MEETING SUMMARY

SUBJECT: STORMWATER COMMISSION MEETING
MEETING DATE: Monday – July 10, 2017 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 Gerhts, 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 5:00 p.m. by Commission Chair Mike Butterfield
   - Mike Butterfield made a motion to approve the minutes from the 5/1/17 meeting. The motion was approved by Mike Dryden; seconded by Justin Gerhts. All were in favor to approve the minutes.
   - Everyone in attendance introduced themselves to new Stormwater Commission member Frank Bellon.

2. Public Input
   Speaker: Martin Smith, Friends of Cedar Lake Organization Member
   - There is significant erosion at the end of Northgate Drive, going into Shaver Park.
   - Erosion has been quite substantial over the last 15 years at the storm sewer which comes in Wenig Court and goes down into the park.
   - The Friends of Cedar Lake organization is very interested in a watershed management plan for the lake. Sandy Pumphrey advised there is a working group which includes representatives from Alliant Energy, the City, the County and the Friends of Cedar Lake (two from each group), and this group is coordinating the effort for a watershed management plan. There was supposed to be a meeting today, however, it was postponed.

3. Stormwater on Paving for Progress Projects
   Speaker: Doug Wilson, P.E., PFP Program Manager
   - The Paving for Progress program has about $180 million to spend on our streets over a 10-year period and Doug explained how the 10-year plan was developed.
   - In terms of stormwater, they replace intakes as they get the opportunity on the rehabilitation projects, particularly the old horseshoe intakes. They don’t do anything with the pipes at that time, because that is beyond the scope of the program. They justify using the program money for the intakes by saying they’re improving the drainage of the street.
   - For reconstruction projects, they bring them up to the current standards for drainage. He gave an example of Memorial Drive SE, between Bever Ave and Mt. Vernon Rd, which doesn’t have any storm sewer on it. They will extend storm sewer up into that area to help drain it.
   - In terms of Green Infrastructure, they do look at it as they can on a project. They haven’t implemented anything at this time, but on 6th Street SW from 15th Ave to 33rd Ave, in which they are converting it to an urban section and adding sidewalk, they are looking at bioswales. It currently has open ditches and they didn’t want to make it all grey.
   - Doug explained the reason they haven’t done much with green infrastructure on regular projects, is because the City hasn’t decided how this infrastructure will be maintained beyond the project. An
option has been brought up about having individual property owners maintain it, but if they sold their property, that would become an issue. They could use PFP for offsetting the grey vs. green infrastructure, but it comes down to the maintenance.

- They will continue to look at it and look at grant opportunities and will put permeable paving in if possible, but it is quite a bit more expensive than a standard street. Also, the City’s Streets Division doesn’t have the type of sweeper to pull the dirt out of them.

- Discussion was held on some options on how to add some green infrastructure, including implementing an “Adopt a Greeway” program similar to “Adopt a Highway”, and replacing ash trees that will be removed because of the Emerald Ash Borer with small tree-trench type boxes as a quick and easy retrofit.

- Frank Bellon asked about adding something to the design standards to encourage green development. Doug explained the Engineering Division is currently in the process of switching over to the Statewide Urban Design and Specifications (SUDAS) from our Metro standards. Along with this review, they will be looking at the design guide and maybe at that time they can take steps to encourage that type of thing in new development. This also comes back to a maintenance issue and who will take care of it in the long term.

- The City has started talking about constructing larger regional detention basins rather than developers constructing smaller ones that service fewer properties. Doug talked about Mt. Mercy University and how they discussed building some regional detention down from it at 19th Street, which is a known problem area, and also a large portion of the Sinclair site will be a detention basin.

- Mike Butterfield asked why the City can’t decide how to how to fund maintenance for bioswales and green infrastructure. Doug said it’s about figuring out where the money is going to come from and what they would reallocate within the budget they have, and also determining where the resources are going to come from.

4. **BMP Cost Share Promotions**

- Sandy provided background on the two ways people can save money – stormwater BMPs and infiltration practices

- A concern is that the City Council may decide to put the money elsewhere that is allocated for the program, if it continues not to be spent.

- Discussion was held on why property owners aren’t interested in the programs.

- Mike Butterfield suggested reaching out to the Development Community so the developers get the cost share portion of it and then the resident/business owner gets the credit based on ERU.

- Sandy added they are working with some of the bigger companies in town that are really visible, including MidAmerican Aerospace on the corner of 16th Avenue SW and Williams Boulevard (old Kmart location), and Rockwell Collins.

- Justin suggested reaching out to Kirkwood Continuing Education and providing them with some brochures on the program that could be handed out during the landscaping-type classes they typically offer.

- Martin suggested partnering with the school districts, and the Monarch Research Project by providing a set of plants that could be used.

5. **Reports:**

- **City Staff Reports**

  1) Middle Cedar WMA – Sandy Pumphrey

     - The City will soon be a part of three watershed authorities – Indian Creek, Middle Cedar, and the Lower Cedar, which is on the City Council Agenda tomorrow (7/11/17). Cara Matteson is a board member on the Middle Cedar WMA.

     - The disaster resilience grant that came through HUD will be paying for some projects in the Middle Cedar WMA, including a watershed plan for the entire Middle Cedar WMA

     - An RFP went out and six proposals were received and are being reviewed. The firm selected will generate the watershed plan which will then be a guiding document for future activities in the watershed.

     - Sandy explained watershed master plans are very different from stormwater master plans. The City of Cedar Rapids has a stormwater master plan, which is based on quantities and flows moving around the City, so they can determine where to put detention, where to upsize pipes, or put green infrastructure. Whereas the
watershed master plan is a much more global document which also takes that into consideration, but also water quality and recreational activities.

2) IDALs Grant – Sandy Pumphrey
   o We’ve received this grant twice now and we’re finishing up the first round of projects from the first grant.
   o The first grant just closed out on June 30 and of that we’ve put in four different practices, including putting permeable pavement in a Coe College alley, and three bioswales outside schools – Wenig Rd NE, outside Kennedy High School; Council St NE outside St. Pius; and Boyson Rd NE outside Bowman Woods Elementary. They are not associated with the schools, but signage will be seen to help promote the idea of green infrastructure.

- Commissioner Reports
  1) Justin said there’s a weather podcast he listens to, and last week they had a couple of guests on talking about the National Flood Insurance Program and discussing what they feel would be good for reforming it. Justin will send the link out to anyone who would like to listen to it.

6. Adjourn Meeting
   - Agenda Items for Next Meeting
     1) Basin Modeling Updates
   - Confirm Next Meeting
     The next Stormwater Commission meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 11, 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
     - The meeting was adjourned at 6:03 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