

City of Wildwood, Missouri
Record of Proceedings



Watershed Erosion Task Force Meeting

Wednesday, January 22, 2020

Wildwood City Hall, 16860 Main Street, Wildwood, Missouri 63040

Meeting #7 Minutes

The Watershed Erosion Task Force meeting was called to order by Co-Chair Archeski, at 6:37 p.m., on Wednesday, January 22, 2020, at Wildwood City Hall, 16860 Main Street, Wildwood, Missouri.

I. Roll Call of Task Force Members

A roll call of members was taken, with the following results:

Present: Citizen Members Guenther, Sturman, Rambaud, and Archeski. Council Members Gragnani, Edens, Remy, Farmer (arrived at 7:05 p.m.), McCutchen, and Garritano (arrived at 6:42 p.m.).

Absent: Citizen Members Uetrecht, Holthouse, and Tripp. Council Members Bopp and McCune.

Staff Present: Director of Planning and Parks Vujnich, Assistant Director of Planning and Parks Arnett, and Senior Planner Gaston.

II. Welcome and Opening Remarks by Co-Chairs Remy and Archeski

Co-Chairs Archeski and Remy welcomed everyone to the meeting.

III. Approval of Minutes from the December 4, 2019 Meeting

A motion was made by Member McCutchen, seconded by Member Edens, to approve the minutes from the December 4, 2019 Task Force meeting. A voice vote was taken, with no opposition (Council Member Remy abstained), and the minutes were declared approved.

IV. Public Comment

Member Garritano arrived at 6:42 p.m.

Russ Rosener noted he owns a historical farm on Wild Horse Creek Road, where the Rock Bethel Church is located. The property is flat and has gravel buildup and washout from Wild Horse Creek, which he is concerned will flood the road. He then shared a story from an older resident who expressed to him the importance of creek maintenance. He encouraged residents to maintain any creek they may have located on their property.

Louise Belt suggested members of the Task Force review the Stream Care Guide produced by the Soil and Water Conservation District, as well as, the Gateway Gardener magazine from September 2019, which had an article on planting native species in creek beds. She noted there are lots of resources and things property owners can do without the government's help.

V. Presentation by Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District (MSD) Program Manager, Rebecca Losli, regarding Stormwater Issues in Wildwood

Ms. Losli was unavailable, but three (3) other representatives from Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District (MSD) were in attendance to speak to the Task Force. The representatives were: Saad Amir, Public Affairs Specialist, Bess McCoy, Public Affairs Specialist, and Jeffrey Riepe, Principal Engineer in Stormwater Planning

The representatives first provided an overview of MSD, which is a wastewater and stormwater utility with over nine thousand (9,000) miles of sewer pipe. They are the 4th largest utility company of this type in the United States and they are operated as two (2) separate utilities. Each utility branch is funded from a different source and they are unable to cross fund from one (1) utility to the other. They noted the wastewater side is fully funded, but the stormwater side is not; therefore, they cannot fund capital improvements on stormwater projects. Additionally, MSD's western boundary line is, generally, State Route 109, so much of Wildwood is unserved by this utility.

The discussion was informal and questions were welcomed by the MSD representatives. The following was discussed:

Q. How does funding work on the combined system? A. Pipes are funded from the wastewater side, but curb inlets are funded by the stormwater side.

Q. How are projects determined for funding? A. A cost-benefit analysis is done annually by MSD. The District utilizes a scoring system to determine need for the Operations Department. System also evaluates complaints received by the City and municipal contacts all contribute to the decision on which projects will be funded. Currently, there are six (6) projects planned in Wildwood, but the District lacks the funding to complete them. The projects to be completed are looked at equally throughout the District. The Board is not interested in creating small sub-districts, given they want a regional approach to resolution, so projects are not determined based upon location.

Two (2) videos were shown to the representatives to demonstrate some of the water problems faced in Wildwood. Members expressed their belief the tax was not supported in Wildwood because of the low number of projects and, therefore, a low return on individual's tax investment compared to other communities.

Mr. Riepe identified the proposed projects in Wildwood, noting they are located near Pine Bend Drive, Turnberry Place, Idlewood Court, Shiva Court, Valley Road, and Ridge Bend Drive. A number

of other concerning locations were mentioned by Task Force Members. Co-Chair Remy requested everyone provide their list of areas of concern to Department staff, so it could be compiled and then provided to MSD.

Member Farmer arrived at 7:05 p.m.

Discussion was then held between the Task Force Members and the MSD representatives and included the following: the accountability of MSD subcontractors; specific areas that need to be repaired; the confirmation that MSD will repair the existing network of pipes and other hard improvements, if necessary; the need for a City-wide stormwater management plan; the bank stabilization practices of MSD and the City; the lack of programs to partner with the City for funding of projects within Wildwood; the fact that, in MSD's ranking system for project priorities, flooding of homes ranks higher on than flooding of common ground; the requirements of the Army Corps of Engineers, as regulatory authority within the creek channels, both inside and outside of MSD's District; the potential for someone from MSD to walk the creeks with Task Force Members; the fact that MSD already walks the creeks, as part of its environmental compliance group; the support of, if the group finds issues with existing infrastructure of MSD when in the creek and they should send photos and GPS coordinates to customer service request line; MSD suggested the City hire someone with geomorphic experience to consult and identify projects; MSD always reviews the ongoing climate and weather changes, but is not proposing modifications to its regulations at this point; therefore, it is still requiring detention at one hundred (100) year event and storm sewer systems at a fifteen (15) year event; the need to include some path to convey water, when storms are severe; the fact that, if the City was successful in passing a local stormwater sales tax, it is strictly municipal money that could be spent on whatever projects Wildwood deems appropriate. This tax would have no impact on MSD's project and priority list; if a management plan is created, MSD would work with Wildwood to target identified areas of concern; and it was clearly noted that MSD projects are to repair and maintain its infrastructure, not to address erosion in any natural channels, unless a home is threatened by erosion. In that case, MSD may complete work on the channel to stabilize the toe of the bank.

VI. Discussion of Consultant Proposals for Field Work and Training

Director of Planning Vujnich noted the Critical Identification Subcommittee is waiting on training, before they begin its field work. A draft contract has been sent to Dr. Hammer to provide that training and to review the City's regulations; however, he has other more immediate projects and, therefore, has been difficult to engage, so per the Task Force's direction to staff was to contact Intuition & Logic for pricing to conduct the educational services. Mark Meyer, with Intuition & Logic, provided a proposal for ten thousand five hundred dollars (\$10,500.00), but did not include review of the City's regulations. Therefore, Department staff is presenting both proposals (Dr. Hammer to review regulations and Mark Meyer to provide training for field work) and requesting direction from the Task Force.

Discussion was held among the Task Force Members regarding the desire to utilize both consultants for different purposes – have Intuition and Logic complete the training and field work assessments and have Dr. Hammer review the City’s regulations.

A motion was made by Member Remy, seconded by Member McCutchen, to recommend the City Council approve a contract with Intuition & Logic for training and field work and a contract be approved by the City Administrator for Dr. Hammer’s work to review the City’s regulations. A roll call vote was taken, with the following results:

Ayes: Members Guenther, Sturman, Rambaud, Archeski, Gragnani, Edens, Remy, Farmer, McCutchen, and Garritano.

Nays: None

Abstentions: None

Whereupon, Co-Chair Remy declared the motion approved.

A motion was made by Member Remy, seconded by Member Farmer, to select the date of Saturday, March 7, 2020 for training and presentations by Dr. Hammer and Mark Meyer and to invite the general public. A voice vote was taken, with no opposition, and the motion was declared approved.

VII. Updates on Work Progress from Subcommittees

- a. Critical Location Identification Subcommittee
Council Member Edens, leader of this Subcommittee, noted this group’s items were already covered during the contract and training discussion.
- b. City Regulations and Plans Subcommittee
Task Force Member Rambaud noted the SharePoint site was created and is a helpful catalog of this group’s work. He also noted this group is ready to begin work with Dr. Hammer.
- c. Financing Subcommittee
Task Force Member Sturman noted an updated spreadsheet has been provided regarding this Subcommittee’s work. The two (2) main sources of any significant money that should be investigated would be the Environmental Protection Agency (at the federal level) and the Department of Natural Resources (at the State level).
- d. Agency Outreach Subcommittee
Task Force Member Holthouse, as the Leader of this Subcommittee, was not in attendance, but Senior Planner Gaston noted the group had met the previous evening and was continuing its work.

e. Public Education Subcommittee

Task Force Member Edens, who is a member of the Public Education Subcommittee, noted this group will have a table at the Lawn and Garden Summit and will be meeting to determine what materials will be distributed at the event.

VII. Other Matters for Consideration

A resident in attendance (David Noll), who lives on Questover Canyon, requested assistance with creek cleanup. They noted they have spent extensive amounts of time and money to keep the creek clean of debris. It was noted the City can't do work on private property, but Department staff will explore ways to leverage economies of scale to assist residents to lessen costs of creek cleanup.

VIII. Next Meeting Date – Wednesday, February 19, 2020, at 6:30 p.m.

Discussion was held on the Task Force Members' availability and the potential to reschedule its next meeting to February 26th. A motion was made by Member Farmer, seconded by Member Remy, to change the meeting date to February 26th. A voice vote was taken, with unanimous approval.

X. Closing Remarks and Adjournment

A motion was made by Member Edens, seconded by Member Garritano, to adjourn the meeting. Hearing no objections among the membership, the meeting was declared adjourned by Co-Chair Remy at 8:54 p.m.