

MINUTES - ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING 9/27/07

The meeting was called to order @ 6:02PM, Thursday, September 27, 2007, in the City Manager's North Conference Room with the following in attendance:

Council Members

Scott Thomasson – Chairman & Mayor Pro Tem
Dave Kaplan
Bob Sheckler - Mayor

City Staff

Tony Piasecki, City Manager
Loren Reinhold – Presenting
Linda Wright – Recording Secretary

Purpose of meeting: To brief the members on the Des Moines Creek Hydraulic Study and discuss the SWM Budgets (CIP and Operating)

Hydraulic Study

Loren opened the discussion of the initial results of the study with a diagram on the whiteboard indicating proposed channel modifications, the revised 100-year flood elevation, depth between existing building foundation and existing stream bottom, channel slope dimensions, and that the preliminary study results show that the building will need to be raised a minimum of 2 feet to provide 1 foot of clearance above the revised 100 year flood plain. (Depending on the thickness of the building support beams and design, the finish floor elevation would be 2 feet or more above the 100 year flood plain). Discussion ensued regarding how high to jack up the Dining Hall 1' to 3' (just enough or room to spare in anticipation of higher than 100 year flood). Brought up the fact that lifting higher than 3 feet may affect historical makeup and not permitted by SHPO; however, if the work doesn't raise the building sufficiently then the historic building will deteriorate. Calculations were based on flows of 300 cfs (cubic feet per second) (a reduction from pre-Des Moines Creek Basin project flows ranged of 373 cfs). The design flow of 300 cfs is based on the post-DMC project flows of 248 cfs w/a 20% safety cushion built in.

Discussion also centered on method of lifting building – jacking where it is or jacking and moving off site, put in piling and returning to site. Need to make sure ADA compliant. Not sure building stable enough to move w/ porch etc. Discussion also centered around up stream – where choke point would be to have stream divert floodwaters so as not to run under building, bridge, grassy area and parking lot. Where to trap sediment that washes down? What rearranging needs to be done upstream so debris doesn't get back down and build up under building? Suggestion of in-stream pilings brings up concern for debris gathering under building. Should discourage the use of in-stream piles or will need to provide additional height to provide more clearance because of debris and capacity and head loss because of the piles/debris.

Decisions to be made:

- Height to lift building 2 feet enough for clearance?
- Improvement for upstream: where is choke point and should alternate channel be provided?
- Where to locate sediment traps? Under bridge, up stream further cul-de-sac.
- Some building questions may need to be referred to Municipal Facilities Committee.

BUDGETS

Loren passed out copies of draft Operating and CIP budgets. (Operating had not been reformatted to new style).

Operating

Biggest item is having an adequate beginning fund balance to hold over until rate revenues received in May. Proposed 2007 draft budgets show a transfer from SWM Operating to SWM CIP reduced from \$472,042 to \$282,000 to help build up Operating beginning fund balance to a 4-month minimum of operating expenses. Scott suggested a policy of 4 months plus 7%. W/need to verify with Paula Henderson re cushion for cash flow. Have to do a budget amendment adjustment to reduce the 2007 transfer. It was necessary to rearrange CIP projects to accommodate the larger beginning fund balance in the Operating fund.

NPDES Permit costs. Rec'd grant for \$75,000. Working w/consultant to see best way to approach NPDES. We are part of lawsuit challenging State. Initially put in for $\frac{3}{4}$ employee but needs to be FTE. Some of Loren's salary charged to General Fund Engineering Services.....Tony and Council needed more info on this.

- Tony to talk with Grant and Paula re part time person and rate adjustment to cover.

Policy Issues:

- What should Beginning Fund Balance be?
- What amount of staff committed to NPDES requirements – more or less than original thought and how to fund?

CIP

Loren reviewed a number of changes in the schedule to address the previous meetings suggestions such as moving the three street pipe projects (4th Avenue Pipeline, Des Moines Memorial Drive, 24th Avenue) to later years and to look for means of doing jointly with these roads are improved. Discussion went on regarding other Creek basins within the City. Pretty well have Massey, Barnes Creek, Des Moines Creek done but what about other, McSorley, Woodmont and Redondo.

- Should have basin drainage maps, list of what needs to be done.
- Area of concern is the south end Redondo annexation area.

Long Term Issues

Discussion around drainage ponds, maintenance costs, and new plats/old plats. Loren pointed out that a 5th maintenance worker was added

- Continued growth w/have to add another maintenance person.
- Eventually "Puget Sound Partnership" for improve fish bearing streams, development regulations will bring pressure to bear.
- Will be removing blackberries for fish, some of the ponds losing capacity due to vegetation growth.
- We don't have a long term plan....tend to react as we go/can afford.
- At some point need to get beyond reactive and work on the big picture. We have made a lot of progress but we are a long way from done.

Meeting was only one hour due to Executive Session. Adjourned @ 6:56PM

Respectfully submitted by:

Linda L. Wright Senior Secretary