

STORMWATER PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING
Minutes for June 26, 2017

Members Present:

Chairman, Jack Minner
Lori Daiber
Clint Jones
Mick Madison
Rick Macho
Robert Pollard
Eleanor Schumacher
Dennis Weber
Richard Worthen

Members Absent:

Mayor Allen Adomite
Rick Fancher
Gussie Glasper
Mary Reynolds
Larry Trucano

Others Present:

Matt Brandmeyer
Steve Brendel
Breana Lamb
Chris Doucleff

Call of Meeting to Order:

Chairman Jack Minner called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

Approval of Minutes:

Lori Daiber made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from October 31, 2016. Seconded by Richard Worthen. Voice Vote. All ayes. Motion Approved.

Citizens Wishing to Address the Commission:

None.

Old Business:

None.

New Business:

Chairman Minner stated there were new attendants at the meeting, Chris Doucleff, Deputy Administrator of the Planning and Development Department and Eleanor Schumacher, Water and Soil Conservation District.

Rick Macho stated that Eleanor Schumacher is taking over his position with the District. Mr. Macho stated that she has been working with the District since January and will take over on the following Monday.

Chairman Minner opened up nominations for Chairman of the Stormwater Management Commission. Dennis Weber nominated Robert Pollard as Commission Chairman. Seconded by Mrs. Daiber.

Mick Madison nominated Clint Jones because he has experience with the City of Maryville and is involved with a lot of drainage issues. A second to the motion was not made. Chairman Minner asked for any other nominations. Chairman Minner closed the nominators for Chairman.

Chairman Minner asked for nominations for a Vice-Chairman of the Commission. Mr. Pollard nominated Dennis Weber as Vice-Chairman because he is familiar with the levee district and is a past County Board member. Mrs. Daiber seconded the nomination. Chairman Minner closed the nominations. Voice vote. All ayes.

Chairman Minner asked for a vote for Robert Pollard as Chairman. Voice vote. All ayes. Robert Pollard took over as Chairman of the Stormwater Management Commission.

Mr. Brandmeyer stated that there are updates on the watershed planning efforts and showed the planning area of the American Bottoms watershed and stated that it is mainly Pontoon Beach and Granite City but there are some unincorporated areas. Mr. Brandmeyer stated that the primary drainage systems involves Horseshoe Lake and the Cahokia Canal and there are portions that drain directly into the Mississippi river.

Mr. Brandmeyer stated that the planning process involves stakeholder meetings which involves mayors, townships, city staff, and elected officials and in addition to those meetings there are open houses. Mr. Brendel stated that there have been two open houses held in Granite City and Pontoon Beach both of which had a good outcome. Mr. Brandmeyer said a survey was sent out to residents that live within the watershed which is part of the public engagement process and it helps identify the problem areas that are then incorporated into the plan. Mr. Brandmeyer stated that the survey was sent out to 2,000 people at random, which is geographically random. Mr. Brandmeyer stated they are shooting for 500 responses back.

Mr. Brandmeyer read the survey question, has there been flooding on your property within the past 10 years and 35% of respondents stated that there had been flooding. Mr. Brandmeyer stated that 68% indicated that flood water penetrated into their basement and 18% stated it went into the first floor. Mr. Brandmeyer stated it is the highest that has been reported as far as structural flooding. Mr. Brandmeyer stated that 92% indicated that the flooding was due to rainstorm events and 42% stated that there is a lack of drainage in their area which indicates that it is aging or undersized or there aren't any drainage facilities in the area. Mr. Macho stated that the results are interesting because more people have flooding issues due to being in close proximity of a river or stream but the data is showing that the internal drainage cannot get away. Mr. Brendel stated that these properties may not even be in the floodplain but are in flood hazard areas due to poor drainage. Mr. Brandmeyer stated that less than 50% indicated they are within the flood zone. A discussion ensued about the internal drainage issues within the American Bottoms.

Mr. Brandmeyer stated that 75% of the respondents are not covered with flood insurance. Mr. Worthen asked if there have been issues with insurance companies and Mr. Brandmeyer stated that he hasn't heard that they are not paying out. Mr. Brendel said that flood insurance is available and it should be at a lower and cheaper rate and that the only time insurance is mandatory is if you have a mortgage and they are requiring flood insurance.

Mr. Brandmeyer said that clean water had a high percentage in importance to the respondents, as well as prevention of flood damage, recreational and habitat water quality. Mr. Brandmeyer stated that staff was surprised to see clean water at the top of the list over prevention of flood damage. Mr. Brandmeyer said that there is a map of the responses received and it is spatially arrange so that it covers the entire watershed and the map should be completed at the end of the survey. Mr. Brandmeyer stated that the next task is to identify the issues that would help to address problem areas in the American Bottoms watershed. Mr. Brandmeyer stated that the Army Corps of Engineers is completing a water resource inventory and flood survey for American Bottoms and that there is a technically committee such as township staff that help along with writing the plan. Mr. Brandmeyer stated that it will be another 6 months until identifying issues is completed and then there will be another set of open houses and then the plan writing begins.

Mr. Brandmeyer stated that they are working on the Cahokia Creek watershed plan which consists of both Canteen and Indian Creeks. Mr. Brandmeyer provided an overview of how the watershed drains. Mr. Brandmeyer stated that the planning team has collecting information and identified issues through open houses, flooding survey, and the water resource inventory. He said the planning team is currently reviewing issues and identifying projects that could alleviate the problems. Mr. Brandmeyer said that there have been 15 different issues identified for and that he is hoping to decide on 20 projects within this watershed.

Mr. Brandmeyer provided an overview of some of the Cahokia Creek issues by identifying them on a map. He stated that Holiday Shores Lake is formed by a dam and that as part of FEMA's CRS program, which could lower flood insurance premiums, they would need to implement a warning system, such as EMA's Code Red, in case the dam ever breaches. Mr. Brandmeyer stated there are two bridges on 143 there that need to be replaced because there is flooding along that area. Mr. Brandmeyer stated that similar to Holiday Shores, Dunlap Lake has had flooding and staff is also looking to use a warning system if the dam were to ever breach.

Mr. Brandmeyer stated that staff has been working with Edwardsville and Glen Carbon. He said Glen Carbon has just finished their stormwater study which will be incorporated in the plan. Mr. Brandmeyer stated that Collinsville has fewer flooding issues, but the subdivision in Sugar Bend Estates has drainage issues caused by private sewage. Mr. Brandmeyer pointed to Brushy Lake on the map at the northwest quadrant of I-55 and I-255. He said it is currently being farmed, but it is an old lake and it could be restored and used as a detention pond and can hold water for the entire watershed during large rain events. Mr. Madison asked how many acres and Mr. Brandmeyer said it is a few hundred acres and that Heartlands Conservancy owns a lot of the land – *editor's note*: Brushy Lake is around 500 acres and is primarily owned by IDOT, MESD, and Heartlands. Mr. Brandmeyer stated that by the next meeting, staff will be able to bring the issues to the Commission for the Cahokia Creek watershed. Mr. Brandmeyer said that it will be two different plans for the Canteen and Indian watersheds. A discussion ensued about Brushy Lake ownership and characteristics.

Mr. Macho stated that the 1994 floods caused the area to be a flood crisis area and they provided the townships with equipment to maintain ditches and drainage areas and now those areas are not being maintained. Mr. Brandmeyer stated that the major drainage arteries are not being maintained because there is no funding to maintain them. The crew that Mr. Brendel ran for a couple years took on the maintenance by removing beaver dams, log jams, trash, and that these are programs that need to be continued. Mr. Brandmeyer stated that the USACOE is taking part in the watershed planning process by evaluating the major arteries and what needs to be done along them. Mr. Brendel stated at the end of the year they are hoping to have a 50% draft of the plan done.

Mr. Brandmeyer stated that he has been speaking with the County Chairman about keeping the levee tax to pay for these issues because there isn't any state or federal money to continue to do so. Mr. Brandmeyer stated that the money would not be available for another 5-10 years but if they complete the planning process and have projects lined up and by the time the money is available that they could receive funding for them. Mr. Madison asked how often they do the reports. Mr. Brandmeyer said they've been doing them every year for the last four years as part of the watershed planning. Mr. Madison asked if we can provide this information to the townships and cities so they know what the Corps indicated were problem areas. A discussion ensued about the maintenance of drainage ways.

Mr. Brendel said that the update in FEMA maps will probably continue on for the next two years and has come to a halt within the past 6 months because of funding with the state. Mr. Brendel stated that they came out with the working maps and Madison County was unhappy with it because they were expanding the floodplain area in Wood River and Highland, among other places. Mr. Brendel stated that FEMA used data from about 10 years ago when they started this process in 2006 and it was outdated information. The challenge for FEMA is to incorporate any changes to the drainage within the floodplain areas into the maps.

Mr. Brendel stated that the County gave FEMA information about bridge projects and recertified levees so they could incorporate it into their plans. Mr. Brendel said that FEMA is talking about getting the levees recertified and once they are recertified the project will take off again. Mr. Brendel said FEMA may be able to give staff another working map before the preliminary map comes out and that the County wants to minimize the floodplain as much as possible. A discussion ensued about the new floodplain locations based on FEMA maps. Mr. Brandmeyer stated that FEMA was not listening to the County's concerns on the new

floodplain maps which made them take to the state representatives who he believes have handled the issue. A discussion ensued about the changing of FEMA maps.

Mr. Brendel updated the Commission on the MS4 program and said that they have completed their annual report. Mr. Brendel stated that there will be new members added to the MS4 group; SIUE and Marine Township. Mr. Brendel stated that there are 4 municipalities that have to do water quality testing at outfall locations; Granite City, Alton, Edwardsville, and Collinsville; the rest of the municipalities have to do visual samplings and at the end of the year it will be reported back in the annual report. Mr. Brendel said MS4 is working on a storm sewer map to get information into GIS format to get to municipalities. Mr. Brendel stated the next meeting is in September. Eleanor Schumacher discussed a field day event in Highland that educates people on cover crops and other forms of erosion control methods. Mr. Brendel said erosion is a problem because it causes it is a sedimentation which brings phosphorus and nitrogen and algae blooms within the lakes which is their water supply.

Mr. Brendel stated that a partnership of Madison County, Pontoon Beach, and Chateau Township is installing two 54 inch pipes that will be installed directly from Long Lake into the Elm Slough. Mr. Brendel stated that it was a request of IDOT for some studies that had to do with environmental issues but Joe Juneau said they can start work later this year. Mr. Brandmeyer stated that the County contribute \$150,000 and the whole project is \$450,000. Pontoon and Choteau Township is paying for the remainder.

Chairman Pollard asked the Committee which room they would like to meet in and it was decided they would like to meet in the Probation Conference room.

Adjournment:

Richard Worthen made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Mick Madison. Voice Vote. All ayes. Motion approved. Meeting was adjourned at 10:15 AM.