



**2A Stormwater Advisory Committee (SAC) Meeting Agenda**  
**2:30-4 PM, February 17, 2022**  
**Meeting Held Remotely**

Board Chair Terry Schooler called the meeting to order at 2:34 p.m. The board was in full attendance minus Gary Nesbit. Minutes from the previous meeting were approved with no comments, except for the abstention of David Havlick who was not present for the full meeting.

A financial overview and update were provided by Stormwater Business Administrator Brenda Roy. She explained the current stormwater operation budget in addition to an explanation of the budget adjustment regarding contractor costs and salary savings.

Christine Lowenberg inquired asked to staffing levels due the economy and job market. Stormwater Division Manager Richard Mulledy said the Enterprise has recently acquired two new reviewers, and that a third reviewer position was being advertised. "We are doing very well as far as staffing," he said. Only two additional positions remain that will eventually need to be filled. Once filled, these positions will allow the enterprise to curtail third party reviewer needs within three to four months after the individuals have been sufficiently trained.

Brenda Roy went on to explain the drainage operations and maintenance budget, which showed all goals met or not met in accordance with the Service Level Agreement. Pond inspections were up significantly over the previous year. The Enterprise oversees 350 facilities that will need to be inspected beginning in the Spring.

Terry Schooler asked how long it is anticipated that the facility reviews will take. Richard Mulledy explained more about the over 220 private facilities which vary greatly in size and scope and what will be required for their reviews. Stormwater expects to be done with these reviews within the next few years, and then most of the facilities should be altered to City standards within the next 8-10 years. It is a long process that will start this Spring.

Brenda Roy then explained more about the Stormwater Capital Improvements budget and demonstrated that all funds have been expended or planned for 2022. Some 2021 capital improvement projects will begin in 2022; this was followed by a minor explanation of projects and extenuating factors to explain the scheduling.

Following was a discussion of land/real estate issues that have arisen with The Classical Academy and a stormwater project on/near their property. Some meetings have been set up to move forward on this. Mayor Suthers inquired about the relationship with the Air Force Academy and Richard Mulledy confirmed the AFA is happy, and the relationship is the best it has been in 20 years. Councilman Strand confirmed that his AFA contact is pleased with recent work, and several projects have recently wrapped.

Terry Schooler asked if the Enterprise has bids in for the work, due to his reports of high inflation. Stormwater Projects Manager Tim Biolchini said yes, a contractor is on board and the prices are coming in as we originally anticipated. For some of the smaller projects, there are several interested contractors, so the pricing has managed to stay competitive.

Mayor Suthers asked after large, outstanding accounts from the community. Brenda Roy said that accounts are reviewed once they are 90 days past due and this occurs later in the year. The balance from the treasurer for outstanding accounts is \$46,792. Mayor Suthers asked if accounts have been rectified with the COS Airport and Peterson SFB. Brenda Roy said yes, they were provided with additional information and given an informal review after which adjustments were made, and both parties appear pleased with the status.

Mayor Suthers then requested clarification as to how often assessments to determine new properties occur, as well as how long it takes to get the properties added for billing. Brenda Roy responded that the Enterprise does reviews every six months. The most recent new developments, post review, were added to the bill file in November. As far as billing, the Enterprise where it intended to be in 2022 and is on track to meet the growth projection for 2023. Once the information for the new development is confirmed, these are added to the bill file relatively quickly, usually within two months.

The enterprise reviews aerials to determine disturbed acreage and determine the proper amount to bill based on the acreage. At the time the aerial is taken, if the disturbed area is greater than an acre, the Enterprise will bill for the developed acreage. Later, if the project is finished and the bill is appealed, it will be reevaluated. There is potential that the developer made changes. However, initially the Enterprise will bill in accordance with what is viewed because that is the best and only information available.

Mayor Suthers questioned the amount of appellate activity since the inception of the billing. Richard Mulledy said no formal appeals have arisen in the last year or two and provide an explanation of the appeals process. As far as late bills, year over year, the Enterprise has seen consistent declines in both amount of bills and amount due. Brenda Roy then showed a breakdown of what is billed by the third-party billing agent and what is billed by Colorado Springs Utilities. CSU anticipates adding all bills by Q1 2023; they will be adding a separate stormwater service point so they can bill every parcel. A history of bills- electronic vs paper bills- was then provided, as well as a presentation of the cost of sending bills via the third-party billing agent versus CSU. Brenda Roy also stated that no additional customer service staff are anticipated to be needed for questions at this time, despite the fee increases.

Tim Biolchini then presented a CIP IGA projects recap, updated through February 11, 2022. Twenty-one projects had been completed by end of 2021. We have 51 projects in different phases due to three-year look ahead planning.

*Phase 3 of Monument Branch project:* Tim explained the status of this project. Terry asked who is at risk if there is damage. Richard said the only risk would be to the environment sending more sediment downstream into the AFA, but the City is not at risk. The question, "What is the CSU risk?" was posed to Richard. Richard responded that high pressure sanitary/sewer pump station could fail if this area is not repaired.

*Flying Horse Pond 1 Retrofit:* Pond was originally designed to hold water, which the City is not permitted to do, and this was flagged by the EPA in the lawsuit for this pond. We are designing a new detention facility with a legal pool to appease the local community. Richard adds the City met with residents that were sold their homes with the enticement that they had “lake-side” property. Our design is very appealing to these residents while we are staying within the confines of the Consent Decree. Richard explained we have approx. 16 ponds throughout the City that have no legal right to hold water, so Tim is in the process of locating and re-designing these ponds to be proper detention facilities which are required to drain completely within 72 hours after a large rain event.

*South Douglas (just upstream of Centennial):* Tim explained we received an approved FEMA grant to improve this creek. The old wall had completely collapsed, and we are due to complete the new wall and improvements by next month.

*Spring Creek at Valley High:* removed all invasive plant species and hired a contractor to repair the bank and trail.

*Sand Creek Pond 2:* Just starting this project located right next to the SkySox Stadium. Stormwater is collaborating with Parks on this site. Currently it is very hard to maintain and would not capture a 100yr flood event; it can only hold 50 yr. The plan will provide lots of amenities for the community as well as include Stormwater quality features that we hope will be working against our debt. Richard envisions an offline wet bottom storm quality area to the northwest side of the site. This project will approximately cost about \$4.5M.

*SWENT Ops Training Facility:* Tim explains O&M has a training facility off Hancock Expy, and we have plans to improve this training facility. O&M maintains the ponds and other SW facilities within the City, and new staff and current staff are trained at this location. By improving this facility, we will have more training options at this location to include mock sand filter basin, mock extended detention basin, pipes, etc. Christine commented that is very exciting and thinks it will be great to have that training site available to the community. Richard explained the training that currently goes on at this training site to include GEC trainings for staff as well as contracting agencies.

Mayor Suthers asked if we are up to date with IGA compliance. Richard explains we are complying and just delivered the annual IGA report to Pueblo last week. Richard also mentioned Pueblo had reached out to him to come and give a presentation as an update on City status.

FEMA CRS PPI: Tim discussed targeted outreach projects for FEMA flood awareness. We are currently working to obtain a Repetitive Loss list from FEMA, as well as researching what information RBD has available to the public and what can be added. Tim is also working on what information can be added to the City’s website regarding flood hazards and developing messaging that can be posting to the City’s social media sites.

A short Green Infrastructure Update was provided, along with a finalization schedule. The draft was due by February 25, and additional edits would occur post submission. The manual should be published online March 11 to include step 1, drainage criteria manual. Erin Powers provided and implementation schedule for development as well and all new drainage reports will need to include requirements

beginning May 1. She explained that the Enterprise had a great process with the HBA and development community and that they worked through many examples and densities. The community seemed pleased with the conversations and progress. Richard said one more general stakeholder meeting will occur in March or April. Actual implementation standards have not actually changed since the August 21 draft was released and that there will be no rapid changes or big surprises. The land development technical community give different projects initial feedback, so a stormwater representative has been warning all these developers about their projects for the last couple months.

Christine Lowenburg provided praise on the progress. "The city has done a great job of staying on top of this and getting in touch with everyone," she said.

The implementation will not go through City Council. The target is the development and engineering community. The Enterprise utilizes a "stormwater criteria email" to communicate with that group of hundreds of people, and we always encourage folks to connect in that manner. This effort has also seen the finalization of language for a parking incentive- in accordance with ReToolCOS. The green infrastructure definition will be added to what will be City Code in the future.

An MS4 permit update was provided. The MS4 draft permit has been issued for comment solicitation. We then have the opportunity to respond to the comments. This is a back-and-forth process, but it is in progress. Then the State of Colorado will consider all comments and we will work through a second draft for future adoption.

Thanks were provided to Terry and Emily Magnuson for their service on the SAC, as this was the final meeting of their terms. A new chair and vice chair will be selected at the next meeting. Terry adjourned the meeting at 3:52 p.m.