MEETING SUMMARY

SUBJECT: STORMWATER COMMISSION MEETING
MEETING DATE: Monday – March 19, 2018 at 5:00 pm
ATTENDANCE LIST:
- Mike Butterfield, Commission Chair, term expires 6/30/18
- Mike Dryden, Commission Member, term expires 6/30/18
- Stacie Johnson, Commission Member, term expires 6/30/20
- Justin Gehrtz, Commission Member, term expires 6/30/19
- Frank Bellon, Commission Member, term expires 6/30/20
- Sandy Pumphrey, Project Engineer, City Staff
- Cara Matteson, Storm Water Coordinator, City Staff
- Tammy Schnell, Administrative Assistant II, City Staff
- Martin Smith, Friends of Cedar Lake Organization Member

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Meeting called to order at 5:01 p.m. by Commission Chair Mike Butterfield
   - Mike Butterfield made a motion to approve the minutes from the 11/6/17 and 1/8/18 meeting. The motion was approved by Mike Dryden; seconded by Frank Bellon. All were in favor to approve the minutes.
   - No introductions were needed.

2. Public Input
   - There was no public input.

3. SUDAS Transition Update
   Speaker: Sandy Pumphrey, City Project Engineer
   - Sandy and other City staff met with Maryann Shinrock today (the City’s Special Projects Engineer overseeing the transition to SUDAS) and he distributed a comparison of SUDAS versus the City’s current Metro Specs, which he received from the meeting.
   - There aren’t a lot of changes pertaining to stormwater.
   - The Uniform Sizing Criteria should be accepted by the City, because it’s a part of SUDAS. This adds a couple extra layers of requirements on designers. Instead of just looking at the 5-year and 100-year as two different scenarios of storm events, the Uniform Sizing Criteria would require water quality, channel protection volume and a number of other levels of a storm event to be looked at by the designer. This doesn’t mean that a design will change it just asks them to consider some intermediate scenarios.
   - Also, as a part of the Uniform Sizing Criteria, water quality would no longer be 1”; it will be 1-1/4”. Sandy confirmed that in order to get full ERU credit, the practice must be designed in line with the Iowa Stormwater Manual, which is 1-1/4”.
   - For the most part the City is adopting SUDAS as a whole, with some tweaks. He gave an example of different material SUDAS allows for pipes – we may just accept one or two of those materials, and not all of them.
   - Action Item: Sandy will email the comparison to Commission members and has asked they provide him with comments, which he will take back to Maryann.

4. Stormwater Ordinance Update
   Speaker: Sandy Pumphrey, City Project Engineer
   - Stacie Johnson asked that this item be added to the agenda; however, she wasn’t able to attend the meeting. Instead, Sandy provided a quick summary of what has happened.
   - The Top Soil Rule is being enforced. They found that most people are using the 4” method, rather than one of the eight from the Iowa Stormwater Management Manual.
• Inspections for private basins are now the burden of the private owner, instead of the City. The City is sending out reminder letters at the five-year mark, to request each owner provide a certification of their basin, to make sure they're keeping capacity.

• There are not currently any changes coming down the pipeline, that he's aware of.

• Mike Butterfield asked about the ERU system. Sandy said that they're coming up on the end of the second year of this system and that it's slow on the uptake and is not widespread at this time. The Cedar Rapids Community School District (CRCSD) has applied and is taking advantage of the educational credit. Cedar Rapids Bank & Trust (CRBT) took advantage of the infiltration credit on their parking lot. Cara is working with Rockwell. Sandy also explained that some of the larger properties in town are still in the transition phase, in which the ERU was set up in a five-year transition so these properties wouldn't immediately get hit with higher fees all at once. July 1st will be the start of year three, and the fee for these larger properties will go up some more.

• Frank Bellon asked where the City is at with regional basins. Sandy replied that regional basins are very much a part of the master plan work. The City is in the process of looking at the growth areas around the city and is looking at specific locations for regional basins, and then trying to figure out how to pay for them and get them built before any development goes in.

• As far as retrofitting regional basins, so far the City has installed one last summer on 18th Street SW. There are more being considered that are coming out of the master plan modeling work. The retrofits are a little tricky, because there is less of a real estate footprint in the built-out areas. Another one will be installed on the far west side of town, near 80th Street and 16th Avenue at Rockhurst Drive, which is currently a farm field. The intent is to make larger regional basins more of a standard practice, than individual smaller basins, but there will be a transition to get there. A few challenges with regional basins include acquiring the land and paying for them up front, and then being reimbursed.

5. BMP Cost Share Applications
Speaker: Sandy Pumphrey, City Project Engineer

• Per Cara Matteson (who wasn’t able to make it to the meeting), Sandy reported that there have not been any new applications since the last meeting.
  o Two have been constructed – CRBT and St. Marks. And two have been approved and not constructed yet, which are Buffalo United Methodist Church and Crestwood Ridge.
  o CRBT is receiving the Outstanding Partnership Award at the Iowa Storm Water Conference this Thursday for their parking lot at 1st Avenue and 6th Street NE.
  o There is currently approximately $175,000 left out of the $250,000 allocated for this fiscal year.
  o Mike Butterfield asked if a project is approved at the end of this fiscal year, but can’t be constructed until next fiscal year, would it still be approved. Sandy answered that since City Council has already approved the funds for next fiscal year, that shouldn’t be a problem, but he didn’t know if there would be a timeframe, once the new fiscal year starts, that the payout would need to be made.
  o Cara will continue with public outreach on this, and the City has hired a new Communications Coordinator, Phillip Plates, who will also help with this.

• The AmeriCorps partnership with the City to provide free rain gardens has been pretty successful. AmeriCorps committed to do doing 12 of them in residential yards; we’ve received 44 applications to date. Sandy does not know how the 12 will be chosen out of the 44. The property owner pays for the material and the labor is free. March 27 is the last day to turn in an application.

Speaker: Mike Butterfield, HDR Engineering

• Last year modeling focused on E Avenue and finishing up O Avenue. This year modeling is looking at the Rockford Road basin and the Czech Village watershed. These two are being done early to correspond with the work that is being done for the interior drainage system on the flood control system. Later this month, they will also be taking a broader look at getting some real specific alternatives and projects put together and on the CIP list for the Kenwood basin.

• Growth area planning for stormwater is also being looked at pretty heavily. How can growth and development be done in a way that works well with stormwater, including looking at good spots for regional detention and figuring what’s the most cost effective approaches for some of those growth areas. There were two areas done as part of the FY17 update and this year there are another three areas.
• They also will be working on is some policy possibilities. HDR met late last year with City staff to talk through priorities for a broader green infrastructure policy, when that gets applied and how. HDR will take some of their national experience and see how they can apply some of that to Cedar Rapids.
• The watershed management plan for Cedar Lake is on hold until funding is made available.
• Sandy added that they are also updating the CIP list annually by going over the entire list and scoring and reassessing the scoring to determine if it was still accurate and still in the right ranking. This will be done each year. A goal is also to get a transparent list on the website, one not as complex as it currently is.

7. Reports:
• City Staff Reports
  o IDALs Grant – Sandy Pumphrey
    ▪ The grant we were awarded in early 2017 was recently extended. Originally, we were to have our projects done by June 30th of this year, but that has been extended to the end of this year. One of these projects is moving forward and could be complete by June 30, but the other one has stalled due to finding the right location for it. They believe they have found that location outside of a school, still in the 6th Street SW right-of-way, and they are moving ahead with it.
    ▪ The City did not apply for this grant this year. They determined that at this time it didn’t make sense.
  o Middle Cedar WMA – Sandy Pumphrey
    ▪ This watershed management is well established and received money under the HUD Disaster Resilience Grant.
    ▪ They have hired a Watershed Coordinator and have made large strides to put together a watershed management plan. They also have a consultant on board heading up this effort.
  o Indian Creek WMA – Sandy Pumphrey
    ▪ This plan has been in place for a number of years. The Board still meets to keep things moving, and the member organizations (Cedar Rapids, Robins, Linn County and Marion) are committing a share, up to 50% a year, which is mainly for operations expenses, to keep this going.
    ▪ At the end of January, there was an opportunity through NRCS in Iowa for a share of a $3 million grant. They asked for around $600,000 to pay for a five-year term for a Watershed Coordinator. They have not heard back on this yet.

• Commissioner Reports
  o Stacie Johnson sent an email to Mike Butterfield about wanting to formulate goals for the Commission for the big picture which applies to all of the departments that affect stormwater – i.e. new projects in Public Works, new developments with Development Services, Community Development as it relates to action plans and neighborhood plans, and overall goals that they can have for policy.
    ▪ Mike Butterfield suggested the Commission meet during the off month, possibly in April, and use it to set goals and to assign working groups to accomplish those goals.
    ▪ The Commission agreed they are interested in taking this approach. Mike will send out a poll to determine what dates works best for everyone for this meeting.
    ▪ Action Item: Tammy will email a copy of the Charter to everyone before the goal setting meeting.
    ▪ Action Item: Mike Butterfield will email a poll to determine what date works best for a Goal Setting meeting.
  o Mike Butterfield would like to start using the area on the agenda where the Agenda Items for Next Meeting are listed, as a way to continue the conversation for the goals for the Commission.
8. **Adjourn Meeting**
   - Agenda Items for Next Meeting
     - Streambank Restoration Study (depending on study schedule)
   - Confirm Next Meeting
     The next regularly scheduled Stormwater Commission meeting is scheduled for Monday, **May 7, 2018**, at 5:00 p.m. City Services Center (Public Works) - 2nd Floor – Greene Square Conference Room, 500 15th Avenue SW, Cedar Rapids, IA 52404 - Ph. (319) 286-5802
   - The meeting was adjourned at 5:58 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted by Tammy Schnell, AAII, Cedar Rapids Public Works*

This summary documents our understanding of items discussed. Please contact our office within five working days with any omissions or discrepancies.

cc: Stormwater Commission Meeting Distribution List
    City Councilperson Scott Overland