



August 18 Stormwater Advisory Committee (SAC) Meeting Minutes

Meeting began at 2:08 p.m. Meeting held over Teams and in-person in 401 Large.

Attendees: Matthew Johnson, Councilman Dave Donelson, Richard Mulledy, Tim Biolchini, Councilman Tom Strand, Christina Aragon, Maren McDowell, Jeff Besse, Erin Powers, David Havlick

This meeting was administered for informational purposes only, and no votes were held.

Financial Overview and Update provided by Richard Mulledy

Rate increase: Phase 2 in effect, going well. Phase 3, last increase for the fee. Minimal calls.

Past Due YTD: July 2022 – 90 days+ past due is 1,947 about \$210K, intent to lien 294 accounts approx. \$112K. In September, we will be taking accounts to City Council to certify delinquent fees and send to Treasurer for collection. October is the deadline to pay fees to avoid lien. City Council Dave Donelson asks if there are any large accounts pending lien. Mulledy says yes, Air Force Academy is one, but we reached out to them and it was an internal miscommunication and they will be paying the fees to avoid lien. Remaining accounts to pay from 2021 – 28 accounts.

Mulledy explained how funds are broken down into operations/maintenance within capital expenditures. Currently \$5 million remains and this is on track for the budget and salaries as we head toward the end of the year. He explained more about drainage operations and maintenance and the Service Level Agreement (SLA) with the Operations Division of the Public Works Department. The Stormwater Enterprise “purchases” the maintenance services. The group has needed to push their maintenance schedule ahead slightly because of storm and flood events. More attention and has been needed particularly for Spring Creek and the SE section of town. There might be a need to expense a bit more before the end of year to cover the rest of the needed maintenance. Maintenance typically occurs during the colder months.

City Councilor Dave Donelson asked what would happen if the money were to be fully expensed for the year. Mulledy responded that the Enterprise is prohibited from using general fund money. The Enterprise can only operate off the revenue that it collects. To date the Enterprise has not “run out” of maintenance dollars when it has been needed. Weekly meetings occur to ensure funding needs are met and a capital project could be delayed to cover windfall if necessary. The Enterprise will re-shift needs and funding sources to make sure we are doing the most good to help the most people. The plan is continually evolving based on the revenue and community needs.

Revenue collection is not linear for the Enterprise; residents do not always pay to exactly fill every need every month. Multiple billing cycles are utilized CSU, so funds collection can be sporadic.

Councilor Tom Strand asked about a line-item denoting of linear feet of pipe repair and replacement, wondering why the number was so small. Pipe repair projects occur more in the winter. The single line item was a sinkhole.

Next was a discussion of the budget showing funding for Stormwater capital improvements. The slide showed money already allocated or planned toward the improvements. Technically the Enterprise have spent \$3 million so far this year toward those improvements although much more is allocated and cannot be spent.

-Project implementation/federal permitting requirements/project updates

- Obstacles to Project Implementation:
 - Funding Deadlines:
 - SWENT Budget Planning - priorities change and monies need to be reallocated from CIP to handle high priority items/emergencies.
 - Grant deadlines – Tim Biolchini applies for multiple grants per year. City Councilor Tom Strand asks how much money the Enterprise receives from grants. Mulledy says the Enterprise hopes to receive about \$35 million in grant funds this year. Two projects starting this month are 75% supported by FEMA through grant money. Grant money includes multiple deadlines; grant money needs to be spent within a certain amount of time, there are design deadlines, oversight, etc.
 - FEMA Floodplain issues: CLOMR (Certified Letter of Map Revision)/LOMR – if the floodplain is being modified, the responsible party needs to submit a CLOMR/LOMR to FEMA which can take nine months to be approved, plus FEMA is experiencing lack of staff so this is pushing project timelines back. Additionally, City Stormwater is cleaning up past non-compliance to CLOMR causing delays.
 - USACE permit issues: also experiencing lack of staff, etc.
 - Access/Easements: time to get access to land/easements can push projects out at least six mos.
 - Seasonal timing: only a limited amount of time to complete projects due to weather. If project gets delayed by permitting or land acquisition, it may need to be delayed further due to seasonal elements.
 - What are we doing about these deadline issues? We plan for it. We know it takes a minimum of 9-18 months to get a permit, so start designing now. Design starts now for projects to begin in 2025.
- IGA Projects: Out of 71 projects on the list, there are only 10 pending that have not been worked yet. We are about three years ahead of schedule. In addition to IGA projects, we do about 30-40 projects that are classified as City projects or emergency projects.
- Currently under Construction:
 - Monument Branch Phase 2B – had to split Phase 2 into A & B phases because of

complications with The Classical Academy (TCA). City had issues get access to easement. Finally got TCA on board, but because of the delay, hit seasonal issues. Had to push project deadline out, but plan to finish construction next month.

- North Douglas at Sinton: Last finding on the EPA audit. Once we complete this, we will have fixed all the findings that the EPA flagged in the lawsuit. This construction just started last week.
- Cottonwood Creek at Austin Bluffs: This project goes from Austin Bluffs along Woodmen up to the D20 bus barn – up to the existing drop. \$6 million project.
- Turman Elementary Channel: Emergency project, contractor in place. Concrete channel was undermined, and concrete sides have completely broken. \$130K project.
- Heatherdale Pipe: Rock Island Trail – SW pipe ready to collapse under trail, took four months to get new pipe. Contractor working out there now.
- Construction Planned:
 - Black Squirrel Creek at USAFA: USAFA is funding most of the project and has contacted the City to request additional funding, in addition to requesting the City build this project.
 - Fairfax Detention Pond: Construction ongoing at Research/ Powers. Pond to go as part of that construction. When the interchange is completed, we will go in and install the pond. Working with CDOT to complete this project.
 - Hancock Training Facility: Starting in the Fall
 - Cottonwood Creek, Monument to Academy: Small section next to Cottonwood Apartments. Installing stabilization to the creek and repairing an outfall, which is part of an IGA project.
 - Middle Tributary at I-25: Developer was going to install improvements, but instead developer is giving SW money to take over the project and add additional improvements upstream.

-Update on Green Infrastructure Manual

Erin Powers provided the update. The manual is now provided as a guidance manual, and it is being used in conjunction with the established requirements. All proofed reports need to meet requirements by November 1. A few projects have gone through meeting the requirements. So far it is working well; the manual is live on the website, in addition to the criteria changes. The next step for implementation is a City-specific design aid spreadsheet to allow developers to calculate the drainage infiltration volume. A white paper will be published explaining the calculation in detail. Developers will be able to take the details and plug them in, rather than developing their own calculation method. All infiltration volumes will be counted toward required volumes per the City's consent decree. There was a discussion of how the industry adopted these new requirements beginning two years ago. Discussion of the committees that were part of the green development, which began about seven years ago. It has been a huge and positive change a long time in coming.

Richard Mulledy expounded upon the definitions of volume infiltration, infiltration rates, and provided a basic understanding of how the rates and volumes are calculated due to some committee questions.

Erin closed by providing more information about different options developers may adopt in order to meet standards.

David Havlick provided the following comment: "I think it's also worth highlighting that LID can promote stronger aesthetics, lower maintenance costs (without detention ponds), and increase property values." Mulledy agreed and elaborated upon the comment.

The meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.