

**Minutes
Water Resource Management Utility Meeting
(formerly Stormwater Utility)
New Berlin City Hall
3805 S. Casper Drive
Council Chambers
January 10, 2006**

Please note: Minutes are unofficial until approved by the Water Resource Management Utility (formerly Stormwater Committee) at their next regularly scheduled meeting.

Present: Alderman Harenda, Alderman Hopkins, Alderman Hegeman, Mayor Chiovatero and Jim Kern

Others Present: Ray Grzys (Director of Utilities & Streets), Greg Kessler (Director of Community Development), Eric Nitschke (Division Engineer), Cathy Schwalbach (Stormwater Engineer), Chuck Trevorow (Stormwater Supervisor) & Sue Hanley (Office Coordinator Utilities & Streets)

Meeting called to order at 4:48 pm by Alderman Harenda and declared a quorum with all members present.

SW 01-05 Minutes from December 13th Meeting

Motion by Alderman Hegeman to approve the minutes from the December 13th Stormwater Committee meeting. Seconded by Alderman Hopkins and upon voting the motion passed unanimously.

SW 19-05 Approval of Stormwater Utility Updated Five-Year Plan

Motion by Alderman Hopkins to remove this item from the table. Seconded by Commissioner Kern and upon voting the motion passed unanimously.

Eric Nitschke asked the Committee for any questions or directions for staff and referred to page 14 of the report.

Alderman Harenda asked for additional graphics and charts to be added to the statistics and additional explanation under Section 3.1 to show projects that the Stormwater did not complete. He asked what the column "Date At Current Status" referred to in Section 2.4.1? Ms. Schwalbach answered that this was the date the project was completed.

Alderman Harenda asked why it was recommended in Section 3.5 that a consultant be hired to assist in the implementation of the proposed rate increase? Mr. Nitschke answered that when the Stormwater Utility was first implemented, a significant amount of phone calls (600 calls/week in Engineering alone) were received, and the term consultant would be additional help from outside to answer these calls and citizen concerns.

Alderman Hegeman said that when he questioned some of his constituents about rate increase, he always receives a negative response. Mr. Nitschke said that staff understands and is asking the Committee to determine whether they want to maintain the status quo until the debt is paid off or solidify the Water Resource Utility. He added that the Finance Department said if rates are not increased, the Utility will be spending reserves and will leave the Utility in a pinch in 2011-2012 without a rate increase to deal with regulatory requirements. The Street sweeper that will be purchased in 2006 is one requirement for the unfunded mandate and the cost to maintain the system. Mr. Nitschke said that the Utility was created to benefit citizens by preventing flooding and damage to properties, and to address longstanding stormwater problems. He added that the drainage list helps address problem ditches and stormwater conveyance that are no longer covered by the general city budget.

Commissioner Kern said that the rate increase won't be popular, but asked staff to include what citizens will get for the extra \$12.00/year residential fee and what won't get done if we don't do a rate increase to further educate the public. Mr. Nitschke said that can be included and noted that one thing that will not be completed is the Industrial Park work since the Utility cannot borrow any additional CIP funds. He noted that the Old Industrial Park's contributions are \$1.5 million to date, and will exceed \$3.75 million by the end of 2010.

Mayor Chiovatero said that we need to get the word out that DNR mandates are costly, and that for a citizen to pay for a ditch project in front of his home at a rate of \$60/year would take forever. Mayor Chiovatero said that several citizens have asked if they could pay this charge once a year, or put it on the tax bill. He said that the City

needs to communicate better and that educating the public is a priority. The Committee agreed that there should be staffers in Utility bills, and information on the cable and the Internet.

Mr. Nitschke stated that public awareness and education is required through the WPDS permit and Staff is currently working with the DNR. He added that a kiosk in City Hall or the Library, in addition to information on cable, the website and flyers would be looked at. He said that Staff is working with the UW-Extension, and that in addition to that were looking into educating school children and implementing their help with planting trees and plants on school and City owned sites. He noted that when the Utility was first set up, there was a 5-year plan, but nothing beyond that. Although the Utility finished most of the original projects, the requirements and work does not end; however, the Utility has maintained its promise to residents that there would be no rate increase for the first 5 years.

Mayor Chiovaturo noted that the original 5 year plan also stated that possibly the fees would be reduced to \$2 per property. He added that a trifold brochure would be a simple way to educate citizens and aldermen about the work the Stormwater Utility is doing, where the money goes, and the unfunded mandates that must be followed. Alderman Hopkins stated that the Water Resource Management Utility has done a good job.

Mr. Nitschke asked if the Committee was comfortable with the rating system in Section 3.3? They replied yes.

The Committee briefly discussed whether the Stormwater Utility should start paying for stormwater improvements on roadway projects, and Alderman Harenda asked Eric to create a scenario of a project, and how a shift would impact the budget.

Mr. Nitschke asked if there should be a dedicated stormwater crew handling ditching projects? He said that currently we track projects on a daily basis and were able to complete over 60 ditching projects in 2005, as well as many observations, and site visits. He added that street sweeping will take up a significant amount of time since the DNR has certain requirements for the speed at which the street sweeper may be driven for specific pollutant removal rates.

Commissioner Kern asked what the added cost would be for a stormwater crew? Mr. Nitschke said a 3 man crew and one person for the sweeper would require additional hires if the intention was to catch up on the drainage list. He added that there have been more calls, as the word gets out, and if they meet the criteria of the policy, there are additional field walk downs, and analysis for Staff as well. Mr. Nitschke said that question for the Committee is if we want to keep status quo or keep up with the drainage requests.

Regarding credit systems, Mr. Nitschke said that this will put additional burden on the budget, and credits for rain barrels, rain gardens, etc. and that a large number of residents would have to participate for there to be a benefit. Credits would be more viable in the Industrial Park with bioretention swales, with credits to businesses that grant access for them and put in bioretention swales in exchange, for example, to expand a building.

Regarding purchasing our own equipment, Alderman Harenda said that this would be an additional burden on the budget.

Regarding the Industrial Park – Alderman Harenda said that we do need to do something, but it is hard to do until late in the decade. Mr. Nitschke said that with a fee increase, we could do some work before 2010 with no additional CIP borrowing. He added that the Industrial Park – Lincoln Avenue stormwater portion of the project for the bioretention swale would be approximately \$875,000, and that the pollutant load that comes out of this area affects the 2013 requirements. He noted that is why Staff pushed for the street sweeper which credits up to 20% of this requirement for the streets throughout the City.

Alderman Harenda had several questions on the Strategic Plan for the Stormwater Utility (page 15). He asked if we can look into the cost of hiring a private contractor to help in some of the drainage list projects. He also asked if the new fee schedule for the developer pays any stormwater costs. Eric answered no; we are not recouping any expenses from the developer.

Alderman Harenda asked about adopting a formal policy regarding assets and expenditures. Mr. Nitschke replied that he would like Finance Director Mike Holzinger to attend one of the meetings to explain the reserve fund and other financial issues.

Alderman Harenda asked if the rate increase has to be approved by the PSC? Director Grzys replied no, it is not a public Utility, and therefore would only need to be approved by Water Resource Management Committee and Council.

Motion by Alderman Hopkins to re-table this item. Seconded by Alderman Hegeman and upon voting the motion passed unanimously.

SW 32-05 Drainage Request 12525 W. Marquette Drive – this item is left on the table.

SW 02-06 Presentation of GIS Storm Sewer System Mapping

Staff asked for additional time on this item. Motion by Commissioner Kern to table this item. Seconded by Alderman Hegeman and upon voting the motion passed unanimously.

SW 03-06 Discussion of Alternative Installation for Low Flow Discharges into City Ditches

Cathy Schwalbach explained the plastic piping used by the City of Muskego. She said that Street supervisors Don Ullman and Chuck Trevorrow brought this alternative to her attention. With sump pump discharges, Muskego uses a 4" PVC pipe that is buried, leaving a dry mowable ditchline that is open at both ends. The cost of the material is \$5.50 per foot and that is charged to residents per frontage, much like our concrete invert policy. She noted that Muskego has used this method for 4-5 years with good results. There has been no reported freezing, but residents are warned that they must have a way to disconnect the sump pump in case this happens.

Alderman Hopkins asked if this was a possible solution to the problem on Marquette Drive? Ms. Schwalbach answered yes, it is more affordable, maintainable, and looks good. Alderman Hopkins said that the Utility may want to try this alternative at our expense. Commissioner Kern asked if it would replace concrete invert usage? Cathy answered it would be used specifically for sump pump discharge only, whereas concrete invert is used for very flat or very steep sloped areas. Alderman Hegeman asked if it would move the problem downstream? Ms. Schwalbach said that we would need to handle the downstream issue and look at every ditchline until the discharge flows into a stream or cross culvert. She added that staff will take into account the characteristics of the ditch such as the shallowness so that it is deep enough to handle a larger storm. Commissioner Kern asked if it would shorten the drainage list? Ms. Schwalbach answered that it is another solution to solve some of the problems, and it will help us not to have to go back and revisit the issue. Mr. Nitschke cautioned that there is a potential issue in heavily wooded areas, if people don't clean out the inlets, a small diameter pipe can plug. For instance, if a property upstream does not rake the leaves out of their yard, they can wash downstream.

SW 04-06 Approval of Ordinance Changing the Name of the Stormwater Utility to Water Resource Management Utility

Motion by Alderman Hopkins to request Common Council to approve Ordinance 2298 to amend various sections in Chapter 65, Stormwater Utility and to create section 6-18 in Chapter 6 Boards, Commissions and Committees of the Municipal Code of the City of New Berlin changing the name of the Stormwater Utility to Water Resource Management Utility. Seconded by Commissioner Kern and upon voting the motion passed unanimously.

Communication Notification of Re-Assignment of the Water Resource Management Division (formerly Stormwater Utility) to DCD (Department of Community Development)

Mayor Chiovero said somewhere over the years, the Stormwater Utility was assigned to Director Ray Grzys of Utilities and Streets because of the Utility name. He said upon review of the division, it was clear that most of Eric Nitschke's work involved plan review and education, and he reported to Director of Community Development Greg Kessler. Mayor Chiovero said that this was a notification of re-assignment of the Water Resource Management Division to the Department of Community Development. This change lets the Stormwater Engineers know whom they work for and who they report to since most of the stormwater planning issues fit under Community Development. He noted that Sue Hanley would still handle the stormwater packets and meeting minutes. No action was required on this issue.

Motion to adjourn at 6:11p.m. by Commissioner Kern. Seconded by Alderman Hopkins and upon voting the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted, Suzette Hanley, Office Coordinator Utilities and Streets