



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

MINUTES OF THE STORMWATER COMMISSION

September 12, 2023

1. **Call to Order.** The thirty-eighth meeting of the Stormwater Commission (Commission) was called to order at 3:36 PM by Chair Todd Thompson.
2. **Attendance-Roll Call.** The following Commission members were present at the Community Center: Susan Armstrong, Garry Aronberg, Robert Criss, Mark Holly, Eric Karch, Todd Thompson. Also, in attendance were Councilman Dennis Fuller, Darin Girdler, Director of Public Works; and John Mulligan, City Attorney.
3. **Visitor:** Tom Sullivan.
4. **Agenda.** Publish agenda was approved:
Attendance-Roll Call; Approval of Agenda; Approval of Minutes; Citizen Comments; Announcements by Commissioners; Committee Reports; New Business; Old Business; Council Liaison Comments; Adjournment.
5. **Minutes.** The minutes of the August 1, 2023, meeting were approved by voice vote with the Addition that Bob Criss was present (Karch, Holly).
6. **Citizen Comments.** No public comment.
7. **Announcement By Commissioners.**
 - 7.1. Commissioners Stein, Thompson, and Holly recognized the recent passing of Commissioner Stein:
 - 7.1.1. Mr. Stein will be sorely missed by our commission, community, and family.
 - 7.1.2. Commissioner Stein was instrumental in establishing an effective and reliable River des Peres (RdP) early warning system.
 - 7.1.3. Commissioner Stein contributed insight of great wisdom to Commission work.
 - 7.1.4. *River Front Times* had a recent article about Mr. Stein's contribution to the Focal Point music scene.
 - 7.2. The Commission welcomed Susan Armstrong as a newly appointed commissioner. Ms. Armstrong is a licensed professional engineer and has a masters degree in Health, Safety, and Environmental Engineering
8. **Committee Reports.**
 - 8.1. Early Warning System discussion led by Dr. Criss.
 - 8.1.1. Operation and Maintenance.
 - 8.1.1.1. Mr. Stein handled the maintenance and operations of the early warning system. With the passing of Mr. Stein, other arrangements for O&M will be necessary.
 - 8.1.1.2. Dr. Criss urged PW Director Girdler to take on running and maintaining the Early Warning System and other in-stream monitoring equipment that the Commission and City have installed. During discussion, maintenance and operation alternatives were discussed: vendor, U. City staff electricians, MSD. (Commissioner Karch has the log-in credentials for the system.)



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- 8.1.1.3. PW Director Girdler will work-out continued funding and operation.
- 8.1.1.4. PW Director Girdler will identify City Staff to maintain the EWS until long term operations and maintenance responsibilities are established.
- 8.1.1.5. O & M manual. The early warning subcommittee will prepare an operations and maintenance manual for the early warning system.
- 8.1.1.6. The early warning subcommittee will continue to coordinate with City officials regarding coordinating and implementing Code Red warnings.
- 8.1.2. Rating Curve for RdP Tunnel.
 - 8.1.2.1. Dr. Criss has identified the RdP tunnel as a crucial feature in flooding of the Upper RdP in the east end of U. City
 - 8.1.2.2. A rating curve is important to assess the RdP tunnel's operation.
 - 8.1.2.3. Mr. Karch will discuss with Jeff Reipe of MSD whether MSD can install operate and evaluate meters and gauges to determine a rating curve for the tunnel.

9. New Business

- 9.1. At the October meeting of the Commission, The University Heights Flood Task Force will present proposals to limit impermeable surface through ordinance changes.

10. Old Business.

- 10.1. SW Master Plan update on behalf of the stormwater consultant, HR Green, Mr. Aronberg presented evaluation of changes in bridges and imperviousness.
 - 10.1.1. Bridge opening changes at Groby Road would have a small impact on the water surface elevation of the 1 percent annual probability (AP) runoff (100-year storm):
 - 10.1.1.1. Doubling the area of the opening changed the 1% AP by 0.1 foot.
 - 10.1.1.2. The channel is too small to convey the 1 percent annual probability runoff. Therefore, water rises above the banks and enters the floodplain in which homes have been built.
 - 10.1.1.3. Channel deepening is not feasible:
 - 10.1.1.3.1. Effective hydraulic deepening would have to extend a long distance and exacerbate the channelization of the RdP.
 - 10.1.1.3.2. Deepening would require re-grading of the banks to maintain bank stability. Raising of banks would greatly reduce back yards and may require the taking of some homes.
 - 10.1.1.4. Raising the bridge would require a change in the profile of the Groby Road and other nearby intersecting streets. Driveways and yard drainage would be impacted. Raising Groby Road bridge and roadway profile creates a dam in the floodplain.
 - 10.1.1.5. The decision: spend money on raising bridges and roads or in buyouts?
 - 10.1.2. Impervious Changes
 - 10.1.2.1. Computations tested impervious changes: pavement to lawn.
 - 10.1.2.1.1. The sensitivity analysis examined changing 10 and 20 percent of the pavement to lawn. The 1 percent AP RdP water surface changed in the order of 0.1 foot.
 - 10.1.2.1.2. Impervious changes would provide most benefit during low intensity storms: backyard flooding would be reduced rather than RdP flooding.
 - 10.1.2.1.3. Detention such as rain gardens would provide that backyard benefit.



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11. Council Liaison Comments.

- a. U City received a \$3.5 million grant for buyout of Hafner Court apartments.
- b. U City is still pursuing other FEMA grants.

12. Adjournment. Motion to adjourn passed at 5:16 PM (Karch, Aronberg).

Minutes Preparation. The minutes were prepared by Garry Aronberg.

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