MEETING SUMMARY

SUBJECT: STORMWATER COMMISSION MEETING

MEETING DATE: Monday – March 6, 2017 at 5:00 pm

ATTENDANCE LIST:
- Carole Teator, Commission Chair, term expires 6/30/17
- Mike Dryden, Commission Member, term expires 6/30/17
- Stacie Johnson, Commission Member, term expires 6/30/18
- Mike Butterfield, Commission Member, term expires 6/30/18
- Justin Gerhts, Commission Member, term expires 6/30/19
- 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 5:02 p.m. by Commission Chair Carol Teator
2. Approval of the Minutes
   - Mike Dryden made a motion to approve the minutes from January 9, 2017, contingent on Stacie’s additions. Carol seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
3. Introductions
   - No introductions were required.
4. Public Input
   - Martin Smith reported the IDNR is out on Cedar Lake and are going two feet deep into the sediment and confirmed there’s nothing major in the biologically active part of the sediment by homogenizing it.
5. Election of a New Chairperson
   - Mike Butterfield nominated himself to be chairperson. Stacie made a motion to nominate Mike Butterfield as chairperson. Mike Dryden seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
6. Stormwater Ordinance – Discussion of Prioritized Changes
   - Stormwater Management Survey
     - Stacie handed out a draft of the results of a Stormwater Management Survey for the entire state of Iowa completed by ISWEP. This shows which communities have adopted stormwater unified size and criteria, and who requires water quality management.
     - Out of the 48 communities that responded, 33 were MS4’s. She is going to add the three universities this week. Sixteen of them require water quality volume to be managed; two require the ground water recharge volume to be infiltrated.
     - Last time this survey was completed (about five years), not many communities did a post-peak for a lot of storms, this time eight communities are doing it for anywhere between the 10 and 100-year storm. This means there can’t be any difference in peak flow between post-development and pre-development for each of those storm events, rather than the post-pre 100/5, like Cedar Rapids does now. Eighteen of the communities reference the Iowa Stormwater Management Manual.
     - Mike Butterfield stated it would be beneficial to know where Cedar Rapids falls amongst the communities on the survey, and to be able to present that to the Development community. Carole said it would also be helpful to show some communities on the survey that are closer to Cedar Rapids. Stacie advised that a lot of the communities in the Iowa City corridor are a lot stricter, and Waterloo and Cedar Falls are pretty strict.
o Discussion was held on how to communicate to the Development community that we need to address water quality different than we do now and that the MS4 requires it, and the Stormwater Master Plan says we need to address it.
o Mike Dryden suggested it should be written in the ordinance that it should be more distributed rather than pipe everything to a detention basin upstream.
o By April, Stacie will dig deeper into Eastern Iowa communities to see where they stand on water quality and add them to survey.

- Discussion was held after Mike Butterfield stated that the currently adopted Stormwater Ordinance on the City Code Municipal webpage is completely different from the draft ordinance Carole emailed the Commission to review before this meeting, which includes both existing language and proposed new language.
- Discussion was held on how there are multiple documents to consider that relate and whether they should just change the Design Standards, since the current Ordinance references it for stormwater, instead of revising the Ordinance by adding more specifics to it. There is also SUDAS to consider.
  o Sandy advised there hasn’t been any conversation yet, with City staff, on the specifics related to stormwater and SUDAS. However, now would be a good time to start that conversation, so that could feed into SUDAS.
  o Sandy suggested the document structure should be set aside, and, instead, decide the main components the Commission would like to recommend. And then on the Staff level, they will figure out how it goes into the respective documents.

- Release Rate
  o Stacie said five years ago the Commission suggested a version of the unified sizing criteria.
  o The recharge volume was 3/10 of an inch of rain, with other communities it was 6/10 of an inch of rain, and it was just on property that was located in 303D listed water sheds. The 7/10 of an inch of rain was to be detained for 24 hours. Instead of 1.25” rain, they were going after the 1” rain. They did include the extended detention of the one-year storm.
  o Stacie asked if they should go with the version written five years ago, or do they go with the post/peak not-to-exceed and have a variety of storms? Discussion was held on whether going with the post/peak not-to-exceed route would be easy to do.
  o Mike Dryden explained why he doesn’t feel what they proposed five years ago is the way to go, which is basically pushing the peak back 12 or 14 hours throughout the City, and doesn’t reduce anything in the storm sewer. Discussion was held on this and if they need separate criteria for re-development versus green field development.
  o A big concern of the City right now is the size of the pump stations necessary to convey the interior drainage once the flood control system is built, and E Avenue is a prime example. That pump station in its current condition will be massive. The City is really looking hard at opportunities for infiltration, detention, regional detention on the west side of the river in general.
  o Discussion was held on whether there should be a threshold for the size of detention basins, since the bigger a detention basin is, the better it works, and is cheaper.
  o There will probably be a fee structure that would replicate what the developer should be doing today. We would not be out of pocket for designing, building, and maintaining the regional detention basin, because the monies would have already come in. The City does have a hard time enforcing developer maintenance agreements, because a lot of times the developer corporations dissolve eventually, which is another reason why the regional basin model works best.
  o Discussion was held on how the channel protection volume would be addressed in a regional detention basin model with a multi-stage control structure, if we go with the uniform sizing criteria.
  o Discussion was held on what they want to accomplish.
    - Stacie suggested a good starting point is to address the requirements of the MS4 permit, which is water quality.
    - Mike Dryden suggested using this as an opportunity to change the way detention is done in Cedar Rapids, and is there a way of doing more of the larger basins, rather than a lot of tiny ones.
    - Sandy suggested doing this for the development sites and say any developments less than 5 acres has to buy into a regional basin for the City’s discretion to determine how and when and where to put it, and anyone over 5 acres has the option of doing that or not.
Sandy advised that if we require 1.25” on every site, then for all runoff on that site, that automatically kicks in then that owner would pay a deduction in the stormwater utility. So if it’s general policy, it’s no longer an incentive, it’s just a cheaper rate.

Mike Butterfield added that anyone who develops or redevelops that property will get that cheaper rate.

With the 1.25” under the stormwater utility, they have to re-certify every three years. Discussion was held if there is a maintenance agreement with the 1” rain.

Starting draft:

- X acres or less, buys into regional detention. X acres or more, it’s an option, or they can do their own.
- All sites, whether a new development or redeveloped, must infiltrate 1” rain. Anything over and above, is encouraged and eligible for stormwater utility fee reduction (aka ERU reduction credits).
- Discussion was held on what the threshold should be for larger sites to buy into regional basin (from above X to below Y). Sandy will look into the thresholds.

7. Reports:
   - City Staff Reports
     - Middle Cedar WMA – Sandy Pumphrey
       a. Someone was hired for the Watershed Coordinator position.
       b. This person will lead an effort to put together a watershed management or master plan, similar to the Indian Creek and the Upper Cedar River watershed authorities did. This planning document will help direct implementation of water quality and flood reduction practices.
       c. As this effort moves forward, they will check in with the Board regularly to report on their progress and discuss what their next steps are.
     - IDALs Grant – Sandy Pumphrey
       a. The last three projects funded in this first round were all bid out and the bids came in right on target and they are all going to be awarded. They will be built before June.
       b. The four locations included in the first round are a permeable pavement project in an alley near Coe College, a bioswale outside of St. Pius Elementary in Noerlidge Park, a bioswale outside Bowman Woods Elementary School and other one outside of Kennedy High School.
       c. For the second round of funding (it’s an annual program), we were successful on the pre-application, and we received some good feedback from Amy Bouska and Wayne Peterson for being successful on the final application.
       d. The projects for the second round include a bio retention cell at the corner of Wilson Ave and 6th St SW, in which we’re going to acquire an old Alliant lot for it; and a bioswale on the east side of 6th St SW at 24th Ave.
       e. We should find out this Friday (3/10) if we are a final recipient, which will hopefully be another $100,000.
   - Cost Share Program –Sandy Pumphrey
     a. Still no tangible applications.
     b. Once we get to the end of this fiscal year, they’ll discuss what to do for next year for more outreach, including reaching out to neighborhoods.
     c. The budget for the FY18 fiscal year has $250k for this program.
     d. Carole suggested reaching out to Green AmericaCorps, and Martin suggested reaching out to school PTA’s.
   - Commissioner Reports
     o Stacie shared the Iowa Water Conference is March 22nd and 23rd in Ames. Sandy added there will be a Certified Flood Plains Manager exam at this conference on the 22nd at 3:30, which is being hosted by IFSMA. Early bird registration ends March 10th.

8. Agenda Items for Next Meeting
   - Sandy will report on X & Y in relation to the size of detention basins and what size should buy into a regional basin, what size has the option to buy into one, and what size would be too large to buy into a regional basin.
9. **Next Meeting Date**
   - Stormwater Commission meeting scheduled for Monday, **May 1, 2017**, 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

10. Commission Chair Carole Teator adjourned the meeting at 6:22 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted by Tammy Schnell, AAll, 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