MEETING SUMMARY

SUBJECT: STORMWATER COMMISSION MEETING

MEETING DATE: Monday – July 11, 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
- ☒ Stacie Johnson, Commission Member, term expires 6/30/18
- ☒ Mike Butterfield, HDR, Inc., term expires 6/30/18
- ☒ Justin Gerhts, KCRG-TV9, term expires 6/30/19
- ☒ Sandy Pumphrey, Project Engineer, City Staff
- ☒ Cara Matteson, Storm Water Coordinator, City Staff
- ☒ Tammy Schnell, Administrative Assistant II, City Staff
- ☒ Martin Smith, Friends of Cedar Lake Organization Member
- ☒ Craig Seeley, Citizen
- ☒ Karol Beard, Citizen
- ☒ Marshall Beard, Citizen

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Meeting called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Commission Chair, Carole Teator

2. **Introductions**
   Introductions were made to new Commissioner, Justin Gerhts.

3. **Public Input**
   A. Speaker: Marshall & Karol Beard, 3506 Forest Valley Ct NE
   1) There were two elevated empty lots behind them. Two years ago the lot behind them and to the south was developed, and in the process, the builder carved dirt out of the lot directly behind them (that this developer didn't own). This resulted in the Beard's backyard filling up with silt during heavy rains. *(Mr. Beard passed around current pictures of silt in their backyard they received during recent hard rains the last couple of weeks.)*
   2) The Beards brought the silk issue to the attention of Skogman (the developers), and they dug all of the silk of their backyard, seeded it, and installed a barrier fence in the corner of the Beard's lot to try to further contain it until all of the construction was done.
   3) In March of this year, construction of a house started on the lot directly behind the Beard's house. This builder put in one of the tubes filled with chips *(erosion socks)* and left the fence that was installed by Skogman.
   4) The Beard's returned home in June, after being out of town, and they have silt in their backyard again, due to the recent heavy rains, so they called the builder and City right away.
   5) The Builder came out built the black fencing only along the lot line (as shown in the pictures). Karol brought to the Builder's attention that the black fencing should also be terraced on the hill, too.
   6) Both the City and Builder are telling the Beard's that the Builders are doing all that is required, which isn't working, since they have silt in their backyard again. They can't enjoy their backyard and the trees they planted about five years ago, have silt all around the base of a couple of them.
   7) Mrs. Beard spoke to the Builder about installing another fence up where the dirt is, per the Iowa Construction Site Erosion Control Manual. The Builder said they're not required to install it because the City is an SW4 status and, therefore, they don't have to comply with the IDNR

rules and can set their own rules and regulations, and all the City requires is for the tubes to be laid down. The Beards received a copy of the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan from Mike Wolfe, Erosion Control Specialist with the City of Cedar Rapids.

8) They heard back from Mike Wolfe today, and he said they're going to come back and rebuild this fence and use steel posts, instead of wood posts. Mike advised the Beards he thinks the protection has been best as can be expected, considering the heavy amount of rain we've received. They were also told they will get new sod, but it won't match. Because the same thing happened to someone else a couple blocks up, and it didn't match.

9) The Beard's property is a part of the same development as the lots that are being developed.

10) Mike Dryden said the silt fence probably wasn't installed per standard detail and it is supposed to be inspected after every rain event, and excess silt should be removed at that time.

11) Mike Wolfe advised the Beards he wouldn't issue an occupancy permit to the owner. Mrs. Beard said the owner is possibly a County employee and possibly Environmental Specialist himself. First Construction is the builder.

12) Discussion was held on the Erosion and Sediment Control Ordinance and what it requires. The ordinance doesn't reference the Iowa Erosion and Sediment Control Manual. Stacie said it protects the water body and not necessarily protecting neighbors. The ordinance should state the goal of the controls is to keep the sediment on site.

13) Mrs. Beard said there's another house about two up from them at a t-intersection when you come into the main development where there's a bunch of silt in the middle of the intersection that has washed down, and that will run into their retention pond.

14) The Beards have been told that given the slope of the yard and the intensity of the rain events, the efforts that have been made by the builder have been adequate. But how can it be called adequate when the problem continues.

15) Carole advised them to remove any silt from around the roots of the trees as soon as they can, because that could add to the compaction and to tree loss.

16) A work order will be entered by the City to look at the silt in the street, and contact the builder if necessary.

B. Speaker – Craig Seeley

1) Craig gave Cara Matteson information on the Cedar River corridor farmer he mentioned at the last Commission Meeting, and what he does to keep the watershed clean.

2) Greg's Lawn has an all-natural broadleaf weed control and information on it can be found at www.holganix.com.

3) He is still concerned that Penn Ave and Ellis Blvd NW continues to flood at this corner. Sandy advised there is an outlet to the Cedar River they're having issues with, so they are aware of it. Also, the flood control system is going to ultimately go through this area.

4. **Topsoil Policy Update**

Speaker: Cara Matteson, Stormwater Coordinator

A. This will be presented to the Infrastructure Committee July 19 at 4:00 p.m., and the recommendation is to go to Council probably in August/September.

B. 26 soil samples were taken randomly throughout the City. The average was 97% compacted, and it ranged from 89% to 106% compacted.

C. It was a good distribution from all of the different developers and developments.

D. She spoke to a homeowner who had some runoff and high compaction to get an idea how much it cost the owner for their yard. The home has been established for 10 years and it has cost the owner over $10,000 and you can still pick up the sod. This will be included in a slide when presented to the Infrastructure Committee.

E. The Topsoil Policy will be in the ordinance and it's referring back to the eight methods in the Stormwater Manual. If there is a change in the Iowa manual, it will continue to refer to those updates. Sandy will share with the Committee the draft ordinance with this language added.

F. The follow up consists of putting down a probe down to 8" to 200 PSI.

5. **Stormwater Utility Fee Structure – FY17 – Update on Changes**

Speaker: Sandy Pumphrey, PE, Project Engineer, City Staff

A. Sandy provided the history of the proposed changes to the fee structure.

B. City Council passed the ordinance in late May after a public hearing and three readings.

C. As a result of some latter discussion, Staff was directed to include a significant expansion of our current cost share program for BMP installations.
   1) Previously, our cost share program included $25,000 a year total budget. It was for residential and commercial, but the real focus was on residential retrofits. The stipulation was that it would be 50% or $2,000, whichever was less of the project cost.
   2) The direction they received as a part of the stormwater utility fee structure change, was to expand that program up to $250,000, from $25,000, and to remove the cap (which was a $2,000 cap on any one project). This means there is a lot more money for this next fiscal year for installation of BMPs installation practices.
D. The policy is in place and Sandy and Cara are working on writing the program, including the application. They anticipate having it done in the next few weeks and it will include two tracks.
   1) The first track will be an easy track where a homeowner wants to do something, but doesn't want to spend a lot of money. There is less oversight with these types of project.
   2) The other track is for developers who want to do much larger projects and commercial projects. This will require engineered plans and more inspections. This application process will be more complex.
   3) This will be a competitive process and is based on the priorities areas from the Stormwater Master Plan. The applications will be collected over a three-month period of time and a group of some kind will meet and review the projects that were submitted and come up with an objective scoring and award the projects based on it. These are the details they are still figuring out.
   4) The first bills that will be affected with the new increase of fee will be the end of September.

6. **Middle Cedar WMA Update**

Speaker: Sandy Pumphrey, PE, Project Engineer, City Staff

A. The Middle Cedar WMA was formed three months ago to respond to a large grant the State of Iowa received in the amount of $97,000,000 from HUD. The Middle Cedar WMA will see a small portion of this amount.
B. The second board meeting occurred a few weeks ago. The next step is to hire a full-time watershed coordinator, who will work on a watershed master plan for the Middle Cedar.
C. Very similar to what occurred for the Indian Creek Watershed, but Indian Creek is 100 square miles, and the Middle Cedar is 6,000 square miles.
D. The City of Cedar Rapids is a stake holder on this board.

7. **Discussion Regarding Recent Development Projects**

Speaker – Stacie Johnson, Commission Member

A. Stacie reported Alliant Energy and Schimburg, both in Cedar Lake Watershed, both added an acre of impervious surface. What was done for the water quality at these locations? These are recently new developments.
B. Sandy did some research and found that the Schimburg property has an underground detention. As part of the underground detention, there's what's called an isolator row which is the sediment trap, and this takes care of their water quality feature. Mike Dryden added there is no connection between the isolator row and the storm sewer in general, so the only place for the water to go is down.
C. Sandy continued that on the Alliant property, the water quality that qualified that satisfied City staff, is a snout system. It's not a complete solution, but it does meet the current criteria.
D. Stacie is concerned that they're focused on sediment only and retaining the rain until the sediment drops out, but it's still making its way to McLeod Run, which is the one stream in Cedar Rapids that has the most flash flooding.
E. Sandy said there are current rules in place and it's up to the Commission if we want to look at them.
F. Carole suggested the Commission review the Storm Water Ordinance now that Justin is on board. But she feels the Top Soil Policy will go a long way in addressing some of the concerns Stacie has for new development.
G. Mike Butterfield agreed that now is a good time to take a new look at the ordinance, taking into consideration what the first iteration of the Master Plan has shown. In addition we have a list of policy recommendations, and some policy things being implemented, with the water quality aspect in mind.

H. Sandy feels the new leadership of Public Works would be open to further discussion with the Commission. Beforehand, though, he recommends sitting down with Jen Winter to discuss what we are trying to accomplish with the new effort.
I. Carole said they will try to set up a meeting with Jen to talk about what outcome they'll try to achieve when working on the ordinance, given the new Top Soil Policy and incentive program.
J. Sandy will send out to the Commission, again, the current ordinance and the changes that got stuck before.

8. **Reports**

A. *Commissioners' Reports*

1) Carole shared information on three upcoming events.

a. A couple of weeks ago shee toured the new Indian Creek Nature Center and it's amazing There's going to be a lot of stormwater related practices out here. The grand opening is the weekend of September 17th.
b. On September 24th, Trees Forever and the IDNR are putting on the Backyard Forest Conference and starting a new three-year focus on invasive plants. Dr. Jan Thompson from Iowa State will be one of the presenters. She has done research on the importance of the forest understory for both water quality and water quantity. Another speaker will be Heather Holme, who has written on the importance of native plants for pollinators. She will be presenting on trees for pollinators and the importance of invasive plants.
c. The Our Woodland Legacy Symposium is December 8th at the Cedar Rapids Country Club. They are still working on the presenters and what the theme is going to be.

B. *City Staff Reports*

1) IDALS Grant

a. Sandy advised they are continuing to work on the design of the four pilot practices they were funded for. The Coe College one is pretty much done, and the other three are almost done too. The installation of the projects will be bid out by the City. They will look at including some student engagement (i.e. plant a tree), but it would be kept separate from any work a contractor is doing, for insurance reasons. They are working very closely with Amy Bouska.

2) Stormwater Masterplan Progress

a. Sandy advised the process of forming the first iteration is complete, which was an 18-month process. He handed out draft copies of the summary of the Stormwater Master Plan that has not been adopted yet.
b. The last Master Plan was put together in 1998 and since that time, a few things have been implemented; but there were still a number of outstanding items that needed to be addressed. They were already thinking about needing to get it done, but the June 30, 2014 flash flooding event kicked them into gear and they got HDR involved.
c. The Master Plan summary is in three parts, including Recognition of the Existing System and Issues, a Modeling Exercise, and a CIP Plan. It doesn't look at each issue across the City as an isolated issue, but where possible, they combined them and thought about the big picture.
d. The summary will be handed out to the Infrastructure Committee on July 19.
e. Stacie thought it would be helpful to recognize in the summary that the Metro Area Standards also references managing quality, in addition to quantity. Discussion was held on how the focus of this current effort of the Master Plan focused around water quantity and the June 2014 flash flood and not water quality. Mike Butterfield said they found installing green infrastructure on a large basis is not necessarily the most cost effective thing to do, when we have such a large water quantity issue. Just using green infrastructure in tackling the issue of a five-year event, isn't going to take care of the level of flooding we saw in some areas in 2014.
f. Sandy explained that what we're saying is that ideally we want to infiltrate first; secondarily we want to detain and keep that water held back in the watershed as long as possible, so we don't have to deal with it downstream. What we're not saying by focusing on conveyance, that the other methods are not important. Ultimately, even if you are able to infiltrate to the maximum and even if you're able to contain, you still need that conveyance system.

g. Carole further explained that the Master Plan doesn't mean it's precluding other green infrastructure practices from happening, and the Master Plan is about what is already developed.

C. Topics from Commissioners:

1) Stacie asked about the status of the Indian Creek Watershed. Sandy advised there is another meeting tomorrow. The plan has been adopted, and at this point there is not a huge amount of funding. All of those involved are looking out for grant opportunities to start implementing practices in this watershed. It needs funding for it to really start to gain momentum.

9. **Agenda Items for Next Meeting**

A. Review Stormwater Ordinance

B. Recommendation on Cost Share Implementation for the fee structure.

10. **Next Meeting Date**

- Stormwater Commission meeting scheduled for Monday, **September 12, 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

11. Commission Chair Carole Teator adjourned the meeting at 6:30 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