

**Minutes  
Stormwater Committee Meeting  
New Berlin City Hall  
3805 S. Casper Drive  
Council Chambers  
September 13, 2005**

***Please note: Minutes are unofficial until approved by the 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 and Streets), Eric Nitschke (Division Engineer), Cathy Schwalbach (Project Engineer), Chuck Trevorrow (Stormwater Supervisor) and Sue Hanley (Office Coordinator Utilities & Streets)

Meeting called to order at 4:46 pm by Alderman Harenda and declared a quorum with all members present.

**SW 01-05                      Minutes from August 9th Meeting**

Motion by Alderman Hopkins to approve the minutes from the August 9th Stormwater Committee meeting. Second by Alderman Hegeman and upon voting the motion passed unanimously 4 to 0. Jim Kern voted present since he did not attend the meeting.

**SW 06-05                      Discussion of Stormwater Utility Name Change**

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

Cathy Schwalbach read the list of possible name changes that were compiled from several meetings. Eric Nitschke said that the reason for the name changes is some residents call in and ask why they are paying into the Stormwater Utility when they do not have any stormwater issues. He continued that the Utility handles many other issues including stormwater conveyance, flood plains, flood banks, water quality, streambank stabilization, and groundwater to name a few. Alderman Hopkins said that he thought Water Resource Preservation Utility was decided on previously. Mr. Nitschke said that the logo had been previously approved, but not the name.

After a lengthy discussion, it was decided on the name Water Resource Management with the City of New Berlin Utility in Black, and Water Resource Management in Blue on the logo that had been previously approved. Mr. Nitschke said that the change would go into effect January 2006 and that there would be informational flyers sent out to inform the residents.

Motion by Alderman Hopkins to change the name of the Stormwater Utility to Water Resource Management Utility. Seconded by Alderman Hegeman and upon voting the motion passed unanimously.

**SW 19-05                      Storm Water 5-Year Plan Update**

Eric Nitschke said that staff is still working on evaluation of the CIP and the final draft should be completed by the end of the year. This item remains tabled.

**SW 29-05                      Special Stormwater Utility Meeting September 27th**

Eric Nitschke requested a Special Stormwater Utility meeting on Tuesday September 27<sup>th</sup> from 4:30 to 4:45 to discuss additional Capital Improvement work. Alderman Harenda asked everyone to check their calendars and seeing no objection, he asked Sue Hanley to send out an agenda and schedule this meeting.

Cathy Schwalbach said that over the past three years, the Stormwater Utility drainage list has become a comprehensive database for prioritizing and handling stormwater issues. The process always includes an investigation along with any or all of the following: survey, design, and construction. Currently this database contains 500 requests that are at some point in the process, including those that are closed. We are scheduled to complete 70 projects this year, weather and other factors permitting, with 29 projects that will be rolled over in 2006 and possible another 50 currently in investigation and design. She added that 15 of these projects will most likely roll over into 2007. With approximately 50 requests waiting for investigation, and at least another 13 waiting for design work, there is at least a 2-year backlog to move these requests through the system to resolution.

The system backlogs are creating slow response times, and confusion and inefficiencies as information needs to be reconfirmed when the issue is finally able to be addressed. Staff is concerned about the backlog and would like to propose the implementation of the following measures:

1. The Utility will not accept any new investigations/issues until the spring of 2007.
2. When calls are taken, residents will be asked if they are experiencing flooding or property damage due to the situation.
  - a. If so, the standard procedure will be followed and they will be placed into the drainage database.
  - b. If not, they will be asked to please call back in the Spring of 2007, specifically after April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007.
3. The Utility will no longer investigate private drainage issues as they currently do as a service to residents.
4. The Utility will no longer investigate a complaint of steep side slopes as a service to residents, but will offer the three options that have been found to be sound engineering practice and acceptable solutions to the residents (enclosed ditch, retaining wall, or ground cover installation, all at the discretion of the resident and performed by the resident).

Staff is looking for suggestions. Alderman Harenda commented that residents will be upset if they are asked to call back in 2007. Mayor Chiovarero agreed and said that he and the Aldermen would be receiving many calls if that policy was put into effect. Alderman Harenda asked if there could be a separate list for calls that we don't have any authority over? Mr. Nitschke said that even if we do take a phone call, we have to tell them there will be no work until 2007, unless it is an emergency. Mr. Nitschke said that calls are rated on a tier system, based on damage to structure, flooding and safety, and in some cases, someone is moved up, while another project moves down the list. He added that he does not want Cathy to get ahead of Chuck, since it is hard to remember what she looked at 1 ½ years ago. He said that Street crews have so much of a backlog already, not to mention storm damage and cleanouts.

Mayor Chiovarero said that based on his experience, staff needs to respond to the resident right away, be honest, and tell them that only so many projects can be done each year. He added that ditch issues probably didn't crop up overnight, but resources don't allow us to have dedicated crews to do the work.

Chuck Trevorrow said that we do take every call that comes in and review the problem; however, situations do occur that move people down the list if an emergency comes up. He added that staff never tells a resident we will not look at their concern, and often their concern affects the situation upstream or downstream. He said that the policy not to give a date, but to prioritize projects and get to them as soon as possible.

Alderman Hegeman asks if people on the list are contacted on a yearly basis? Cathy Schwalbach said that she and Chuck look at the list in spring, recontact people and Chuck does a site visit before deciding what projects can be completed for the season. Mr. Nitschke said that we don't want the drainage list to become a joke, like the Packer's season ticket list, since it is so long. He encouraged the Committee members to look at the drainage list documentation, which is quite extensive. He suggested that perhaps during December to March, when calls come in, we take the information, but tell the residents that we cannot do a site evaluation until Spring.

Cathy Schwalbach said that currently if we alleviate calls that we do not have authority over, it would help prevent a backlog in the database. Alderman Harenda asked if we want to integrate the drainage list into the GIS database? Mr. Nitschke said that these are 2 separate items. For example, a neighbor's sump pump discharge on the lot line or downspout discharge runs onto the other property, so he builds a berm. He added that often residents are looking for a mediator for the problem and it is private issue or code compliance issue that Tony can

handle. Alderman Harenda agreed that the change in policies that are now in place can weed out some of these calls, and he wanted to see how many fall into categories 3 and 4.

Eric Nitschke asked if staff can reword # 1 & 2 regarding holding onto phone calls until Spring when we can look at it, and follow procedures in 3 & 4. He said that we want to have a united front and policy for the drainage list. Alderman Harenda agreed that we need to make the other aldermen aware of the policy. The Committee agreed that waiting until Spring to look at some items, and items that need to be addressed will be handled immediately. Alderman Harenda said that staff is already aware of the hot spots and are proactive. He added the additional money in the budget for seasonal help, should provide some assistance to Street crews next summer.

Alderman Harenda reminded everyone that the Special Stormwater Utility Committee meeting is scheduled for 4:30 on September 27<sup>th</sup>.

Motion to adjourn by Jim Kern at 5:52 p.m. Seconded by Alderman Hopkins and upon voting the motion passed unanimously.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Suzette Hanley, Office Coordinator Utilities and Streets*