

Meeting Minutes
Department of Public Works
Storm Water Committee Meeting
April 12, 2016
8:30 am

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 am.

The following members were present

Robert Watt, William Brennan, Maryann Rober, Ed Glotzbach, Tom Bowers, Lloyd Palans, Jennifer Avery, Ray Potter, Ann Carter, Anne Lamitola, staff liaison

Also present

Mayor Nancy Spewak, Pete Merten and Josiah Holst, HR Green, Scot Bollinger, Public Works Superintendent

Members of the public present

David Landy, 2 Warridge Drive
Trae Meyr, 2 Forcee Lane

Adoption of the Agenda

Chairman Watt asked for a motion to approve and adopt the agenda; Ed Glotzbach made the motion and Councilman Brennan seconded the motion. All present were in favor.

Chairman Watt welcomed the group and the members introduced themselves. Councilman Bill Brennan stated that from the Council's perspective, addressing storm water is a priority. Anne Lamitola provided an overview of the three-phase storm water program. Bob Watt provided some additional background about the formation of the committee. Mayor Spewak thanked the committee members for their involvement and stressed the importance of the work that the committee will be involved in developing.

Public Forum

David Landy, 2 Warridge Lane, asked that the committee consider setting aside funding for smaller scale projects in addition to larger projects.

Presentation of the Storm Water needs Assessment by HR Green, City Storm Water Consultant

Pete Merten and Josiah Holst presented a summary of the City's first phase of the storm water program; the storm water needs assessment. They explained how data was obtained from multiple sources including MSD, the City, residents through public meetings, the website that was developed for the project, and by walking over 20 miles of creeks and streams in Ladue. A large component of managing the collected data was the GIS maps that were developed. They also developed a basic hydraulic model of the entire City. Over 1,000 problem points were identified, categorized, and mapped.

Anne Carter asked for maps that were easier to read. HR Green stated that they would upload the documents to a site where all members can view the information.

Bill Brennan asked if MSD's sanitary relief project will affect Deer Creek and Ms. Lamitola responded that it should not since that project involved replacing sanitary sewer facilities that will be buried twenty or more feet below grade. Ray Potter, who works with the Ecology Center, stated that he would like coordination amongst MSD, the City, and the Ecology Center due to the impacts that will occur to the Ecology Center.

Ray Potter stated that in the past, there have been stream clean events in Ladue, which he suggested should be reinstated.

Mary Ann Rober asked what impacts the requirements of the Clean Water Act would have on municipal storm water projects and Ms. Lamitola stated that the projects will have to be properly permitted and that those issues would be addressed during the design phase.

Trae Meyer, 2 Forcee Lane, introduced himself to the committee. He stated that he attempted to pursue a stream bank stabilization project and was able to obtain the Nationwide Permit from the Army Corps of Engineers. He explained that MSD and the City did not approve the project and he has not been able to move forward with the solution to the storm water issues that exist on his property.

Councilman Brennan asked whether all creeks are located on private property and Pete Merten responded that the majority of them are on private property.

Mr. Bowers stated that he thought MSD had funds to replace all clay pipe. Pete Merten stated that the clay pipes are sanitary sewers, not storm sewers, and that many of them have been lined. Mr. Merten emphasized the importance of working with MSD as a potential funding source. Ms. Lamitola stated that MSD's recent ballot measure, Proposition S was to establish equal service levels throughout their jurisdiction. This shift in resources could have an impact for the Deer Creek water shed area.

H.R. Green completed the presentation of the Storm Water Needs Assessment.

Discussion of:

- **Ladue Storm Water Committee Framework and Goals**

Mr. Watt provided a summary with regard to the purpose and work plan of the committee as follows:

Make recommendations to City Council with regard to Citywide storm water policy including defining/determining key components of the program:

- Develop storm water program statement that is compatible with legal statement regarding work on private property
 - Define what types of projects will be funded including reviewing legal determination on private property storm water issues

- Level of financial commitment the City's program will fund and development of funding schedule
- Develop prioritization methodology for projects and the work process for project selection
- Review of development standards and prepare recommendations for proposed modifications
- Develop public education and involvement component to program with emphasis on creek maintenance

- **Legal opinion regarding funding of storm water projects**

Bob Watt briefly reviewed the legal opinion provided by City Attorney Erin Seele with regard to the City funding storm water projects. He read the conclusion to the committee:

In conclusion, because the primary purpose of the Committee and funding storm water improvements is to address the numerous issues with the current storm water system and improve the operation of the entire system, work undertaken to accomplish that goal on private property does not defeat that public purpose, despite the fact that such particular property owner may receive an "incidental benefit."

- **Discussion of project prioritization**

The group began to discuss how to allocate funds for a storm water program. It was stated that the half-cent sales tax dedicated to storm water, with no sunset on the tax, generates in excess of one million dollars in revenue annually and that a surplus of nearly \$7,000,000 is currently in the fund. Mr. Watt stated that establishing the project prioritization methodology is very critical and emphasized the need for fairness as well as determining methods that will bring the best return on the City's investment. Mr. Merten provided examples of project prioritization and suggested the committee review the project categorization before the next meeting. The committee should also determine if the number of properties that are impacted should be factored into the project scoring. Mr. Merten also explained how cost sharing from MSD or neighborhood groups could affect the benefit-cost ratio numbers.

Ms. Rober inquired if the scoring will favor larger projects. She stressed that smaller project should not be forgotten. She also stressed that flexibility will be necessary in order to update the plan as time progresses. Ms. Avery stated that coordination amongst neighborhood groups could prove challenging.

The Mayor stated that the residents of the community own the creek and sink holes, as they are largely located on private property. She stated that a component of the program should be public education regarding homeowner's maintenance responsibilities with creeks.

She stressed that cooperation with MSD would be advantageous. Pete Merten stated that MSD is interested in assigning a liaison to the committee and suggested Mark Koester. After some discussion, it was determined that MSD would be invited to participate at a future date, but would not be added to the committee at this time.

Form Sub-committee for storm water development standards

It was decided that a sub-committee needs to be formed which will address storm water development standards as it relates to new construction and permitting. Sub-Committee members are Ray Potter as Chairman, City Council Liaison Patrick Hensley, Mary Ann Rober, Ann Carter, Trae Meyr, Building Official Will Penny, and City Planning Consultant Andrea Sukanek. This sub-committee will report to the Storm Water Committee, which in turn will report and make recommendations to the City Council.

Mr. Watt asked the committee members to spend time reviewing the prioritization methodology for project scoring prior to the next meeting. He thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

The next Storm Water Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday May 12, 2016 at 8:30 a.m., at City Hall.

Mr. Watt moved to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Brennan seconded the motion. All present were in favor and the meeting adjourned at 10:30 am.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "R C Watt".

Mr. Robert Watt, Chairman
Ladue Storm Water Advisory Committee