



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

MINUTES OF THE STORMWATER COMMISSION

February 6, 2024

1. **Call to Order.** The forty-first meeting of the Stormwater Commission (Commission) was called to order at 3:32 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 Darin Girdler, Director of Public Works; Mirela Celaj, Assistant Director of Public Works.
3. **Visitor:** Many visitors were present.
4. **Agenda.** Publish agenda was approved but with New Business to precede Committee reports (Aronberg, Armstrong): Attendance-Roll Call; Approval of Agenda; Approval of Minutes; Citizen Comments; Announcements by Commissioners; New Business; Committee Reports; Old Business; Council Liaison Comments; Adjournment.
5. **Minutes.** The minutes of the January 9, 2024, meeting were approved by voice vote (Armstrong, Aronberg).
6. **Citizen Comments:**
Craig Todd of 7050 Amhurst discussed on-going flooding of the six or seven basement garages on the 7000 block of Amhurst. He has spoken with MSD several times and seems to get no help. Part of the problem may be the excessive amount of gutter flow bypassing from Midland. Mr. Todd encouraged University City to help.
7. **Announcement By Commissioners.**
Mr. Holly continues to work with students from Washington University on monitoring the water surface elevation at the mouth of the River Des Peres (RdP) tubes. Various gages and monitoring systems are being evaluated that could read water level from above (echo sensors) possibly in lieu of the HOBO gages (pressure transducers). Also to be evaluated are solar power for the system. Anticipating updates will be 3rd calendar quarter.
8. **New Business.**
MSD Bond Issue. Bert Berthel, MSD Director of Operations, and Bess McCoy, MSD Public Relations, spoke to the Commission about two bond issues propositions on the ballot in April. One proposition address wastewater funding while the other addresses stormwater funding. Both positions would authorize bonding in lieu or rate increases. Bonding spreads the \$1,600,000,000 cost of Operation Clear over many years and allows for lower sewer billing rates: if bonding is authorized, rates will increase 7% to 6.6%. If not, rates will increase 35.4%. The other proposition would allow bonding to help pay \$700,000,000 for stormwater improvements.

A vote authorizing stormwater bonds would provide approximately \$34 Million per year for MSD projects, City projects, grants, and environmental justice projects. City would get a share of collected money to spend meet the City's priorities. A no vote would prevent funding.



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Public's Questions and Comments. Some of the public in attendance complained of MSD's slow action to inspect and clean RdP tubes before storms and flooding.

Some complained about unnecessary destruction of mature landscaping along the planned channel repair project behind 6900 blocks of Vernon and Dartmouth. Mr. Berthel added that that project has now been delayed.

9. Old Business.

Impervious Area Code Changes for Stormwater Reduction. The Ad hoc committee on Code Changes to offset the impact of impervious area additions reported on continuing work. Most of the work recently has been to clearly define offsets for the impervious area, establish interface with MSD and resolve overlapping and conflicting requirements between U City and MSD, U City permitting procedure for impervious reduction offsets, clarify work that will be covered by impervious changes – definition of impervious surface that will be regulated, resolve area and volume requirements for offsets, determine how to handle offsets that may have been added previously – can credit be given for previous offset installation.

RdP Tubes. Mr. Girdler reported that 240 CY of debris has been removed from the RdP Tubes already and MSD's contractor is continuing to clean the tubes. Cleaning of the tubes is expected to be completed in May or June.

Channel Cleaning. MSD has begun cleaning the RdP channel near Pennsylvania and Vernon Avenues.

Buyouts. Mr. Girdler reported that buyouts along Wilson and Hafner Court are continuing.

Deep Tunnel. Mr. Girdler reported that another deep tunnel project is planned for the Pennsylvania and Vernon area. As part of the planning for the deep tunnel, MSD has delayed the planned repair of the RdP banks behind 6900 blocks of Vernon and Dartmouth.

Meters. Dr. Criss and Mr. Karch retrieved RdP water level data from our HOB0 gauges recently. They are difficult to reach. Remote sensors such as gages the Washinton University students are evaluating as reported by Mr. Holly may have application to replace the HOB0 gages.

10. Council Liaison Comments (Dennis Fuller).

Council Fuller had other business and was not present.

11. Adjournment. Motion to adjourn passed at 5:12 PM (Karch, Armstrong).

The minutes were prepared by Garry Aronberg.