

SWAC Notes for August 15, 2012

Attending

Mayor Lore Christopher
Councilor Brandon Smith
Councilor Mark Caillier
Jon Unger (by phone)
Sam Kidd
Matt Knudsen
Tim Smith
Elizabeth Sagmiller
Bill Lawyer
Susan Gahlsdorf
Kat LaFever

Handouts: Meeting agenda and WPCF Program Development Flowchart

Meeting came to order: 11:32

Elizabeth spent some time discussing the new Springfield draft NPDES permit language. She specified that although some of the language was specific to Springfield, Keizer would likely see some conditions that were identical. General discussion took place about negotiating 'out' certain requirements. Jon Unger stated that DEQ didn't have sufficient staff so Keizer should be able to reduce some conditions. Elizabeth stressed that Keizer would go to the table prepared to fight for a reasonable permit, however the group should understand that Keizer, along with other Phase II permit holders, would be expected to significantly increase their efforts.

Sam added that the permit contains dates for compliance where the old permit did not. It's basically hard and fast timelines instead of language that indicated you had 5 years to complete a BMP.

Elizabeth discussed some of the language in the permit that requires elevated mapping efforts. Tim asked what the benefit of mapping was. Elizabeth explained that in addition to other components, an accurate map would be needed to develop a retrofitting strategy.

Elizabeth went on to discuss the flow chart for the WPCF program. Elizabeth explained that the items on the flow chart were the elements it would take to create the 'must haves' for the WPCF permit and UIC program. She stated that the flow chart did not include actual implementation or ongoing management of the program.

There was some general discussion about committee participation and that the two councilor positions would be vacant in January. With some encouragement from Tim Smith and the group as a whole, Councilor Caillier and Councilor Smith agreed to continue to participate with the group when their terms end.

Bill Lawyer and Susan Gahlsdorf then took the floor to discuss a 5 year project and plan for funding stormwater. Bill explained that the original fee was designed to implement the NPDES permit only. The fee increase in 2010 was to reach compliance with the NPDES permit only. The current rate is not sufficient to sustain the fund which will be negative starting next year. Bill stated we could be looking at 120 to 50% fee increase. The group asked why- Susan stated that cost go up every year with insurance rates, retirement, and so on. Bill talked about the additional issues of the workman's comp impact to the budget last year, and issues like the \$250k Westridge slope failure. Elizabeth said that we would have been able to project spending for the requirements of UIC management if we hadn't had to break the study into 2 years. Now we're stuck not knowing how many UICs we'll have to retrofit or close.

Bill talked about the options for funding – 1 large increase, regular smaller increases, or 1 large increase and then smaller annual increases. Mayor Christopher talked about tying the fee to something so we don't have to keep asking. Susan said that maybe we could have a rate slope like water or a COSA. Bill stated that with water we know what the regulations are, but storm is a challenge. Elizabeth agreed saying that storm is a moving target and it's hard to project long term.

General discussion took place about taking advantage of the current City Council. The group is in agreement that this needs to be approved by December. We will go before Council the second meeting of November.

The group talked about the need to have a couple more meetings to reach a comfort level to support the fee. Given schedules in September the group agreed to meet on October 10th and again on November 1st. Tim stressed that he wants to hear from staff electronically before October.

Tim specified that staff should look at areas where we can utilize contractors which will save on benefits and insurance from new staff. Mayor Christopher agreed.

Tim asked Susan to please have a tentative rate increase forecast before she leaves for vacation in September. Susan agreed.

Matt Reyes added that we also need to consider lag term infrastructure and pipe replacement. This addition evolved into the need for a Stormwater Master Plan. Bill said that our current plan was developed in the 80s and basically described a big pipe to the river. There was general discussion about the timing of such a plan. Elizabeth asked that we get a better handle on inventory before going down that road. Maybe 3 years.

The group discussed the need for a 5 year plan, but staff emphasized that there might be a need to amend along the way. Tim asked that staff continue to provide informal email discussion so the group can have something to vote on by Oct 10th and adjust if necessary by the first week of November.

Meeting Adjourned: 12:25