

STORMWATER PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING
November 30, 2015

Members Present:

Jack Minner
Gussie Glasper
Larry Trucano
Lori Daiber
Rick Macho
Mayor Allen Adomite
Robert Pollard
Richard Worthen
Dennis Weber
Marty Reynolds

Members Absent:

Brenda Roosevelt
Rick Fancher
Kelly Tracy

Others Present:

Matt Brandmeyer
Steve Brendel
Andi Campbell Yancey

New Business:

Matt Brandmeyer briefed Commission members on information that had been covered at the previous Stormwater Commission meeting, reiterating the goals and objectives of the planning process (Reduce Flooding & Mitigate Flood Damage, Improve Water Quality, Promote Best Practices for Land Development, Develop Organizational & Regulatory Framework, and Conduct Public Education & Outreach). Matt stated that the first two goals and objectives could be achieved through the watershed planning process.

Matt notified the Commission that he would like to discuss two important aspects of the Stormwater Plan – funding and implementation. Matt stated that Chapter 7 of the Stormwater Plan, ‘Implementation’, still has some issues that will need to be addressed. He stated that he would also like to talk about the watershed plans, the County’s roles and responsibilities, and prioritization of projects, and municipal opt-out procedures.

Matt stated that the Silver Creek Watershed Plan was almost complete, and that he hoped to have the plan adopted early in 2016. He also addressed the Indian Creek and Canteen Creek Watershed Plans, which collectively comprise the Cahokia Creek Watershed. Matt stated that the process for these watersheds was just now getting underway and would likely be ready for adoption sometime around 2017. The Commission will receive regular progress reports.

Matt stated that the department was requesting Corps funding to address Judy’s Branch, which is in the American Bottoms. Matt stated that the department wanted to begin addressing the American Bottoms right away, and that we would likely be undertaking two or three planning processes at the same time. Matt noted that all the plans to-date had been funded from outside sources such as grant funding and the Army Corps of Engineers. Matt stated that he foresees the department completing all the watershed plans within the next

five years. Matt stated that if the Commission adopts a Stormwater Master Plan next year, there will still be five years of planning ahead.

Matt explained the Stormwater Master Plan would address the final three planning goals and objectives – Promoting Best Practices for Land Development, Developing Organizational & Regulatory Framework, and Conducting Public Education & Outreach. Matt emphasized the importance of the public education and outreach aspect, stating that this has been a shortfall in past planning processes.

Matt went on to explain that the organizational and regulatory framework would build-on and enhance what we are currently doing with the MS4 Co-Committee group, which currently has twenty-six members. Matt stated that Steve Brendel has been working on the MS4 Steering Committee in order to create member buy-in and enable members to have an impact on the direction the Committee will take in the future.

Matt discussed the roles of the county, the municipalities, and the townships within the context of the Madison County Stormwater Program. Matt stated that much of the County's role would be maintaining the natural infrastructure. Matt stressed the need to prioritize the stormwater issues within the County so that there is a logical order to funding projects. Matt stated that he would put a proposal together for the Commission to review for the next meeting.

The Commission then discussed funding opportunities. Matt stated that there would not be many options as far as taxing or creating a new tax, but that there are other ways to generate revenue. He put forth options such as User Fees, Development Fees, Land Use Fees, Development Incentives (TIF), and Grants (IEPA, Army Corps of Engineers). Matt went on to state that the Levy District tax will sunset in five years, which is when the planning process is planned to conclude. He stated that if the Levy Tax could be extended, it would fund the program. Matt explained that he had not explored the feasibility of continuing the Levy Tax, but it may be an option.

Mayor Adomite inquired whether the Levy Tax was a sales tax. Jack Minner stated that it was a .0025% sales tax. Mayor Adomite opined that areas outside of the tradition levy areas, such as Highland and Troy, would likely appreciate directly benefitting from the levy tax, which they've been paying for over ten years. Matt stated that maintaining the levies goes hand-in-hand with the development and implementation of a county-wide stormwater management program. Mayor Adomite stated that he thought it would be fantastic to see the Levy Tax fund the program.

Rick Macho discussed requiring a third party engineer on large-scale residential development sites in order to stop some of the stormwater issues before they begin. Dick Worthen introduced the idea of an impervious surface tax, so that developers are paying directly for the impact. Jack Minner cautioned that he has heard these fees touted as "anti-business" or deterrent to development. Steve Brendel stated that, based on his research, impervious surface taxes are one of the more widely-used options. Matt Brandmeyer stated that regardless if we decide to fund the program with user fees, property taxes, or sales taxes it would come to a public vote. Jack Minner stated that extending the Levy Tax would likely be the best option, as it does not involve any new fees and it's something the public is already accustomed to. The Stormwater Commission decided that an extension of the Levy District Tax would likely be the best option.

Matt stated that through the watershed planning process we will gain insight to the prevalence of stormwater issues throughout the county and build stakeholder buy-in. Once we have funding, we will be able to transition into a capital improvement plan addressing those issues in order of highest priority. Matt stated that the Corps had provided a hydrologic analysis and that we are essentially asking them to partner with us again and interpret the analysis and identify projects within the HUC10 watersheds.

Matt went on to discuss municipal opt-out. He stated that the Master Stormwater Plan will apply to the entire county, including within municipal boundaries. However, if the municipality has their own plan and it's being

implemented, they may opt-out of the county-wide plan with three-fourths approval from the County Board. The Commission inquired if there would be any penalties for communities that opt-out and do not adhere to their plan. Matt stated that plan implementation has been one of the biggest issues, and that we would have to consider viable consequences, but that it will ultimately be most effective as a cooperative effort. The Commission also discussed stormwater enforcement and training for municipalities and budgetary implications. A few Commission member proposed having the county oversee the stormwater aspect of development within the county in order to take that pressure off of the municipalities for a fee. Mr. Worthen reiterated the importance of a county-wide effort.

Matt thanked the Commission for their input and said he would provide more information prior to the January meeting on the items discussed today.

Adjournment

Mayor Allen Adomite made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Dennis Weber. Voice vote. All ayes. Motion approved.

Meeting adjourned.

†Please note that copies of the PowerPoint Presentation are available upon request. Inquire with Andi Yancey from the Planning and Development Department.