



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

## MINUTES OF THE STORMWATER COMMISSION April 18, 2023

**Call to Order.** The thirty-fourth meeting of the Stormwater Commission (Commission) was called to order at 3:02 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 Stein, Eric Karch, Todd Thompson. Also in attendance were; Darin Girdler, Director of Public Works; Mirela Celaj, Assistant Director of Public Works; and John Mulligan, City Attorney.

The meeting was a special meeting to consider stormwater management report development.

Visitors: Tom Sullivan.

- 2. Agenda.** The following modified agenda was approved by voice vote (Messrs. Aronberg, Thompson): Attendance-Roll Call; Approval of Agenda; New Business: stormwater report development.

### 3. New Business

- Presentations were made by the HR Green-Reitz & Jens team of Garry Aronberg and Eric Karch on three components of the plan:
  - Public-Private Project definition – a policy question;
  - Prioritizing projects;
  - Projects for detailed benefit : cost analysis.
- After wide-ranging discussion, key points for public – private problem no definite definition was reached but the following key points should be included in the policy definition:
  - Identification of cause of stormwater problem –
    - public use or controlled property – public works caused problem;
    - private use property even if stormwater crosses property lines.
      - Private property purchase price usually reflects existing stormwater problems;
      - Private property must accept runoff from higher property;
      - Property owners cannot exacerbate stormwater problems;
      - It is poor public policy for a jurisdiction to take responsibility for private problems.
  - Other communities have taken expansive approaches to public problems but University need not take an expansive approach. Expansive approaches have been inconsistently applied by both restrictive policy and expansive policy jurisdictions. The expansive approaches feature the following features:
    - Stormwater crossing property lines;
    - Flooding of structures occurs;
    - Mitigation requires public works improvements;
    - Mitigation is very costly.
  - Policy recommendations of the report will be considered by Public Works staff as the Stormwater Master Plan Report develops for review.
  - Prioritization points adjustment will consider differential costs of repairs to houses with basement-only flooding and houses that also included first floor flooding. Eric Karch is



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gathering aggregate information on repair costs from FEMA records for “63130” and “University City”. Mr. Karch is also preparing direct contact with volunteer home owners to gather local recent flood repair costs.

- Project for detailed benefit cost analysis discussion identified the following key points:
  - Very high cost and disruptive damage from River Des Peres flooding is not poorly represented in the list of study projects presented by HR Green. Projects should be added such as:
    - Undersized bridge and culverts at Groby and Pennsylvania Ave.
    - Debris and silt accumulation in the channel particularly at bridges and the MSD tubes.
  - Other problems as listed by HR Green are also appropriate for study even if City determines they are private. Study now will give staff information to advise property owners on private mitigation. Those other problems include channel erosion at 7500 block of Amherst (at North & South), flow through terraced neighborhoods,
  - Planning commission concerns about increased use of detention and continued development in the floodplain.
  - HR Green will send an updated list to Mr. Girdler and Ms. Celaj.
- Other discussion:
  - Mr. Holly continues development of a Web based flood inspection forms to make data gathering for PW inspectors easier and data gathered more useful for planning mitigation.
  - MSD will attend an upcoming Council meeting to discuss MSD’s role and responsibilities. The representatives will be Mr. Hoelscher, executive director or Rich Unverferth, Director of Engineering.

**4. Adjournment.** Motion to adjourn passed at 5:13 PM (Messrs. Holly and Aronberg).

Minutes Preparation. The minutes were prepared by Garry Aronberg.