



Department of Public Works and Parks

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

AGENDA
COMMISSION ON STORM WATER ISSUES
HEMAN PARK COMMUNITY CENTER
975 PENNSYLVANIA
Tuesday, April 1, 2025
3:30 PM

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

2. ATTENDANCE-ROLL CALL

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

❖ March 4, 2025

5. CITIZEN COMMENTS

6. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY COMMISSIONERS

7. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

❖ Monitoring Subcommittee Report

❖ AdHoc Subcommittee Report

8. NEW BUSINESS

9. OLD BUSINESS

❖ Code Review Committee Report:

Proposed new ordinance for new impervious areas and flatwork permit

10. COUNCIL LIAISON COMMENTS

11. ADJOURNMENT



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**Draft: MINUTES OF THE STORMWATER COMMISSION
March 4, 2025**

Call to Order. The forty-ninth meeting of the Stormwater Commission (Commission) was called to order at 3:31 PM on Tuesday, March 4, 2025, by Chair Todd Thompson.

1. **Attendance-Roll Call.** The following Commission members were present at the Community Center: Susan Armstrong, Garry Aronberg, Robert Criss, Phillip Eastin, Mark Holly, Todd Thompson. Also, in attendance were Dennis Fuller, Councilman; Darin Girdler Director of Parks and Recreation; John Mulligan, City Attorney. Eric Karch could not attend.
2. **Visitors:**
David Sandel, resident and iNeighborhood,
Tom Sullivan
3. **Agenda.** By voice vote, discussion of River des Peres proposed FEMA-designated floodplain was added to the published agenda. The amended agenda was approved by voice vote (motion by Aronberg, second by Criss): Attendance-Roll Call; Approval of Agenda; Approval of Minutes; Citizen Comments; Announcements by Commissioners; Committee Reports; New Business to included discussion of FEMA proposed FIRM; Old Business; Council Liaison Comments; Adjournment.
4. **Minutes.** The minutes of the February 4, 2025, meeting was approved (Holly, Thompson).
5. **Citizen Comments.** David Sandel spoke as part of the Monitoring Subcommittee report.
6. **Announcement By Commissioners and Staff.**
 - Commissioner Criss advocated for implementation of SW Taskforce and SW Commission list of recommendations such as a library references shelf for homeowner stormwater resilience measures. **Motion (Criss, Armstrong) to urge City to implement quickly the list (attached as Study Session Excerpt September 9, 2024) - passed by voice vote.**
7. **Committee Reports**
 - River Des Peres (RdP) Monitoring Subcommittee
 - Commissioners Eastin with assistance from David Sandel reported the following information.
 - All rain gauges now have new batteries and are running well.
 - New radar gauges are running but setup of software is continuing integration with other data collection is ongoing.
 - The radar sensor that is now mounted on Hanley Road bridge is located in a location that makes it vulnerable to damage during a flood. Plans are being made to remount it make it durable.
 - New radar gauge stations also have cameras. Radar gauges, cameras, and the older instream gauges with the rain gauges warning system aid the fire chief in determining when flood warnings are necessary. The radar gauges and instream gauges will aid in updating the Criss-developed algorithm relating rainfall to river stage in the River des Peres. The radar-camera



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station installation project is currently under budget: \$32,000 of budget cost remain and may be used for software updates and integration with current system and camera to improve fire chief's surveillance.

- Only eight of the original nine instream stage sensors are still operational: they are nearing the end of their life expectancy. Commissioner Criss recommends that we use the instream gauges as long as possible, but they need not be replaced when they fail because the radar gauges provide suitable stage data to coordinate updates or the rainfall-stage algorithm.
- Attached are details of Monitoring Subcommittee report.
- **Ad Hoc Committee to develop an ordinance.**
 - Code and Planning and Zoning is reviewing the impervious ordinance.

8. New Business

- Commissioner Criss informed us that he had submitted detailed comments about the proposed FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM). The comments identified to FEMA and SEMA that a reduction in floodplain width and lowering of the base flood elevation are inappropriate. Further, FEMA's new models are likely using inappropriate flow and inappropriate elevation data to calibrate the River des Peres model: Commissioner Criss's submitted comments provide more additional calibration data and urged the use of the Criss-supplied data.
- Commissioner Cris expressed disappointment that the Commission was not informed about the proposed FIRM earlier in the FEMA public comment period.

9. Old Business. None.

10. Council Liaison Comments.

- **Councilman Fuller reported:**
 - Long-time former Public Works Director Winkler recently passed away.
 - Solid wastes fees will be raised but disposal of landscape waste at the curb will no longer require extra fee-sticker.
 - State of City address on Thursday February 6 in Council Chambers.
 - St Louis County Highways and Great River Trails are planning improvements along Veron between Westgate and Midland (Vernon is a County route). Improvements will be new two-lane pavement, new parking lanes and curb and gutter, a few curb bump outs for traffic calming.

11. Adjournment. Motion to adjourn passed at 4:50 PM (Aronberg, Armstrong).

Minutes Preparation. The minutes were prepared by Garry Aronberg.

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STUDY SESSION (excerpt)
Stormwater Commission Update
 CITY HALL, University City,
 Monday, September 9, 2024

Purpose of Presentation

To provide a summary of the list of actions recommended by the Stormwater Commission and its predecessor the Stormwater Task Force, initiated 7 years ago to help mitigate flooding.

Opportunities for Additional Leadership by the City of University City on Flood-Related Issues

RECOMMENDED ACTION		% Complete	U City	Storm Water Comm.	MSD	Wash U	Univ. Heights	StL Post Disp.
Communication	Web Site for SWC	35	0	5		30		
	Library Reference Shelf	20	0			20		
	Flood Mark Signs	100	0	85		5		10
	Roars Call for Photos	100	50	50				
	Roars Articles on Floods	50	20	30				
	Flood Lecture Series	20	0			5	15	
	Field Trips & Site Inv	100	10	70		10		10
	2008 Fatalities Plaque	10	0	5				5
Brian Beard Citation	10	0	10					
Data Collection	Survey First Floor Elevations of Flood-prone Buildings	20	0	5	10	5		
	Resident Survey & Analysis	100	20	80				
	2022 Inundation Map	100	5	35		60		
	Data Assembly: flood levels, bridge specs, photos	50	25	25				
	RdP Channel Monitoring	70	10	50		10		
	Hafner Web Cam	0	0					
	Tunnel Block Discovery	100	0			100		
	Tunnel Block Survey	100	0		?	100		
Action	Tunnel Block Removal	100	0	10	80			10
	PA Sand Bar Removal	100	0	10	80			10
	Tunnel Head Cleanup	100	0	10	80			10
	Hanley & Groby Bridge Debris Cleanup	100	0	10	80			10
	Impervious Surface Ordinance	60	0	20		20	20	
			0					
	Early Warning System		0					
	Design	100	0	100				
	Purchase	100	80	20				
	Installation	100	50	50				
	Initial Calibration	100	0			100		
	Maintenance	100	50	50				
	Code Red Connect	100	75	25				
	Tunnel Head Radar	10	0	10				
Recent Buyouts (after July 2022)	30	30						
Future Buyouts (Prioritize Addresses; Allocate Budget)	0							
Stormwater Master Plan	70	60	10					
Detention Basin (Corps of Engineers)	30	20	10					



Storm Water Commission RdP Subcommittee Report

3/4/2025

Fondriest WQ Data Live Network

- All 3 rain gauges are operational and reporting data. Thanks to both Olivette Public Works for help to replace the battery in RG3 and UCity Public Works for assistance with RG1 and RG2 battery replacement.
- We modified the RdP tunnel sensor rack to allow the equipment arm to swing in/out over tunnel wall face for service /operation. Positioning the level sensor out over wall provides clear view of water level and provides some level of security as equipment is out of reach. Allowing the arm to rotate in provides worker safety for servicing.
- Re-calibrated the 2 Fondriest level sensors with a program update to replace the factory preset with an on-site calibration. Both sensors are operating and recording data.
- The RdP in stream level sensors data was downloaded 2/28. The Grant Rd sensor was nonfunctioning (battery failure?). It was replaced with the Dielman Rd (Olivette) sensor.

i-Neighborhood Network

- The Hafner Ct camera was reported a couple weeks ago (2/17/25) to have a weak battery. Unit finally failed- Dave Sandel and Phil Eastin visited site 3/3/25 and determined the DC plug to solar panel was incorrectly plugged in or had become loosened enough to cut power to the camera. The camera had operated on back up AA battery pak for some time. The solar power was correctly plugged in and the AA batteries were replaced. Camera is now operational.
- Discussion with Dave Sandel of iNeighborhood about raising their Hanley Rd river level sensor higher with a pole mount. There is concern that a significant rain event would put the bridge mounted installation out of service if bridge was over topped. This would occur before any homes began flooding.
- We still need to replace the Hanley Rd camera (Currently installed at Hafner Ct) and purchase a camera for the RdP tunnel. The monitoring committee is considering a pole mount installation similar to the level sensor's at the tunnel and Hafner CT. The camera will be mounted on a pole arm that can be rotated out over the river, providing a level of security from vandalism. For service, it would be rotated back over the land side of tunnel wall.