't cost them anything. Sandy reassured the effort is not dead, but we're moving forward on a less aggressive schedule, allowing the development community to understand it's not as bad as some may think it is.

*6)* Discussion was held on the balance of being a commissioner and not acting as one person. Sandy advised you still have the right as a citizen to speak politically as an individual, as long as you are not presenting yourself as a committee member at that time. If you're representing facts as a part of the committee, that is fine. However, if you're representing an opinion, that would be an issue, because you're one of five.

*7)* Development occurring along McLeod Run was discussed, which includes a lot of concrete. Sandy advised if development is occurring, permits should be pulled, and the permit process kicks off a review by Development Services, who will review the proposed changes in light of the current ordinances. They are not allowed to go beyond current ordinances.

*8)* Sandy said there are a number of initiatives going on and if the Commission tells us to be aggressive and make this happen, Staff would facilitate that. Carole advised she'd like to see the Top Soil Policy play out, which is a step in achieving what we are trying to achieve in the Stormwater Management revisions. The Utility will also achieve some of what we are trying to achieve.

*9)* Discussion was held on "detain and "release" over a 24-hr period. It was explained this is for the 100-year rain event, which we don't regularly receive; and not the standard heavy rains we've received recently.

7. **Stormwater Utility Fee Structure for FY17 – Update on Changes**
   A. Speaker – Sandy Pumphrey
      *1)* The Stormwater Commission and Infrastructure Committee proposed and recommended it to the full City Council. The City Council held a public hearing on April 12, and it's up for three votes, all of which will most likely be held separately. The first vote will likely occur May 10, the second May 24, with the final vote on June 14. The third (final) vote could be combined with the second vote on May 24.
      *2)* A few questions have come in about what they will have to pay. We've worked very closely with some of the biggest opponents, and we're being successful with making a couple of these entities realize it's not going to be as bad as they thought if they take advantage of the incentives that we're also offering with the ordinance.

8. **Middle Cedar WMA Update**
   Speaker – Cara Matteson, Stormwater Coordinator
   A. There's 21 member entities, including counties, cities, soil and water conservation districts, including the City of Cedar Rapids. Cara is the co-chair and Sandy is the proxy.
   B. The next meeting they're going to be talking with the Flood Center with the HUD Grant and forming some committees and hiring a Water Shed Coordinator. The thought is do a comprehensive water shed plan to outlast the grant. $97,000,000 was granted to the State in total.
   C. There are four identified sub-watersheds right now and they're going to identify four more of where they're going to be doing development with the planning and that's where the funding will be focused, including funding a coordinator to do that. The watersheds prioritized are based on low income, water quality issues, and soil erosion factors. It will also provide outreach efforts, including Iowa State Extension and the Flood Center.
   D. The RCPP was a separate project with 16 partners in the water shed, independent of the formation of the WMA. As the WMA starts to establish itself, it will then encompass some of the initiatives already happening.

9. **Reports**
10. *Commissioners' Reports*
   A. Carole said the City Parks Department has a lot of leftover borough seedlings, about 300, and some other seedlings leftover from tree plantings. This would be a great opportunity to partner with some landowners upstream from us to plant on their properties, which would benefit the City.
   B. Craig talked to Tariq the Water Plant Manager at Cedar Rapids about having volunteers test their water so something like Flint, MI doesn't happen here.
   C. Craig said people have been complaining about the pile up of debris at the retention ditch at Harrison Elementary. Sandy advised that after the fatality that occurred in 2014 near Arthur School, the City took some time to think about what we do with large inlets near schools and parks, where there's the potential for somebody to fall into fast flowing water, and taken into one of those inlets. It's a difficult balance, since there is the potential for debris to get caught on the grate and cause backup upstream. A number of these inlets were looked at in a lot of detail and make a case-by-case recommendation for each one. This is one of the policy issues that is coming out of the Master Plan.
   D. Craig talked about a river walk in San Antonio, TX, which also sustained a devastating flood; and a park in Seattle, WA that was built on top of the freeway, which can catch water and reduce noise.
   E. Craig talked about a book he read that shows how much money you can make off of global warming.
   F. Mike Butterfield asked what the maximum education credit for the new utility fee is. Sandy advised a regular private owner would be able to garner 25%, based on a number of points from different sources. A non-profit or tax exempt entity would be able to garner 50%. There is a guidance document written on this that can be distributed. Mike asked who will administer this education. Sandy said there isn't a plan at this time for the City to do this. However, if there is enough of a demand, an event may be put on two or three times a year organizations could attend for free. They would have to sign in, attend the entire event, and that would be credited back to their

organization. The language in the guidance document is written fairly flexibly, and anybody could go to anything as long as it has a stormwater component based on a number of listed topics. A Stormwater Commission Meeting could also be considered an educational opportunity.

1) *EPA Grant*
   a. We have been rejected for the educational grant we partnered with the Indian Creek Nature Center on. The EPA does offer a debrief conference call, which Sandy will take advantage of and learn specifically why we weren't awarded it.

2) *IDALS Grant*
   a. We had an orientation meeting with the IDALS staff, and went through our contract and set some parameters. The design continues to move forward, with bidding expected in the fall. The four practices include a permeable pavement in an alley near Coe College; a bio-retention cell outside Kennedy High School on Wenig Rd NE, along the south parking lot; a bio-swale on Noelridge Park Property/Council St, it'll straddle the right-of-way line between Collins Rd and Council St on the east side; and the fourth is a bio-retention cell right outside Bowmen Woods Elementary School. These four practices will be a pilot for a much larger implementation program, in which we'll learn some lessons over a season or two. As the Master Plan progresses and as it starts to propose green infrastructure, we will pick up on that and start to implement in many places throughout the City. Maintenance of these practices still has to be determined, which will be part of the discussion moving forward with the Master Plan.

3) *Stormwater BMP Cost Share Report*
   a. There are a total of six projects. $7,280 is allocated out of the $25,000. Three of the six projects are for rain waters and three of them are for soil quality restoration. Cara has met with some Landscape Companies and has done some marketing to sell and push the idea of the soil quality restoration. Social media has been used for outreach and a lot of residents have been calling.

4) *Stormwater Masterplan Progress*
   a. The first iteration is coming to an end and Garrett presented it to the Infrastructure Committee. The plan is to have the Infrastructure Committee recommend full adoption of the first iteration to the full City Council in the next few months. The Stormwater Commission can also recommend it the Council; Sandy will place it on the agenda for the next Stormwater Commission Meeting.

11. **Agenda Items for Next Meeting**
    A. Recommending Stormwater Masterplan to the City Council.

12. **Next Meeting Date**
    - Stormwater Commission meeting scheduled for Monday, July 11, 2016, at 5:00 p.m. City Services Center (Public Works) - 2nd Floor – Greene Square Conference Room 500 15th Avenue SW, Cedar Rapids, IA 52404 - Ph. (319) 286-5802

13. Commission Chair Carole Teator adjourned the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted by Tammy Schnell, AAII, Cedar Rapids Public Works*

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This summary documents our understanding of items discussed. Please contact our office within five working days with any omissions or discrepancies.

cc: Stormwater Commission Meeting Distribution List