

Minutes

Stormwater Committee Meeting

Minutes from July 10, 2000 Common Council Chambers

Members present: Alderman Wysocki, Alderman Patzer, Mayor Gatzke and City Engineer Jeff Chase.

Staff present: Director of Finance Mike Holzinger

Others present: Dave Anderson of Ehlers & Associates

Excused: Alderman Bullermann

Meeting called to order at 9 a.m.

Election of Officers

- Chairman
- Secretary

Motion by Mayor Gatzke to nominate Alderman Wysocki for Chairman of the Stormwater Committee. Upon voting, motion passes unanimously.

Motion by Alderman Wysocki to nominate City Engineer Jeff Chase for Secretary. Second by Mayor Gatzke. Upon voting, motion passes unanimously.

Stormwater Management Master Plan History

- Jeff Chase gave a brief explanation of the above stated issue. In 1993 the City conducted a management plan for the Deer Creek watershed. Years later, the City started implementing the Westridge TIF District, and part of that project was to create a Storm Water Management Plan for that entire district. In late 1997, the City started a master plan for the entire City comprised of five (5) major watersheds. The plan consisted of:
 1. Inventory of our entire existing storm water facilities, locating all of existing drainage facilities.
 2. Ran a hydraulic model of all the conveyance facilities through out the City.
 3. Extensive public involvement process. Committee held informational meetings to solicit concerns from the community.
 4. Goals, objectives and standards to address issues and identify alternatives.
 5. Includes a comprehensive water quality plan.
 6. Includes a storm water ordinance.
 7. A cursory review of financing and implementation.

Financing Stormwater Projects

- Director of Finance Mike Holzinger states that one of the requests from Common Council, was Ehlers & Associates attend the meeting and introduce some financing options.
- Dave Anderson from Ehlers & Associates spoke about different kinds of financing options and they are as follows:

- Revenue Options:
 1. Property Taxes
 2. Storm Water Utility Fees
- Storm Water Utility would need user charges
- Special Assessments
- TIF
- Impact Fees
- Mayor Gatzke stated people in this community want the City to get something done regarding all the flooding and drainage without doing a study. Mayor Gatzke stated that the only viable option to resolve these issues is to create a Storm Water Utility.
- Alderman Wysocki asked if it is possible to put together a Storm Water Utility and to look within that Utility, if certain areas would qualify for the TIF?
- Dave Anderson responded that if criteria were met on those spots, yes.
- Alderman Wysocki asked since we don't have a utility district does that create a problem for storm water utility?
- Dave Anderson responded yes, it would make everything a lot easier.
- Mayor Gatzke suggests we create the Utility now, and identify specific projects. We can create a TIF district for special projects. The TIF discussion potentially creates unnecessary delays. He had some concerns about the delays that are sometimes up to 18 months.
- Alderman Wysocki wanted to keep everyone in mind as we move forward, that the options will exist for us. Maybe in a parallel effort we can look at whether or not that's possible.
- Mike Holzinger related what he thought of the revenue options for the Storm Water Utility. He stated that we needed to look at the implementation of the Storm Water Utility and resolve some policy issues. He thought that the Mayor should address how it would be structured, and where the decisions and responsibilities are made and that Engineering would be involved in coming up with Street projects or other related Utility projects, and that we will need lots of assistance in putting it together.
- Mayor Gatzke stated he would prepare a proposal for a Storm Water Utility, without outside study, based on what we have now and include that to our budget.
- Alderman Wysocki asked if the Mayor could include Ehlers & Associates in this, for the prospective they could offer and the committee would be willing to provide some funding.

Mayor Gatzke motioned to recommend to the Common Council that the City move forward with the formation of a Storm Water Utility. Second by Alderman Patzer.

Upon voting, motion was passed unanimously.

Preparation of a Request for Proposals Relating to a Storm Water Utility Study

- Alderman Wysocki mentioned that there are a variety of choices we have in terms of charges & to look at the building operations. Alderman Wysocki asked Mayor Gatzke what his opinion is on a potential study to help resolve those issues in a timely manner.
- Mayor Gatzke mentioned the user charges & recommended that we do not create individual basins or districts and that the entire City would be included as one Storm Water Utility and not charge on a property value basis. He stated that he would have to add staff for the work that would have to be completed and for maintenance of the systems it will create. It's his belief that management of this organization must be in the hands of staff, and not directed by elected officials with the Engineering Staff having direct involvement.
- Alderman Wysocki added that his only purpose for this item is to look at getting any expertise or help for Storm Water Utility. The Utility committee at the next meeting on the 17th will be bringing

up the option of MMSD Capital charges as potentially being on property value. He asked Mike Holzinger if there is some formal action and adequate funding?

- Mayor Gatzke added that there are adequate funds available, if we don't do an RFP. We won't do a formal study; we'll do this in house. When we did the analysis of all of our funding consultants, we were very impressed with Ehlers & Associates. We should keep the study under the amount necessary for a request for proposal.
- Mike Holzinger thought the key to this is User Charge, and what to charge people. He wanted to know if the Engineering Dept had answers to that, or would we need a firm to come and give us some guidance. Once we set a budget up for 2001, we need to start collecting revenue to pay it off, and how much to charge.
- Jeff Chase stated that we are undertaking a very complex and difficult task. Luckily we have many examples of what to look for from other communities and how they've formed Utilities. And without exception they all have used extensive outside services and expertise. How do we generate sufficient funds to pay for the costs we've identified? The major component of the Utility would be, is it defensible. His belief is we have to solicit significant outside resources.
- Mayor Gatzke responded by agreeing with what Jeff Chase said. And also added we need something with as much detail as we can reasonably accommodate, given the constraints that we have. We need to raise money, and commence work on projects. Also study in detail how we're going to create this project that will last 50-100 years.
- Alderman Wysocki summarized by saying we need to add this to the council agenda. He acknowledged that Mayor Gatzke needs a short period of time to identify what might be a request for proposal relating to a Utility study.

NR 216 Permit

- Jeff Chase updated the committee on our new Storm Water Discharge Permit and that we have been designated by the city of Racine to be considered for a Storm Water discharge permit by the DNR. We are required within a 2-3 year process to submit an application and receive a permit. We have chosen to enter a consortium of Root River communities, to obtain a group NR 216 permit. This consists of 7 communities along the Root River, the largest being Racine. That process is underway. The council has executed an ordinance authorizing us to enter into that group permit. Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Plan Commission is facilitating the process. We are collecting information to be compiled by sewrpc and are meeting monthly to further the permit process. Because we're doing a joint application, we have 2 years to obtain the permit. Due to our awareness of this requirement, and good planning, we are well positioned and this should be an easy process.
- Alderman Wysocki stated he wanted to be kept posted on this and if there is a financial commitment we have to be aware of.
- Jeff Chase stated that the permit process does have a financial commitment, but is relatively small. \$10,000 for the joint application and that's split 7 ways. The permit itself is renewable every 2 years. We'll be required to have a Storm Water management plan and an operations and maintenance plan that is geared towards reducing pollutants in our Storm Water.
- Alderman Wysocki questioned if the plan that we adopted would meet the requirements relative to a basic plan of operation.
- Jeff Chase responded that when we scoped the Citywide Storm Water Management master plan, the creation of the plan was done in partnership with the DNR; they paid for over half the plan.

Implementation of the Plan

- Jeff Chase gave an update on what the City is doing to minimize flooding and property damage. He stated that the City has formally adapted a citywide Storm Water Management Master Plan, and it would help us understand what the problems are and prioritizing how we fix them. The City has also adopted an ordinance to help prevent problems in the future and have also constructed projects such as Pond SP2. This is a regional Storm Water retention facility. It is a multi cell, 13-

acre complex that can hold up to 60-acre feet of water, its principal benefit is to reduce flood stage along Deer Creek, in the Buena Park subdivision. We've worked with the HUD program and have received a grant for the 1997 flooding, and have applied for a 1998 grant. With that money we have purchased one home, and have secured funds to increase the size of certain conveyance facilities and cross culvert pipes identified by Storm Water plan, as being undersized. With the future money, we will be conducting a flood mitigation plan that is consistent with the FEAA requirements and we'll be purchasing another home that has experienced repeated flooding. We are also in the process of implementing a stream bank stabilization project along Calhoun Creek within Calhoun Park. We've entered into an agreement for a joint application NR 216 Storm Water discharge project. The other initiative is a study for an additional regional flood control facility, which will be called North Pond 1. That will be a large flood control facility in the Deer Creek watershed. It will be located between the railroad tracks and Greenfield Ave along Deer Creek. We have contracted with an Engineering consultant to perform a feasibility study for that project. We'll be conducting a limited sanitary sewer evaluation survey for all sewer areas. We are inspecting every manhole, noting their condition and compiling a list of deficiencies to be corrected. We are continuing the sanitary sewer survey, which will result in an accurate mapping of the sewers, and constructing a hydraulic model of the facilities.

- Alderman Wysocki stated, with last week's storm, certain areas of his district continue to have problems with sewer back up and loss of electrical power. We need to reexamine that utility service is provided to our city residences, but not within our scope of control. We will have to bring in someone else like the power utility, and ask them to reexamine their infrastructure with our cities.
- Alderman Wysocki asked if the people that were at the meeting would like to address the issues, and step up to the microphone.

Residents spoke on behalf of their neighborhood

- George Burdie's of 2335 Graylog Lane had some concerns. He stated that the City needs to address problems and get some work done. It's been a few years now, and he hasn't seen any progress. The water in the ditch on Brookside makes an abrupt 90-degree turn to the left towards Moorland. That's where the water backs up. As a result everyone along that area gets water coming through the floor drains. Can we make those culverts larger or add a retention pond? Another question is grants from HUD, are there any other monies that we could apply for?
- Jeff Chase answered by saying that we pursue all money that we are aware of. We are the most successful community in Southeastern Wisconsin when it comes to local assistance programs. We can attribute this to Mark Handzlik, our storm water Engineer. He does a great job of administering a grant program. We've also been successful in getting FEMA money that was administered through the HUD program and Waukesha County.
- George Burdie's also asked where his neighborhood stood in the list of priorities.
- Jeff Chase said that every significant conveyance structure in the city was inspected, mapped and modeled. We are in the process of upsizing the culvert pipes; there are 39 principal culverts that are in our primary system we're looking to upsize. Sometimes it isn't obvious what the answer to a problem is. It isn't always the case that the function of Storm Water facilities in the area is directly related to failure of sanitary sewer facilities. They are two separate systems. We are aware of sewer backups in your area, that is one of the primary areas we will be visiting and videotaping. We videotape all of the conveyance sanitary sewer systems in the city. Our consultant goes and reviews the tapes and sees how they compare to historic tapes and if there's any changes or deterioration.
- George Burdie added that all this could change, and this could turn into a drought area.
- Jeff Chase thought that that was an important point. Our systems may fail; there is no such thing as a guarantee. And we should not lose sight of that.
- Robert Stegmand of 2510 S. Brookside Parkway expressed that he was without electricity for 40 hours. Two years ago we were out for 5 days. I've lived here for 27 years, the first 25 years I never had water or sewer problems. After the new homes and apartment buildings were added, we have problems. Perhaps we don't have the proper size sewer pipes to handle all that

additional water? I think we should get after the electric company. I was a troubleshooter for 40 years with the electric company. We went out there, we found our troubles, and we never had outages like we do now. Menomonee Falls Mayor is arguing with the electric company and I think that Mayor Gatzke should get the right people out here to do the job.

- Mayor Gatzke scheduled the next committee meeting to be on August 7th at 8:00 am.

Motion was made by Mayor Gatzke to adjourn, second by Jeff Chase.

Upon voting motion passes unanimously.