MEETING SUMMARY

SUBJECT: STORMWATER COMMISSION MEETING – GOALS MEETING
MEETING DATE: Monday – April 3, 2018 at 5:00 pm
ATTENDANCE LIST: Mike Butterfield, Commission Chair, term expires 6/30/18
Mike Dryden, Commission Member, term expires 6/30/20
Stacie Johnson, Commission Member, term expires 6/30/18
Justin Gehrts, Commission Member, term expires 6/30/19
Frank Bellon, Commission Member, term expires 6/30/20
Sandy Pumphrey, Project Engineer, City Staff
Ken DeKeyser, Development Services Manager, City Staff
Tammy Schnell, Administrative Assistant II, City Staff

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Meeting called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Commission Chair Mike Butterfield

2. Overview
   - Mike Butterfield provided a quick overview of the following things that have occurred over the last several years in terms of stormwater, both in the quantity side and the quality side, which includes both little and big things:
     - Soil Quality Restoration
     - ERU System
     - Pollinator Initiative
     - AmeriCorp Rain Garden Program
     - BMP Cost Share Program
     - Unified Sizing Criteria being adopted
     - Converting private detention basins over to City control
     - Developing the Storm Water Master Plan
     - Regional Detention Basin
     - Connect CR Program
     - Downtown Storm Drains
     - Middle Cedar Watershed Management Authority
   - Butterfield explained his goal of this meeting is to determine what the big things are the Commission wants to accomplish, both short term and long term, as well as possibly even some easy goals or initiatives.
   - Frank Bellon asked about finding out the locations in the City that have had complaints pertaining to stormwater, which may help us focus in on an area.
     - Sandy explained the City does keep track of these complaints/comments in a database (Energov). Typically a site visit is made and then City staff determines whether it is a City issue or a private issue between neighbors. If it's a private issue, they will educate the property owner on the steps they can take to remedy the situation. If it is a City issue, it is flagged and elevated into the CIP program (Capital Improvements Program) and it will be reviewed to determine its priority along with other CIP projects. This process has been established as a result of the Storm Water Master Plan.
   - Discussion was held on how the Unified Sizing Criteria is only currently referenced in SUDAS and not actually a part of it, or required.
3. **Review of Stormwater Commission Charter**
   - Butterfield read the charter (16.05)

4. **Commission Goals**
   - Brainstorming
     - Discussion was held on Stacie’s recommendation that the Commission should also look at internal policy, as well as external. She clarified this by saying that there are a lot of City departments that have to do with stormwater management, but it seems like they need someone to thread everything together to work toward stormwater management on a City policy level, i.e. Community Development’s Streetscape and Right of Way manuals; Development Services policies, as well as FEMA’s, SUDAS, and rezoning policies. From a Commission stand point, is there any way they could get everyone working together at every state of the game, possibly a City-wide stormwater coordination group that has a rep from each of the departments?
       - Sandy responded that he has been asked a lot for input on Paving for Progress projects about incorporating green infrastructure. He feels there is a continuum of communication amongst the different City departments, doing their best trying to go back and forth as they’re putting together projects, to coordinate and do peer reviews and provide input.
       - Sandy said if there is a push from the Commission to change this process so there is more communication, that the Commission would have to refine exactly what it is they want City staff to do. He also said the pushback could be looked at as an operational question, rather than a policy question.
       - Sandy further explained that if the Commission was to direct PFP staff that they have to communicate about green infrastructure with every project, that would be an operational directive and the Commission would get pushback. But if the Commission would make a recommendation that says PFP should be funded to the tune of 1% of their annual budget with additional green infrastructure dollars, that would be policy. The way that gets allotted between the group who holds the money and PFP would be up to the Operational group to decide.
     - Discussion was held on revising the Cost-Share Program. Sandy verified that it is not a “use it or lose it” program, that the funds do roll over to the next fiscal year and the program will also receive the additional $250,000 in funds at the beginning of each fiscal year (July).
       - Butterfield suggested first reaching out to property owners who live in an area where a Paving for Progress project will be done, about two or three years ahead of the actual project occurs and advise them of the cost-share program. Tell them that their driveway will be replaced up to X feet from back of curb, and the City will pay for the surface paving, but the property owners has the opportunity to do something underneath for water quality that the City will contribute towards it through the cost-share program.
       - Justin Gehrts feels there is more room for marketing for the cost-share program.
       - Sandy said the Commission could change the percentage break-down of the program, in order to better incentivize it. A couple suggestions included weighing it differently for different practices, and keeping it 50/50 for the residences, but increasing it to 80/20 for commercial properties, because the City will get more stormwater management for the dollar from the larger commercial properties.
       - Stacie feels the funds should all be expended by the end of each fiscal year. Sandy said they’re seeing a lag from when they do the outreach until the actual expenditure and reimbursement at the end. Property owners take time to decide whether they want to incur their portion of the cost, so maybe that lag time is a good time to do a rain barrel drive to spend the funding quickly. Butterfield suggested implementing some sort of infiltration practice at a City facility.
       - Ken DeKeysier brought up the Green Alley program that that the City of Dubuque implemented. The program focuses on reducing the volume of stormwater in the watershed by installing permeable pavements, as opposed to traditional concrete,
asphalt and packed gravel surfaces. Stacie said they’re at $3.75/sq ft installed, because they’ve been doing it for so long and in high quantity. Stacie is meeting with John Diest, Dubuque engineer, on April 24, and she will confirm what they’re paying, and whether the $3.75/sq ft includes subbase, and whether he would be willing to conference call into a Commission meeting, or actually come to one to discuss the program.

- Butterfield suggested adding some sort of retrofit zoning policy for parking lot rehabs to capture 100% of the runoff. This would be great for Prairie Creek, McLoud Run, Vinton Ditch, and Indian Creek. The ordinance would say something like if doing a project within a watershed overlay district, the project needs to meet certain standards for that particular watershed. Stacie said McLoud Run should be the prize creek of the City, because it’s a unique cold water trout stream. Butterfield confirmed it is the only one within the State of Iowa. Discussion continued on how development in the McCloud Run watershed overlay district could be incentivized.

- Mike Dryden suggested a priority should be doing away with small site detention basins; they should be replaced with regional basins. Discussion was held on some specifics. Sandy advised that recently the City has had discussions with the IDNR, and the IDNR is eager for the City to look into adding more urban fisheries.

- **Priorities**
  - Revisit BMP Cost Share Program - rebalance percentage per property type, cost-benefit type, or volume taken off the system; use for funds remaining at end of fiscal year.
  - Investigate water quality overlay districts.
  - Investigate incentivizing water quality for development in priority basins other than McCloud Run.
  - Program Information Sharing Amongst City Departments – understanding the City process
  - Use of regional detention basins in lieu of small basins.

- Butterfield said that during the during the next regular Commission meeting, they’ll take about 10 minutes to determine which one of the priorities they want to accomplish by the end of calendar year 2018, and which one to finish by the end of Fiscal Year 2019 (June 30, 2019).

5. **Adjourn Meeting**

- **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 6:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Tammy Schnell, AAIL, 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