



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

**2-4 PM, August 20, 2020**

**Meeting Held Remotely**

The meeting was called to order at 2:02 p.m. by Advisory Chair Terry Schooler.

Previous meeting minutes were approved after a motion from Gary Nesbit and a second from Shannon Anderson.

The Quarter 2 Financial Overview was presented by Stormwater Enterprise Manager (SWENT) Richard Mulledy.

He shared that the Stormwater Enterprise currently has some salary savings, due to open positions. The enterprise is on target for the budget through the end of the year. He explained how the "Operations and Maintenance" part of the SWENT budget and spoke about why they try to hold back funds to be ready for the rainy season.

Budget charts showed an amount of rollover, which is largely due to projects taking multiple years between design and execution. Despite the budget showing "rollover," the monies are largely encumbered. Sometimes invoices are sent to the contractor the following year.

Richard then provided an update on billing. He informed the committee that SWENT continues to collect approximately 95 percent of what is billed, a statistic that has been consistent despite COVID. CSU is showing 94-96 percent collection. The billing company (CLA) is also showing 94-96 percent collection. The Air Force Academy is paid up. We are still waiting for payment from two of four post offices.

Mayor Suthers asked what the year-over-year growth is for new customers. The answer is 2-2.5 percent in residential billing and 1-1.25 percent for non-residential.

SWENT is still collecting more than it is billing due to pre-payments.

Mayor Suthers also asked if SWENT is still in the process of transferring more new accounts to CSU. Richard answered that yes, we are doing this by the thousands. We still have about 3,500 to transfer to CSU. The group was then shown a graphic of SWENT collections by year. During COVID, there was a spike in past-due accounts, although that number has largely settled.

Councilman Don Knight asked for an update on the refund issue, where some customers who were switched to CSU from CLA were not provided refunds in a timely fashion. He asked how bad the issue was. Richard answered that there are several hundred accounts that still need to be paid and that CLA is several months behind. CLA has made changes and has team members now doing refunds full-time because of direction from SWENT. Richard said he would report back when he has more information.

Next was a discussion of progress on the first five years of the Pueblo IGA. Richard said the City is right on track to fulfill our obligations for the first five years.

Richard and Tim Biolchini provided a project pie chart, showing a snapshot of past/present/future from a project delivery standpoint. It was a graphical representation of all the work and planning that is occurring. We have done 191 projects in the last five years.

Tim Biolchini spoke about some grant denials from FEMA, and what this means for potentially receiving the grants in the future. SWENT will reapply for the 2020 cycle and we can address their exact comments, hopefully leading to an even higher chance of acceptance. Discussion ensued on grants and how they are scored. FEMA liked the projects but wants a different explanation of numbers and different conclusions.

Tim then provided a general project update.

- Sommerlyn Hills, located at Cheyenne Road and Nevada. The neighborhood was very supportive. This was the last of the TABOR projects. The TABOR list was previously approved by the voters. Those projects were completed. This project was completed with leftover money, in accordance with the ballot language.
- Garden of the Gods detention pond grant was received in 2013 by City Engineering, before SWENT was in place. This completed project will have an enormous impact on Camp Creek and the downstream.
  - Discussion of impact on flood insurance/FEMA rating/dollars spent on sediment removal. The project is an IGA project as well.
- Cheyenne Boulevard Drainage (also included Cheyenne Road W of Cresta)  
Many homeowners and business owners in the area were experiencing flooding issues. They investigated the flows from Stratton open space; where all the flow was coming from, on its way to Cheyenne Creek. They built a large berm at the open space. In the area around Sacred Grounds Coffee Shop, a swale, curb, and gutter were added. On Sumner street, the roadway was raised and a concrete swale added. For a non-conforming inlet on Cheyenne Blvd, this was replaced with a typical inlet upstream. No calls from the neighborhood for the first time in years during the most recent storm.

The question was asked: How does SWENT share all they are doing for the community? Answer: by spreading the message to the committee, neighbors, and letting people see the work in person. We have spent \$500,000 in the last four years in this neighborhood, and the neighbors are very thankful.

Richard announced that an RFP for LID development is out to bid. Once a contractor is selected, the contractor will be introduced to the board and collect their thoughts and feedback.

Parting words were provided by Mayor Suthers. He recalled how the stormwater program was struggling when he became Mayor and suffered from underfunding and lack of transparency. He said that over the last 5.5 years, we have made huge strides under the leadership of Richard Mulledy and Travis Easton.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:32 p.m.

Next meeting: November 19, 2020