



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

**Draft: MINUTES OF THE STORMWATER COMMISSION  
March 7, 2023**

**Call to Order.** The thirty-first meeting of the Stormwater Commission (Commission) was called to order at 6:34 PM by Chair Todd Thompson.

1. **Attendance-Roll Call.** The following Commission members were present at the Community Center: Garry Aronberg, Robert Criss, Mark Holly, Eric Karch, Eric Stein, Todd Thompson. Also in attendance were; Darin Girdler, Director of Public Works; Mirela Celaj, Assistant Director of Public Works; John Mulligan, City Attorney.
2. **Agenda.** The following modified agenda was approved by voice vote (Messrs. Stein, Holly):  
Attendance-Roll Call; Approval of Agenda; Approval of Minutes; Citizen Comments; Announcements by Commissioners; Committee Reports; New Business; Old Business; Council Liaison Comments; Adjournment.
3. **Minutes.** The minutes of the February 7, 2023, meeting were approved by acclimation with a spelling correction (approved by acclimation): correct Karch spelling in the motion to adopt to revised agenda.
4. **Citizen Comments.**
  - Susanne Valdez 8032 Lafon PI long-time resident made the following comments:
    - Two water main brakes have occurred in the last year and half. The water has caused extensive damage to property.
    - City leaders should encourage Missouri American Water to upgrade and replace water mains to minimize main breaks.
    - Complained about no city oversight of water main repairs.
5. **Announcements by Commissioners.**
  - Eric Stein commended The Journey church at Hanley and Amhurst has installed a retaining wall to protect neighbors to the north and west from their parking lot stormwater runoff.
6. **Committee Reports.**
  - Monitoring – Dr. Criss and Mr. Stein presented maintenance recommendations by power point slides and discussion:
    - Channel Maintenance needed:
      - Harvard at Dartmouth long standing water after July flood.
      - River Des Peres Tunnel
        - Water surface elevation (WSE) exceeded the FEMA-recognized 500-yr WSE at tunnel mouth.
        - but exceeded only the 10-yr WSE at Groby road crossing.
        - Indicates significant blockage likely in Tunnel.
      - Bridges and tunnel condition:
        - Many bridges overtopped and contended the bridge openings are too small.
        - Debris and sand have accumulated under bridges and in the channel causing diminished conveyance under the bridge.
        - Inspection 200 yards into tunnel indicates tunnel is partially blocked by concrete debris
    - Significant portions of RdP are City of U City property.



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- **Motion passed unanimously (Messrs. Criss and Stein moved and second):**
  1. **The Commission urges the City Council to recognize that inadequate channel maintenance does and has amplified flood damages.**
  2. **The Commission urges the City Council to remove vegetative debris that obstructs flow near, on and under the Groby, Hanley, Shaftesbury and Pennsylvania bridges in the next 60 days.**
  3. **The Commission urges the City Council to clean the channel of vegetative debris from the Vernon bridge to the Tunnel entrance, and debris on City property above and immediately downstream of that entrance.**
  4. **The Commission urges that the large obstructions in the RdP tunnel be further investigated as soon as possible.**
  
- The tributary to River des Peres at Amhurst and North & South continues to erode. The mitigation will be expensive – beyond the capability of the homeowner.

#### 7. **New Business**

- The hour is late and we have not gotten to the new business that PW Director Girdler had included in the agenda. **Motion passed by acclamation: have another meeting on March 21 at 3 PM to discuss the New Business – ordinances modifications, public-private project definitions.**
- Councilman Smotherson email to Dr. Criss regarding concerns about Heman pool repair funding has been forward by email to the Commissioners for further discussion at a letter time or for comment by individual commissioners to Council Smotherson.
- PW Director Girdler reported:
  - Meters and gages upgrades and maintenance repairs for the early warning system will be paid by the City. Bills or invoices should be submitted to PW Director Girdler for processing through the City system.
  - Internet: City will establish a page for SW Commission to distribute and save important data. Commission should send data to PW Director Girdler for transmission to correct communication to correct staff.

#### 8. **Old Business.**

- none

#### 9. **Councilman**

- A new liaison council representative has not yet been appointed.

#### 10. **Adjournment.** Motion to adjourn passed at 8:28 PM (Messrs. Holly and Karch). Minutes Preparation. The minutes were prepared by Garry Aronberg.