

MINUTES OF THE STORMWATER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Meeting of: Wednesday, January 29, 2014
Leawood City Hall, Main Conference Room

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jim Rawlings, CHAIR and Councilmember Ward 2
Thomas Robinett, VICE CHAIR and Councilmember Ward 3
Debra Filla, Councilmember Ward 1
Pat Dunn
Skip Johnson
Carole Lechevin
Curt Talcott
Alec Weinberg

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Julie Cain, Councilmember Ward 4
John Kahl

STAFF PRESENT:

Joe Johnson, David Ley, Julie Stasi

Chair Rawlings called the meeting to order at 7:30 AM.

Introductions of members. A welcome to new member Curt Talcott and returning member Carole Lechevin to the Committee.

FIRST ITEM OF BUSINESS: Previous Meeting Minutes of October 30, 2013

Staff Member Stasi noted that the Minutes are extra-long. As the group is here to look into things for the Council and if anyone misses a discussion and they want to read how the group came up with their decision, we try to put most of the discussion in the Minutes. (Usually Minutes are what has been "Motioned" and "Approved"). If this group would prefer something different, let us know. Chair Rawlings advised that was fine.

ACTION: Debra Filla Motioned to approve the Minutes from October 30, 2013.

Tom Robinett/Skip Johnson seconded the Motion; all attending members in favor.
Motion passed.

SECOND ITEM OF BUSINESS: Review Consultant Qualifications for Leawood Heritage Stormwater Project at 87th & Ensley Lane

Joe Johnson explained to the group that all the firms under review have done work for us before. All are good firms, generally he tries to look at those that have taken the time and go out and actually walk the project. A lot can be done from the office without going out in the field, but he does look to see who has gone out and taken a look and he looks to see similar projects they have done before.

Joe Johnson-also noted we have worked on this project for three years. We have had public meetings and residents are aware of the project. We have a large 30' easement where the open channel is, which is good access in-between the houses. Joe would like to see construction begin this year. Depends on how quick the design can be completed. He does not want to tear up the roads and have them open during the winter. We may have to start construction next year.

Pat Dunn asked if the Council still follows the approach that if we do not get easements voluntarily, then we do not do the project?

Joe Johnson-We would take that back to the Council, yes.

Pat Dunn-This work has to be done before we find out whether we are going to get easements voluntarily, is that correct?

Joe Johnson-Correct. The nice thing about this, is we have a 30' wide easement down the middle of everybody's back yard, so he does not need a lot of extra easements. Temporary Easements and an Access Easement may

be all we will need. We have several properties on the lower side of the project that are wanting the project. And those would be the areas we would look at if we needed any more.

Pat Dunn-And there are no "hot spots" that you are aware of?

Joe Johnson-No. Has not talked to anyone against the project. They've been wanting for it for quite awhile now.

Staff requested qualifications from six (6) firms for the project. Committee Members were delivered packets on January 10, 2014, to review and come to the meeting with their rankings. The firm with the highest score is selected (tally sheet attached).

ACTION: Pat Dunn Motioned to recommend to the Council the approval of Affinis Corporation as the chosen firm and Olsson Associates as the second (if a contract cannot be agreed to with the first chosen) for the Leawood Heritage Stormwater Project.

Debra Filla seconded the Motion; all attending members were in favor.
Motion passed.

Joe Johnson-Advised we try to limit the number of firms under review. Asked the Committee if in the future would they like going with 4 firms instead of 6? We have future projects in the next couple of years where we will need to come to the Committee for reviews. We have potential SMAC Projects and then the Council is looking at starting in 3 or 4 years, either \$5-\$7 Million Dollars a year/a \$35 Million Program to replace the City's corrugated metal pipe system. We have about 107,000 feet. We will be hiring out consultants to do those plans. We will probably start the year before to be able to bid out for the following year. We may have 1 to 2 consultants per year doing about \$3.5 million worth of project. When we get to that point, we may have 6 firms and then taking the top 2 or 3 ranked firms and giving one firm one project, the next firm the next project and the third firm another project so we do not have to keep doing this all the time.

Debra Filla-That sounds good. The firms have to appreciate that too.

Joe Johnson-When we do this we always present you with good firms to choose from. We try to spread the work around. If one firm is currently doing something, then we may not include them on the next one. There are many good firms in this area and we try not to put all of our eggs in one basket so to speak.

Joe Johnson-Advised we had Shafer Kline & Warren do work on an area this committee reviewed awhile back. An area in three parts of town where there was flooding. It has been submitted to Johnson County for a potential SMAC Project and we are waiting for their response on that approval and then we will hope all three projects qualify for SMAC funding. Each one of those areas will need a PES (Preliminary Engineering Study) for a project. At the time that comes up, then we would hire a consultant to do those designs.

Chair Rawlings-Is staff comfortable with that? Six seems like plenty for the smaller projects or would 4 be okay? And then have six for the larger ones? Is there a dollar figure that might dictate that? Likes the idea of rotating the firms and having some on standby for the next project.

Joe Johnson-When we did DB-24. That was a large channel project and we did at that time ask some of the larger engineering firms in for that one. That was a major project. Most of our stormwater projects are smaller projects. Even when we look at a \$7 million program, when we replace our steel pipe, however that funding comes out, we will probably break that up into two to three projects. Just so we could have the potential of getting all that work done in one year.

Deb Filla-Six (6) firms to select from is plenty with her. Likes four (4). However maybe with the larger projects, we should stay with six.

The consensus of the members was four (4) for small projects and six (6) with the larger projects. All were in agreement.

Pat Dunn-Has sometimes struggled with the value of his opinion as a totally ignorant person reading these things, but he figures there is value in that or you wouldn't ask him to do it. So he does the best that he can. But he guesses the Committee's role as assuring the objectivity and honesty of this process. Not that anybody questions you and your staff and what you are doing. And thinks everyone in this room would probably be happy if you said

you wanted someone to do it. They'd probably say "great". All he is saying is that (as Deb was saying) the more you can narrow it down for the group, the better. Until for some reason or another you and your department prove that we can't trust your opinions, he'd rather review three or four of them than six or more. There's no reason to question what you all do at this point.

Joe Johnson-Thank you. This process is good because it takes it off of staff being bombarded. The Committee is the one that decides the decision process. We look at the firms we've done work with and that have good personnel to bring before the committee.

Pat Dunn-Only thing he asks to convey to people is that when he asks them to keep it simple, that to let them know the Committee Members take that seriously.

Joe Johnson-He does actually. Be straight forward, tell us who is going to work the project, and list similar projects, etc.

Deb Filla-Commented, even though several of us are not Engineers, after review it seems our grading of the firm's presentation was pretty much in line and together, so that is good.

END OF BUSINESS.

Discussion Only

Chair Rawlings said that Debra Filla wanted to mention a thought she had in review of a past meeting and see if the Committee wanted to take any further steps.

Deb Filla-Was at a party and ran into Scott Schulte, who had been to our Committee before with a presentation. She was talking to him about where he was now and what he was doing and they got to talking about the Marlboro Project in Kansas City Missouri. Mr. Schulte offered to put Deb in contact with the project manager on that and he said they had over 200 BMPs installed there. Before she went to look, she wondered if anyone from this group or maybe even the Sustainability Committee would want to tour the area. Joe responded that him and David Ley had already been on a tour.

Joe Johnson said the Marlboro and one along the Troost area. A lot of this was done prior to KCMO's approval of the wastewater repairs. KCMO was able to secure a lot of Federal Aid. They went in and improved the streets and most of the streets (some are curb and gutter) a lot are rough side. They put the bio-retention and bio-swales and a lot of green infrastructure to hold the water or to meter the water slowly into the storm sewer system so it didn't overwhelm their combined sewer systems and overwhelm their wastewater treatment plant, then release a lot of untreated waste into the Blue River. They have been showcasing this for a couple of years now and it will be probably a couple more years before they can see.

Curt Talcott-Said the first year they had very little rainfall, so they did not receive much data. Also mentioned they spending a lot of money as the residents were not going to be happy with just doing the BMP's. They added to the streets so the costs went up. They got new curb & gutter, new sidewalks, new drive approaches and redid many things in the whole neighborhood.

Carole Lechevin-The main thing that came out of the work shop, was the more simple you make these things, and not do a lot of different plant materials, the better. The more accepted it is from residents. Because native plantings especially look like a weed to some people. That isn't always greatest for bio-diversity, but it needs to be accepted by the neighbors as well.

Chair Rawlings-Asked if anyone would be interested in taking a little field trip later this year.

Deb Filla-Maybe take a meeting time and do it in the Spring or May time frame.

Carole Lechevin-June is a good time, the plants are grown in. Suggests we contact Lisa Trees who oversees the maintenance services for their Water Services Division. She has the on the ground experience with the residents and what it takes to maintain these things. She has given presentations at a workshop with MARC and JOCO Community College.

Chair Rawlings-asked Carole Lechevin, if she could check and let the group know about this. The group meets the last Wednesday of each month. Just let Julie know when if you can find a time for a presentation.
Carole Lechevin-Thought maybe we could get Lisa in now to show us some slides and information and then maybe do a field trip later.

Chair Rawlings adjourned the meeting at 8:15AM.

Minutes transcribed by Julie Stasi, Leawood Public Works Department

Attachment (1)