City of Cedar Rapids  
Flood Control Council Committee  
Council Chambers – City Hall  
MINUTES  
August 26, 2019  
9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Present:  Committee Council members:  Tyler Olson (Chair) and Susie Weinacht

Sandi Fowler (Deputy City Manager), Rob Davis (Flood Control Program Manager), Jen Winter (Public Works Director), Nate Kampman (City Engineer), Justin Holland (Construction Manager), Scott Hock (Parks & Recreation Director), April Wing (Program Manager), Jennifer Pratt (Community Development Director), Emily Breen (DS Communications Coordinator), Steve Hershner (Utilities Director), Susan Heath (Administrative Assistant II)

Committee unanimously approved the June 18, 2019 meeting minutes with no comments added.

Rob Davis presented the Flood Control System Financial Report. For 2019, the City has received the 2\textsuperscript{nd} quarter payment of $2.7M which brings the YTD total to $5.68 million. That is $622K higher than 2018 2\textsuperscript{nd} quarter YTD payments. Payments for the remaining two quarters would need to total $9.3M to receive the full $15M allowable in Iowa Flood Mitigation (IFM) funds in 2019. The last 2 quarters of 2018 were approximately $5M, so it appears the full $15M annual maximum will not be achieved. A target projection of $11M is more reasonable.

Overall, through June 2019, the FCS program has expended $81.5M since 2014, with the IFM sales tax program providing the largest share of funding at $58M. Additionally, through June 2019, the Army Corps of Engineers expended an additional $4,472,000 on Cedar Rapids project since they received funding in July 2018.

Committee Comments:

Q (Olson):  In USACE financial report, please have Reaches 1 through 4 labeled to be more descriptive.

Q (Olson):  Is the shortfall of state sales tax revenues slowing construction?  
A (Davis):  Not yet, but it will start to impact schedule in the next year or two, as fewer projects can move into design. We have been working ahead so far, and have had a head start on getting projects in the hopper.
We should continue to track the IFM sales tax shortfall. With the legislature and Governor approving the extension of bond sale terms from 20 years to 30 years, it gives us some flexibility to accelerate the bond sales to make up the funding shortfall and keep the schedule unchanged. Accelerated bond sales should be considered in next year’s budget.

Q (Weinacht): In looking at the impact of the shortfall, if you were to project the shortfall right now, is it at $6M?
A (Davis): For 2019, we forecast $4M, and from project inception in 2014 through 2019, approximately $10 M. So far this hasn’t slowed progress, because we spend ahead of revenues. This is a spend it or lose it situation each fiscal year, so spending ahead makes sure no available funds are left unspent. Finance Dept is allowing this project to spend ahead up to $15M.

Q (Weinacht): That’s quite a large amount of money. What would that do to the completion date of this project?
A (Davis): This is purely speculative, but if this trend continues, the $10M shortfall during the first 6 years could become $30M over the life of the project. We would then need the State Legislature to extend the program approximately 3 years to receive the full allotment of $269M sales tax revenues.

Q (Weinacht): How long can we continue to bid projects before the shortfall impacts the schedule?
A (Davis): About one year. We have expended $10M ahead of IFM revenues currently. An additional shortfall will get us close to our limit of $15M expended in advance per Finance. After that, we can no longer expend annual maximum, and can only expend the actual receipts.

Rob Davis presented the grants partnership report. Since Committee met last, there were two new additions. First, FEMA has denied the grant application of $862K for the downtown gate structures, so the US Army Corps will proceed with their funds. Second, the US Geological Survey will provide $25K for an aquifer study near Cargill Corn processing. That agreement should go before City Council in the next month or two.

The donation and partnership log hasn’t changed.

Rob Davis presented an update on the East Side Pump Stations
1. The plan is being simplified to eliminate a storm sewer outfall structure at 4th Avenue SE and instead direct the water to the 5th Avenue pump station. This will be a more efficient system by eliminating a bulky and unsightly gate structure in the 4th Avenue plaza
2. An underground storm sewer cross-connection will be added between the Lot 44 pump station and Sinclair detention basin. This will reduce overland storm flow. The Sinclair basin and pump station will be able to handle overflow from the Lot 44 pump station.
3. When the Lot 44 and Sinclair pump stations were bid in 2016 there was no federal funding available, so the pump stations were only partially outfitted. The City will fully outfit those stations in 2020 to have three pumps each during 2020.

Rob Davis presented recommended updates to the FCS Masterplan including types of protection from A Avenue NE to 7th Avenue SE. Updates, to the Masterplan (which is a living document) are recommended to:
1. Refine conceptual design as final design begins
2. Decrease installation time of moving parts (time and motion study – improve reliability)
3. Certification requirements of USACE
4. Accreditation requirements of FEMA

Summary of Master Plan protection type updates and clarified definitions:
1. A combination wall will be a combination of a sill or knee wall plus a removable/demountable wall.
2. Tree of Five Seasons Park – Change from permanent posts and full height removable panel wall, to raising the entire site including the Tree of Five Seasons. The Park will be on a levee instead. Also, construct a permanent pump station instead of temporary to improve resiliency.
3. 1st Ave SE to 2nd Ave SE (City Hall) – Change from permanent wall and permanent posts with full height removable panel wall to a Combination Wall throughout.
4. CRST – Completed. No changes.
5. Eastbank/Smulekoff’s Building – Change from permanent posts and full height removable panel wall to a permanent wall. The owner prefers this and it has been approved by the State Historic Preservation Office. There will be a walkway/trail between the wall and the river.
6. 4th to 5th Avenue SE – Change from permanent posts and a full height removable panel wall to a Combination Wall.
7. From 5th to 6th Avenue SE – Change from permanent posts and full height removable panel wall to a permanent wall. This currently is a parking lot with no building, and if the site were to have a building, the flood wall could be incorporated into the building, like CRST.
8. From 6th to 7th Avenue SE – Clarify removable wall to be Combination Wall.
9. Clarify the protection level of the system. Right now it is listed as 500-year flood plus 3 feet of freeboard. Because the 500-year flood may be re-mapped eventually, clarify the protection level to a static definition. The protection level should be listed as the 2008 flood volume of 143,300 cubic feet per second (cfs) of flow. This is not a change.
   - Define the elevation of the permanent wall component (sill wall) of the Combination Wall. The wall must be at or above the 100-year flood to remove properties from the 100-year flood plain. As FEMA re-calculates the 100-year flood and re-maps it occasionally, a static design above the current 100-year flood flow is recommended. The current 100-year flood is 94,000 cfs, and expected to be re-classified up to 100,000 cfs in 2020 or 2021. The recommendation is to set the preferred top of sill wall at the existing 200-year flood (106,000 cfs) with a minimum sill elevation 10 percent above the current 100-year flood (103,500 cfs).

Committee Action Requested on FCS Master Plan updated for recommending to full City Council:
   - Update of protection types side A Avenue NE to 7th Avenue SE
   - Overall protection level clarification – convey 143,300 cfs
   - Define combination wall sill elevation
     - Preferred 106,000 cfs
     - Minimum 103,500 cfs

Councilmember Olson said he would entertain a motion to approve the changes. Councilmember Weinacht so moved. Motion passed.

No public input.

Council Chair Olson strongly recommended that as we see items come up that could affect the construction timeline, that we bring that forth to the Council as soon as possible.

Meeting adjourned at 10:04 a.m.

Respectfully,

Susan H. Heath
Administrative Assistant II
Public Works Department