



## **2A Stormwater Advisory Committee (SAC) Meeting** **Minutes**

**2-4 p.m., November 16, 2023**

**Location: 401 Large and Teams**

Attendees: Bobby Ingels, Doug Conlon, Councilor Leinweber, Maren McDowell, Erin Powers, Brenda Roy, Richard Mulledy, Tim Biolchini, Michael Montgomery, Councilor Donelson, David Havlick, Travis Easton. Matthew Johnson and Sam Acosta were absent.

Vice Chair Conlon called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m. Previous meeting minutes were approved by Vice Chair Conlon with a second from Bobby Ingels.

Michael Montgomery, the Deputy City Council Administrator, provided information packets about what is in City Code regarding the role of the Stormwater Enterprise. When the ballot was put together, an ordinance was referred to voters. The ordinance changed City Code. The Stormwater Advisory Committee will always be a committee of City Council. Council's role is to serve as a conduit between Stormwater and elected officials. Council also approves committee members. The committee ensures multiple parties outside the City's stormwater program are reviewing Stormwater's finances to ensure it is being operated correctly. Councilor Donelson asked if the City Auditor has ever looked at the books for SW. Richard Mulledy said yes, there are multiple checks per year from both the auditor and City Council, and then an audit of the report that we provide to Pueblo. There is also audit when we turn in the consent decree annually.

Brenda Roy then provided the financial update for the Enterprise, beginning with a discussion of the operating budget; we are on track through the end of the year. Operations and Maintenance budget- service level agreement is on track for the remaining balance for Q4. Highlights of production goals were given. Channel inspections and maintenance are several hundred percent above anticipated goals largely due to extreme summer rains.

Bobby Ingels inquired as to the process for inspecting the unimproved channels. Multiple groups look at 100% of the natural channels every year. Inspections also take place based on citizen inspections/reports. 300 miles of open channel exist in the city. Additional private channels also exist. Historically the City has been reluctant to take on channels because there was previously no funding method for us to take those on. Now, if a channel is not going to have a source of sustainable funding, the City will take that on, so we anticipate that number continuing to grow. Discussion of pond inspections particularly because of the high flows as well. Unusual level of maintenance activities this year. \$6.1m is being held for the consent decree and reserve, with \$22.8m planned.

The next discussion was regarding stormwater fee bills: Year over year billed vs collected,

difference between the years is due to growth and fee increases. Discussion of billed vs collected. CSU is billing 82% of total revenue, and based on number of parcels, CSU bills 96% of the total parcels.

Any properties 90 days past due or over 200 will receive liens on their properties, per approval from City Council. Liens are certified to the treasurer for collection and often paid through mortgage companies. Of accounts potentially to receive liens, there are 155 accounts with a total of \$59k, although we started with 192. Some groups paid down their fees after they received intents to lien.

David Havlick asked is the goal to get 100% billing to CSU? What's the sticking point for the last 4%? It costs \$2.90/bill with CLA (third-party billing company) and about \$0.04 with CSU. Two major obstacles to billing every parcel on CSU- first was that we were only billing through a water service account, and second, it was not possible to bill a factor (per acre) within the bill. Third, there was no service point for stormwater. Utilities' new system has a 5<sup>th</sup> service point, and they can multiply new commercial. They still cannot bill a property that has zero other service, which is the last step. Phase five is billing properties that have no service whatsoever.

Tim Biolchini provided a current and future projects discussion. We are officially halfway through the IGA despite being only eight years into the IGA. We are currently two years ahead of schedule. Two more projects will be done by end of December 2023. Multiple projects are currently under construction- Fairfax detention pond, cottonwood creek apartments, and pine creek phase II.

Travis Easton asked for additional discussion as to how the enterprise partners with other agencies (county/state) on projects. Tim informed that a significant amount of coordination/partnering is done, and some funding for projects can come from the state as well.

Construction planned for 24 includes: Middle tributary at I-25 1.6m, Black Squirrel Creek at USAFA (non-IGA project, collaboration between City and USAFA when projects cross borders, City share is 10% and about \$200k, Barnes Outfall Water Quality Pond (CD project, under design, about \$3m), discussion of water quality ponds and capacity, collaborative effort with Parks and others.

South Douglas Creek before Sinton Road-a couple of drops blew out and the third is undermined. Not a lot of public visibility, but \$1.2M project, area is sensitive for Ute Indian Population, which has required additional coordination via the Pioneer's Museum.

Fall of 2024, discussion of sources of funds as well- additional projects planned including Park Vista (discussion of what that will involve), North Nevada Drainage Improvements (and the addition of stormwater conveyance in the area of N Nevada). Some of the stormwater projects can help remove roadblocks to future development; redevelopment cannot occur without the proper drainage and ability for additional conveyance and management. Downtown Drainage Improvements (two storm lines in America the Beautiful Park), even design can lead to much bigger things. Cottonwood Creek at Powers- still looking for potential grant funding since it's a \$10M project. The design being finalized, discussion of homeless cleanups and ongoing needs, and the Hancock training facility.

Discussion followed of how Stormwater will pursue grants. Discussion of Army Corps

FEMA Disaster Declaration Projects. Meetings had been scheduled for further discussion, and Tim spoke about how there is a list of projects up for approval.

David Havlick asked if the Green Infrastructure Manual is a binding document for City projects? Rich Mulledy said yes, the City has to follow the same criteria- all City departments including enterprises. We are not going to ask industry to do anything we are not going to do ourselves.

Doug Conlon asked about the public education component for BMPs and requirements. Rich said the department does about 100+ presentations a year to schools and community groups, in addition to community clean up events and an annual water day.

Adjournment 3:30 by Doug Conlon and a second from David Havlick.