

MINUTES - ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING 09/09/2010

The meeting was called to order @ 6:25 PM, Thursday, September 9, 2010, in the North Conference Room @ 21630 11th Avenue South, Des Moines with the following in attendance:

Council Members

Scott Thomasson, Chairman
Dave Kaplan, Mayor Pro Tem
Dan Sherman

Absent

Tony Piasecki – City Manager

City Staff

Lorri Ericson – Asst. City Manager
Grant Fredricks, PB&PW Director
Loren Reinhold – Environment/Utilities Engineer
Linda Wright - Admin Asst.

AGENDA:

1. Approval of April 29, 2010, Minutes (previously distributed by email)
2. Midway Sewer Renewable Energy Study – Presentation by Brown & Caldwell
3. SWM CIP

MEETING:

1. Minutes of March 11, 2010 were unanimously approved.

NOTE: Loren requested to do the CIP first as there would be no presentation from Brown & Caldwell. Chairman Thomasson approved.

2. Loren passed out 2011-2016 CIP for SWM which listed projects, 2009 Actual, 2010 Amended and 2011 thru 2016 estimated, incl. Project Revenues, Expenditures, SWM Portion and Operating Transfers.

Blueberry Lane Mitigation funds were listed for 2012; however, funds probably not coming in until later. Moved out to 2014 to have a place holder reminder that there are funds from this project to become available so as not to lose sight of funds.

Question was asked if revenue projection was consistent throughout Department or if each section did own prediction? Staff advised whole department using same numbers. Landmarque 67 lot subdivision expects to do model homes this year and some homes next year; and Blueberry Lane developer may request that all or a portion of the site be re-zoned for commercial due to airplane noise.

Councilmembers at the Environment Committee asked staff to get a legal opinion on “**whether we can fund a project ourselves, and then use in-lieu fees to pay ourselves back for the project in out years. The specific issue is the proposed Blueberry Lane Subdivision whereby a condition for plat approval was for the applicant to pay a substitute wetland mitigation fee in the amount of \$160K. They will give us \$160K upon final plat approval, but the Des Moines Creek project is being done now. Can we do it and then apply their in-lieu fees to that project?**” Development Services staff indicates that the DMMC allows wetland mitigation fees such as this to be used to either reimburse or prospectively fund any project in the same drainage basin. Staff has also forwarded this question on to Legal for their response.

Another question: **How is fee determined for wetland mitigation?** The fee was established based on the amount of wetland and wetland buffer that would be destroyed by the project.

Two new projects have been added: Redondo Creek Culvert Replacement and Normandy Park Creek Basin Study. Loren handed out a map of Redondo Way/Soundview and discussed pipe that has deteriorated and is causing materials to slough out.

Committee asked if Redondo creek was fish bearing and whether Washington Fish and Wildlife would even allow the pipe to be replaced. Staff was advised to look into this before proceeding with design. Committee also requested staff to look into other less expensive options such as lining the pipe, particularly if WDFW would not permit its replacement.

Staff indicated that a temporary repair has been made and that the pipe will be monitored through the rainy season. However, if conditions worsen the project may need to be elevated to emergency status.

Ending Fund Balance in SWM Operation Fund (Fund 450) was set by Council at 40% but the projected ending fund balance for 2011 is projected between 45-50%. The Committee asked if there is a policy for the ending fund balance for the SWM CIP (Fund 451). **The Committee asked that Council policy for the ending fund balances for both Fund 450 and 451 be clarified.**

Barnes Creek project was briefly discussed and that it was on schedule for construction next year. There was some confusion of the presented table and what project's schedules are being impacted by inclusion of the Redondo Culvert project. Staff explained that the Barnes Creek project originally scheduled for 2010 is now scheduled for 2011. Other projects that were scheduled after 2012 are being slid out by one year to make room for the Redondo culvert project.

Normandy Creek Basin study – is this important for our City? Staff indicated that although the study would be focused on Normandy Creek, a significant amount of runoff to this creek is generated within our city limits. **Policy question is whether the City should complete a study of its portion of the Basin or whether this should be a joint effort with Normandy Park -- Staff recommends a joint effort, modeled on the successful Des Moines Creek Basin Planning that shared the planning and implementation costs according to each jurisdiction's land area and impervious area. Committee also prefers that the basin study funding to moved to Fund 450 (Operation) rather than Fund 451 (SWM CIP). Same for the proposed McSorley Creek basin study.** Staff indicated that this would be passed on to the City Manager and Finance Director for consideration.

Need to have answers to some of the questions before can move forward.

Adjourned @ 7:22PM

Submitted by: Linda Wright, Admin Asst.