

City of Wildwood, Missouri
Record of Proceedings



WILDWOOD

Watershed Erosion Task Force Meeting

Thursday, July 11, 2019

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

Meeting Minutes

The Watershed Erosion Task Force meeting was called to order by Director of Planning Vujnich, at 6:30 p.m., on Thursday, July 11, 2019, at Wildwood City Hall, 16860 Main Street, Wildwood, Missouri.

I. Welcome and Opening Remarks by Mayor Bowlin/Council Member Remy

Director of Planning Vujnich and Council Member Remy welcomed everyone to the meeting.

II. Introductions of Members and Brief Statements regarding Backgrounds

Each volunteer and City Council Member introduced themselves and provided information on their backgrounds and interests in this topic.

III. Election of Chair or Co-Chairs by Task Force Members

A motion was made by Council Member Taylor, seconded by Council Member McCutchen, to elect a Task Force Chair or Co-Chairs at tonight's meeting. A voice vote was taken, with no opposition, and the motion was declared approved.

A motion was made by Council Member McCune, seconded by Council Member Gragnani, to nominate Rick Archeski for the Chair position.

A motion was made by Council Member Taylor, seconded by Task Force Member Uetrecht, to amend the original motion to have co-chairs for the Task Force, one being a citizen member, which would be Rick Archeski, and one being a Council Member. A voice vote was taken, with no opposition, and the motion was declared approved.

A motion was made by Council Member Garritano, seconded by Task Force Member Rambaud, to nominate Council Member Remy to the Council Co-Chair position. A voice vote was taken, with no opposition, and the motion was declared approved.

IV. Distribution of Meeting Materials, including Explanations of the Items by Department of Planning

Co-Chair Remy reviewed the purpose behind the formation of the Task Force and noted important questions he believes it should attempt to answer, which would include the following: Where are the most pressing erosion issues? What can we do? How do alterations affect other locations? Who pays for it? How do we measure success or failure? He then outlined his proposal for strategic goals the Task Force could set, including:

1. identify current impact;
2. triage by necessity areas affected;
3. develop cooperative plan with invested parties;
4. publish realistic, yet aggressive approach to deal with impacted areas; and
5. re-evaluate metrics to determine success.

Finally, he noted who will be involved in process, while also identifying potential recommendations for the task force, including:

1. send out a mailer post card, with a short survey that includes a check box for permission for the Task Force to enter property to take pictures;
2. create a spreadsheet identifying all problematic private homes and infrastructure affected;
3. create a website for citizens to upload current and previously dated photos of their watershed area to assess rate of change;
4. have task force walk highest problematic areas identified; and
5. create a plan to identify how altering specific areas may improve or negatively impact upstream/downstream locations.

Discussion was then held regarding what Task Force Members would like to be addressed throughout the process, including: to evaluate tributaries in addition to the main channels; to identify areas of potential bank collapse that are considered dangerous, especially to children; to complete an analysis of headwater sources; to evaluate if the City's environmental regulations have had an impact on the watersheds; to address the cost of the solutions, which the City cannot fund on its own; to utilize Intuition and Logic on issues and solutions; to educate residents on what they should/shouldn't do in the creeks; to engage professionals to assist with evaluations and review where expertise is needed; to have Dr. David Hammer speak at a future meeting; to assess detention/retention basins and their current functionality; to analyze basins built under previous standards; to gather any reports previously done by agencies, such as Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District (MSD), East-West Gateway Council of Governments, etc.; to send a letter to any agencies that have potentially done studies and obtain copies of most recent; to analyze areas where retention exists (provide a map of all detention/retention basins); to review a 3D map of terrain of creeks to evaluate how much is being held back; to provide to the Task Force the purpose of basins, i.e. – reduce volume, velocity, etc.; to review other municipalities' requirements, where underground detention is required, even on individual home construction lots, based on a percentage of the site; to understand the City's existing codes on tree removal and a fifty (50) foot, non-disturbance buffer along creeks; to create an educational pamphlet on what people should and shouldn't do and provide in new resident packets, along with mailing them; to review the existing ordinances that address streams and erosion and ensure any recommendations be future-proof; and to investigate grants for planting and other stabilization efforts in riparian corridors.

V. Questions/Comments from Task Force Members on Distributed Materials

None.

VI. Overview/Explanation of Roles, Duties, and Outcomes of Planned Meeting Processes

There was nothing in addition to the discussion held earlier in the meeting regarding the Task Force process.

VII. Overview of the City's Nine (9) Watersheds of the City of Wildwood

Director Vujnich reviewed a handout prepared by the Department identifying the size of each watershed in the City, as well as other information upon each. He then reviewed the City's environmental ordinances and land use practices, including reductions in density outside of the Town Center Area, the City's Tree Preservation and Restoration Code, the Grading Code, the Natural Resource Protection Standards, and changes to Zoning Ordinance relative to riparian corridors, bufferyards, etc.

The Task Force expressed a desire to reach out to the Cities of Ellisville, Eureka, and Ballwin to see if they have done work in their watersheds and if so, what.

VIII. Public Comments

Mark Meyer, from Intuition & Logic, noted he believes the Task Force is discussing all of the right issues. He noted he would be happy to provide a presentation of baseline information and industry practices and issues they are facing.

Matt Rolf, from the Land Learning Foundation, noted his company does in-lieu fee work and takes fees for mitigation that have been paid elsewhere and completes restoration throughout the region. His company generally does projects of fairly long stream spans. He noted he would also be happy to give a presentation to the members.

Greg Berger, Evergreen Forest Court, noted he has had property damage because of the creek erosion behind his house. He is unable to correct all of the issues, including the collapse of a retaining wall and other extensive property loss. He noted he works with geospatial and satellite imagery experts and can request their assistance for 3D mapping. He requested anyone doing field research, walk his property, when they are out.

Warren Rich, 261 Turnberry Place Drive, noted MSD has been out to evaluate his property due to the extensive loss (10-12 feet of property) to Caulks Creek. He expressed his concern that retention basins are not holding enough volume of water for a long enough period of time and then provided a number of pictures of the damage to his property, noting a sprinkler for his irrigation system has had to be moved eight (8) feet further away from the creek in the past six (6) years, since the bank erodes and it became exposed.

Brent Green, Evergreen Forest Court, has photographs from storm damage in 2008, which continues to degrade and erode his property. He noted there is a sanitary sewer line in the creek through his backyard, which is now vulnerable. He requested the Task Force review public improvements that are at risk.

IX. Next Meeting Date – To Be Determined

Consensus was reached among the Task Force Members to try and meet two (2) times per month. The co-chairs requested the members email to staff, for distribution, what they would like to see the Task Force accomplish, including specific examples, and request what presentations they would like to have done at future meetings.

A date could not be determined for the next meeting, but the co-chairs and staff noted they would identify some dates and email the members for input.

XII. Closing Remarks and Adjournment

A motion was made by Council Member Garritano, seconded by Council Member Taylor, to adjourn the meeting. Having no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned by the Co-Chairs at 8:16 p.m.