



Storm Water Commission
6801 Delmar Boulevard, University City, Missouri 63130,
Phone: (314) 505-8560, Fax: (314) 862-0694

MINUTES OF THE STORMWATER COMMISSION August 2, 2022

1. **Call to Order.** The twenty-fourth meeting of the Stormwater Commission (Commission) was called to order at 6:32 PM by Chair Todd Thompson via zoom. Zoom meeting was a late change because Community Center is flood-damaged and is not available.
2. **Attendance-Roll Call.** The following Commission members were present at the Community Center: Garry Aronberg, Robert Criss, Mark Holly, Eric Karch, Todd Thompson, Eric Stein. Also in attendance were Tim Cusick, Councilman; Rob Daly, Project Manager in Publics Works; John Mulligan, City Attorney; Darrin Dunkle, Acting Public Works Director, Director of Parks, Forestry, and Recreation.
3. **Agenda.** The Following Agenda was approved by voice vote (motion and second: Messrs. Karch, Criss): Roll Call; Approval of Agenda; Approval of Minutes; Announcements by Commissioners; Citizen Comments New Business, Old Business, Committee Reports, Council Liaison Comments; Adjournment.
4. **Minutes.** The minutes of the July 3, 2022, Commission meeting were approved (Messrs. Holly, Criss, voice vote approval).
5. **Announcements from the Commissioners.**
 - Messrs. Stein and Criss have documented highwater marks by photography and survey instruments
 - Dr. Criss: Newspapers are citing \$87 million of damage.
 - Dr. Criss: Recommended begin flood mitigation lecture series.
6. **Citizen Comments.**
 - Adam Staudt: Ward 3, 7369 Melrose, on Green Practices Commission, impacted by both of the recent storms:
 - Sewer and street flooding to 4 ft depth
 - Ruoff from two neighbor's running onto his property.
 - Encourage detention project to move forward.
 - TIF money should be used for stormwater improvements.
 - Mr. Daly encouraged Mr. Staudt to contact Mr. Daly directly about complaints and observations.
 - Mr. Daly encouraged Mr. Staudt to file a claim for damages for overcharged sewer with MSD.
 - Barbara Chicherio:
 - 6954 Dartmouth, 8 ft of water was in her basement. Asked how do apply for MSD aid a a list of other financial resource aid. Council Cussick replied that United Way's 211 phone help desk is first contact for financial aid. Mr. Daly gave the MSD phone number 314-768-6260. Mr. Mulligan added that MSD aid is only for surcharged sewer - only for backups not overland flooding. A neighbor has pictures of basement floor drain flowing into basement.
 - A sink has developed on the 6900 block of Dartmouth. Mr. Daly reported that Street Department has been informed to barricade.
 - Don Fitz also of 6954 Dartmouth: U City needs to control traffic after floods and have signs ready to deploy. U City must be better prepared for emergencies.
 - Myra Vandersall, University Heights Trustee:
 - Sink hole is delaying access to and from Dartmouth and delaying recover.
 - Sink hole needs to be addressed quickly, City needs to pressure MSD for repair.



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- City needs to pressure MSD to mitigate flooding.
- Flooding is severe enough that some people cannot return to home.
- Cheryl Klohr: 717 Ratcliff:
 - Downspouts from many yards drain though many backyards and creates neighborhood yard flooding and basement flooding through windows. Urges City help.
 - HR Green will be asked will send another questionnaire to Ms. Klohr.
- Jeff Hales:
 - Suggested that the City determine how severity of July 2022 storm differ from previous storms.
 - MSD will provide backflow prevention system. City should get that message out.
 - Clayton is assisting with loan of equipment.
- Gerry Clark: 7423 Wellington, 3d Ward,
 - Discussed a distant neighbor at 6891 Dartmouth –
 - Too little City Communication about help,
 - Basement walls have collapsed.
 - Wants a warning of backups and flooding.
 - Feels no one is helping.
 - 40-year resident.
 - Homeowner has no flood insurance.
- LR: listening
- Will Wainwright 8436 Old Bonhomme:
 - Suggested that St. Louis County Highway Department may have been a source for quick loan of traffic control signs.
 - His own house experienced its typical flooding of basement garage.
 - Still seeks City to assist with purchase of floodproof planks.

7. Subcommittee Reports.

- USACE Report. Corps personnel are working to finalizing report. Darren Dunkel has become the lead City contact.
- Early warning.
 - Fire Department Chief Hinson is developing protocol for issuing notification to first responders.
 - Mr. Stein summarized a written report which is attached.
 - Code Red coordination: flood warnings would interface with Code Red to send communication to Battalion Chiefs' mobile devices so they could decide launch warning.
 - Urged education of difference between National Weather Service warnings and U. City warning.
- Communication (Mr. Karch):
 - Mr. Karch will continue to assemble information on flood preparedness.
 - Urged City:
 - Raise flood awareness.
 - Flood warning signs be posted around City.
 - Lecture Series.
 - Flood preparedness posters.
 - Self-help brochures from FEMA and a previously prepared by Mr. Stein for former PW director Wilson be evaluated and consider distribution.
 - Residents participate in Code Red.



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8. New Business.

- May Questionnaire Responses - Preliminary information from HR Green - attached:
 - Problem points map shown.
 - Histogram
 - Problem
- Criss: City should document piles of trash to aid in learning extent of damage.
- Mr. Stein:
 - Asked about documentation of damaged houses
 - Mr. Daly will address records later.
- Mr. Karch: FEMA will not share list of damages and address – it is private. Recommends City seek FEMA data and City is now investigating that data now.
- Maintenance yard was flooded.
- City Staff not available to drive streets to document extent of damage.
- Councilman Cusick will ask Fire Dept to use drones to document trash piles.

9. Old Business.

- Councilman Cusick and Commissioner Criss will knock on doors to get more questionnaire responses from the residents in the floodplain.
- HR Green will supply list of residents who have not yet responded.

10. Councilman Cusick Comments.

- Multi-Agency open house will be at Centennial Commons August 4, 3:00 to 8:00 PM
- Urges flood-impacted people to call 211 for help and to document extent of damage for to justify declaration of disaster area – opens door for other resources.
- Costco opening scheduled for fall 2022
- Renovation of annex and library planning is proceeding. Some fencing will be required around the police station.

11. Adjournment was at 8:29 (Stein, Karch) motion passed.

Minutes Preparation. Minutes were prepared by Garry Aronberg.

C:\Users\garon\Dropbox\UCity Stormwater Taskforce\CommissionMinutesDrafts\20220802_StrmWtrCommMin.docx



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Commissioners,

Here is a recap of the performance of our flood warning system (FWS) during the recent events.

Eric S

July 26:

- U City FWS warning issued at 1:40 am (I didn't see it because I had retired).
- NWS first warning at 2:04 am.*
- RDP at dangerous level (16 ft at gauge 22) at 2:33 am.
- Gauge 22 crest (19.3 ft) at 5:10 am.

July 28:

- U City FWS warning at 3:05 pm (I called 911. That took 3-4 minutes due to a problem with my phone)
- NWS first warning at 2:52 pm.*
- RDP peak (14.9 ft) at 3:40 pm.

Just one week before these floods, Bob and I met with Chief Hinson to start the process of interfacing our warnings with Code Red. As the public becomes more aware of this system, we must make clear the distinction between our warnings and those of the NWS, which is:

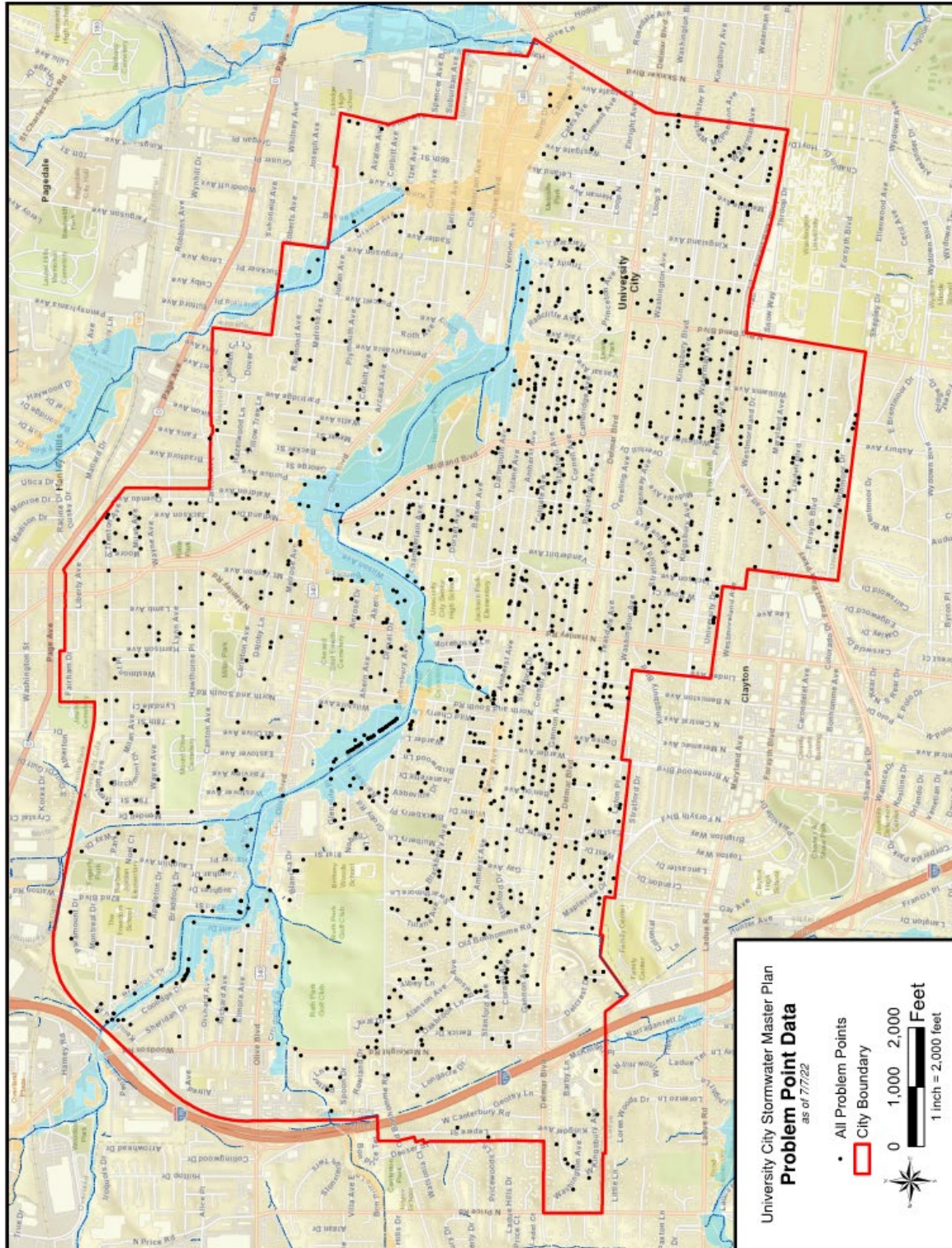
1. The NWS warnings are based on estimates of rainfall intensity over the entire metropolitan area and the average response of streams within that area.
2. The U City warnings are custom-made based on actual measured rainfall within our RDP basin (9 sq. miles) and the known response of the U City RDP channel.

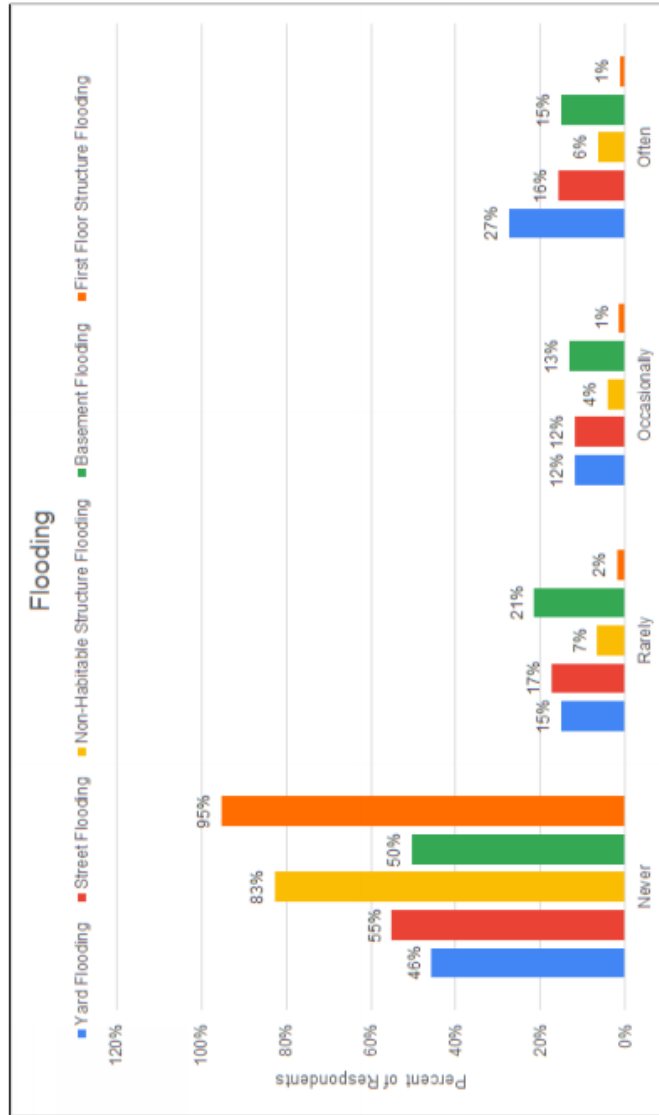
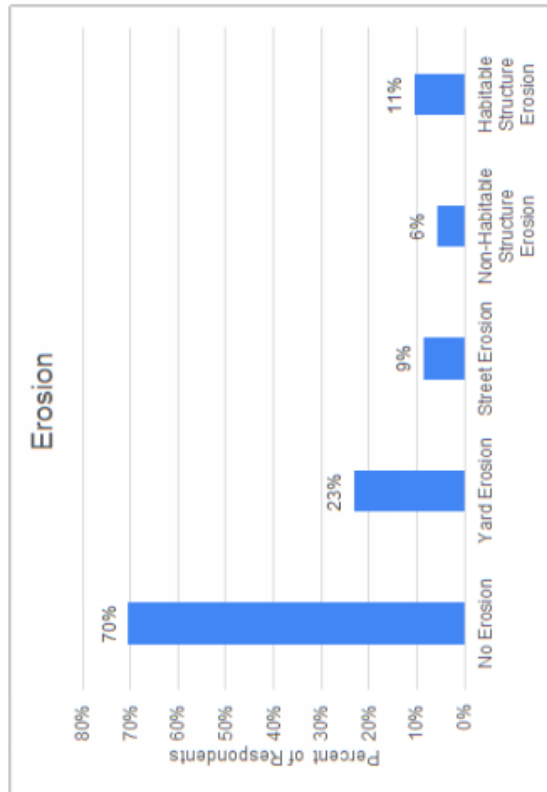
Thus, our warnings can vary somewhat with respect to those of the NWS depending on what is happening in the U City RDP basin versus their assumptions and estimates for the larger area.



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Progress: Stormwater Master Plan Questionnaire Data Gathering Data Unreviewed by Staff







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