

Meeting Minutes
Department of Public Works
Storm Water Committee Meeting
May 12, 2016

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

The following members were present

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

Also present

Mayor Nancy Spewak
Pete Merten, Josiah Holst, Samantha Smith all with HR Green
Scot Bollinger, Public Works Superintendent
Traey Meyr, member of the storm water subcommittee for development standards

Members of the public present

None

Adoption of the Agenda

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

Chairman Watt welcomed the group and the members introduced themselves.

Discussion of Score Card Prioritization

Mr. Watt called for any questions regarding the prioritization of the score cards.
Mr. Ray Potter recommended that 25% of the funding should be set aside for small projects. He also stated that the Pulte Development at Conway and Lindbergh is a great example of how detention basins should work but the detention basin behind the library is not maintained. Mr. Potter inquired as to whether maintenance of storm water facilities is included in the MSD or Ladue score card. Ms. Lamitola replied that this is in the maintenance category on the Ladue score card.

Mr. Palans recommended that the committee should focus on the big picture and not on specific areas at this time.

A discussion ensued regarding how benefit-cost ratios are applied to large scale and smaller scale projects. Mr. Merten explained that the benefit cost ratio applies equally to both large and small projects.

Mr. Schwartz stated that the program may need to be tweaked further down the road as more information becomes available.

Mr. Watt pointed out that the City of Ladue has several unique areas that are not accounted for on the MSD score card, including storm drains on private property, structures in the flood plain, and sink holes. Mr. Potter added that many homes were built before the flood plain maps were even generated.

Mayor Spewak recommended that the committee define what the focus will be.

Mr. Watt stated that all score card proposed changes should be submitted in the next two weeks.

Mr. Palans asked how the score cards will be structured and administered for future projects. Ms. Avery asked who decides on how many people will be affected, specifically properties located downstream. Ms. Lamitola responded that HR Green, engineering professionals, will be doing the scoring, and that the Storm Water Committee will not have that responsibility. Mr. Merten stated that it will be the responsibility of the engineering consultants designing the storm water improvements to ensure that projects will not have a negative impact on downstream properties. Ms. Lamitola proposed drafting a new City ordinance that would require all projects to not negatively impact downstream property owners.

Mr. Watt asked about a factor on the Ladue score card regarding properties benefited and asked if it was possible to define properties benefited. Ms. Lamitola and Mr. Merten agreed to draft a definition of properties benefited.

Funding Discussion

Ms. Rober asked what the proposed duration will be for implementation of the Storm Water Plan and she also voiced a concern about whether or not smaller projects would ever obtain funding. Ms. Lamitola mentioned that cost sharing is an option for property owners to help them obtain higher scores which would be beneficial in the funding process. She also stated that some communities such as the City of Frontenac have developed grant programs for smaller projects. Ms. Lamitola stated that she would provide the City of Frontenac's grant program information before the next meeting.

Mr. Palans mentioned the possibility that larger projects may not be eligible for funding with the current revenue source and that low interest loans or issuing bonds may be an option. Mayor Spewak stated that Frontenac's Storm Water estimated cost for addressing storm water issues is approximately fifty million dollars and considering the magnitude of the City of Ladue's Program a bond issue might be a good solution.

General Discussion

Mr. Brennan asked if MSD's DCO2-DCO3 project would have any impact on the City's Storm Water Program. Ms. Lamitola replied that it should not have significant impacts since as the project will be replacing aging sanitary facilities.

Mr. Potter pointed out that the Storm Water Committee is a recommending committee to the City Council, and not able to make decisions. He asked about the duration of the Storm Water Committee and Mayor Spewak replied that the committee will likely be needed on a periodic ongoing basis after the program gets established.

Mr. Watt stated that the committee should make a recommendation with regard to how often the score cards should be reevaluated. Mr. Palans recommended establishing a protocol for reevaluation and also suggested a three-year rolling budget for the storm water program.

Mr. Brennan pointed out that the recommendations from the Storm Water Committee to City Council should be straight-forward and concise. The need for City Council work session with regard to the recommendations from the storm water committee may be necessary.

Sub Committee Status Report

Mr. Potter stated that the Sub Committee is working on a Storm Water Design Manual and that the City needs ordinances in place to minimize impervious surfaces in new construction. He also stated that the waterways within the City are being misused by the property owners. Ms. Rober added that greater enforcement of the City's tree removal ordinance is needed and proposed greater penalties such as fines. Mayor Spewak agreed.

Mr. Potter stated completion of the Storm Water Design Manual may take some additional time and Mayor Spewak emphasized the importance that the Design Standards being completed as soon as possible as she suggested that the Design Standards and the new Storm Water Ordinance should be presented to City Council simultaneously.

Mr. Watt asked the Sub Committee to come up with three to five Design Standards for the next Storm Water Committee meeting in June.

Closing Remarks

Mr. Watt asked Mayor Spewak for a target date for submission of recommendations to City Council and the Mayor suggested by late summer or early fall 2016.

Mr. Palans asked when the score cards will be finalized by the committee and Mr. Watt responded that the score card approval should be completed at the next meeting.

Mr. Watt announced that the next Storm Water Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday June 16, 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 10:00 a.m.

Sincerely,



Mr. Robert Watt, Chairman
Ladue Storm Water Advisory Committee