



# WILDWOOD

February 23, 2022

## MEMORANDUM

To: Watershed Erosion Task Force Members

From: Department of Planning and Parks

Re: Summary of Comments Chat Session for Task Force Members (Priorities for 2022, Effectiveness of Task Force, and Next Steps for Residents) (**Wards – All**)

Cc: The Honorable James R. Bowlin, Mayor  
Steve Cross, City Administrator  
John A. Young, City Attorney  
Rick Brown, P.E. and P.T.O.E., Director of Public Works  
Melanie Rippetoe, Assistant Director of Planning and Parks  
Dan Rahn, Assistant City Engineer  
Travis Newberry, Senior Planner

**CHAT SESSION COMMENTS >>>**At the last meeting of the task force, the members were asked to address three (3) questions for the upcoming year – 2022. These three (3) questions were as follows:

- a. What Should Be Our Top Priorities This Year?
- b. How Can We Make Our Task Force More Effective?
- c. What Can Wildwood Residents Do To Address Erosion And How Do We Engage Them?

With these questions, the two (2) Co-Chairs led a discussion upon them. The comments that are provided are the highlights of the responses provided by the task force members to these three (3) questions.

- a. What is the top priority of the task force in terms of projects/next steps?
- b. Top priority in terms of critical locations, the triple-meander/detention basin in and by Caulks Creek, near Anniversary Park.
- c. Should the City pursue an EPA-approved Watershed Management Plan, given certain funding programs appear to require such?
- d. The lack of funding is constraining the efforts of the task force.
- e. How have other cities addressed these same types of stormwater problems and where did their funding originate?

- f. While the task force works, problems in the watersheds continue to worsen.
- g. Can the task force endorse a short-term approach, such as moving bedload around in the channel, while the larger projects are designed, engineered, and then permitted? What steps are required and how long might it take to move this option forward (four (4) to six (6) months for engineering and permitting for the relocation of bedload in the creek channels).
- h. Education campaign to residents is important, immediate, and not only focus on big projects.
- i. How does this task force move an item of consensus forward or what is that process?
- j. Another short-term solution may be retrofitting existing detention and retention basins from old to new construction standards and requirements.
- k. Prevention is the best short-term approach.
- l. If funds are to be expended, the design and engineering work of the critical locations should be considered first and then will have the City shovel-ready, if federal and State funds are released. This approach has worked in the past, with large funding initiatives at these levels of government.
- m. Senator Schatz has made a commitment to try to assist in some form of State funding option.
- n. Task force needs actionable plans.
- o. A matrix needs to be develop that identifies all the projects underway or funded, status, timelines, and funding obligations. One (1) such matrix was started by Co-Chair Holthouse, Ms. Teresa Clark, and Dr. David Hammer and should be reviewed again for the purposes of targeted efforts.
- p. Need to promote the efforts of the task force better, through different initiatives, which can be simple and small to more technologically advanced types, i.e., geo-tagging.

**CONTACT INFORMATION >>>** If any of the Task Force Members should have any questions or comments regarding this information, please feel free to contact the Department of Planning and Parks at (636) 458-0440. Thank you for your planned attendance at this meeting and participation in it.