

City of Wildwood, Missouri
Record of Proceedings



Watershed Erosion Task Force Meeting

Thursday, September 26, 2019

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

Meeting #4 Minutes

The Watershed Erosion Task Force meeting was called to order by Co-Chair Archeski, at 6:33 p.m., on Thursday, September 26, 2019, 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, Holthouse, Rambaud, and Archeski. Council Members Edens, Remy, McCutchen (arrived at 6:45 p.m.), and Garritano.

Absent: Citizen Members Uetrecht, Tripp and Jensen. Council Members Gagnani, Bopp, Farmer, and McCune.

Staff Present: Director of Planning and Parks Vujnich, Senior Planner Gaston, and Assistant Director of Planning and Parks Arnett (arrived at 7:44 p.m.).

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

Co-Chairs Remy and Archeski welcomed everyone to the meeting. Director of Planning Vujnich advised the members they had been seated at the dais for recording/streaming purposes.

Given a quorum was not present at this time, approval of the Meeting Minutes for 8/29/2019 were postponed, then Co-Chairs Remy and Archeski opened the floor to the audience for Public Comments.

III. Public Comments

John Weber, 4749 Fox Creek Road, noted he and his wife Allison, also present this evening, have been residents since 1992. He stated his property has been experiencing increased erosion and flooding issues, given this year being the wettest on record. His greatest concern being the increased cost of flood insurance – by thousands of dollars, while it was only a few hundred dollars approximately 30 years ago – yet the policy coverage is less [i.e. damaged personal belongings are exempt from replacement; home appliances must be removed from basement areas]. He requested the Task Force research why the area is now more prone to flooding, such as the removal of creek bank vegetation. Director Vujnich noted the City's Public Works Director, Rick Brown, is also its Floodplain Administrator, and could have him contact Mr. Weber. Co-Chair Remy stated Mr. Weber's concerns were exactly why the Task Force was formed - to hear the

issues occurring in the City's major watershed areas and create a program to assist in mitigating them. Mr. Weber suggested assistance with rising insurance costs, possibly in the form of tax credits. Council Member Edens wanted Mr. Weber to be aware the City could not spend public funds on private property, but could provide guidance on how the residents can be proactive in addressing their issues. Mr. Weber asked if funding could be made available, if the creek designation was considered a navigable waterway. Council Member Edens noted utility lines, typically buried at creek crossing that have become exposed due to flooding and erosion, are corrected by the agency that owns the service.

Julie Meyer and Gwen Adelman, 4631 Fox Creek Road, noted they have lived in their home for 17 years and never had a flood, but the August storm event caused the significant damage to their home and yard. They requested help from the Task Force, stating that, while the City spends funds on parks and trails, they are losing their property to erosion and creek clean-up is expensive. They asked why no one came to investigate it and questioned what the extent of devastation would be like a year from now. Ms. Meyer also noted her discontent with a Wildwood employee, stating her 88-year-old neighbor was bullied about the condition of her property and it was her responsibility to clean it up. Again, Director Vujnich reiterated Ms. Edens' statement that providing public funding in regard to private property is not possible. He emphasized such funding limitations are imposed by State Statute and it would need to change for the City to have any authority to use funds or even attempt mitigation work on private property. The residents requested the City consider a buy-out then, similar to the Glencoe Community Area that was done by FEMA in the 1990's and more recently by the Wildwood. Council Member Remy noted the sense of frustration with the flooding situation, yet identifying particular solutions that may address these episodes, within reasonable costs, must be researched. He noted the Task Force has only met four (4) times and it is still hearing the issues from residents. The Task Force would then need to consider options, but they may not be a solution to all of the problems.

Patty Bush, 3054 Woods Road, noted she has been a resident for 25 years. She stated two (2) driveway culverts upstream from her are undersized; Rockwood Reservation had bermed up five (5) foot of rock, which was washed downhill onto her property in the latest storm, with tree debris in drainage areas not cleaned out. She requested assistance from the Department of Public Works.

There being no other speakers, Co-Chair Archeski closed the Public Comment session at 7:08 p.m.

Presentation by Derek Linam, P.E., Missouri-American Water Company:

Council Member Remy introduced Mr. Derek Linam of Missouri-American Water Company. Mr. Linam noted he is employed as Engineering Manager for Missouri-American Water Company [its predecessor being St. Louis County Water Company] and also a resident of Wildwood. He provided a slide presentation to the Task Force, which identified mitigation efforts in locations where pipes have been exposed – specifically showing a 36-inch-diameter transmission main at Caulks Creek that was installed 30+ years ago. More photographs depicted the creek's migration over the years and others showed significant realignment in 2017, when the exposed pipe was

first observed. Interim protection was done with placement of rip-rap, further mitigation efforts included stabilizing the bank, with three (3) large concrete blocks [i.e. size equivalent to jersey barriers], but a permanent solution will involve planning and design of engineered creekbank stabilization.

Council Member McCutchen mentioned there have been 3-to-4 main breaks in Ward 5 alone. She asked if it was due to Caulks Creek flooding, which Mr. Linam suggested it could have been from a corrosion hole – a rare event, but it could happen.

Co-Chair Archeski asked Mr. Linam if there was a willingness by Missouri-American Water Company to coordinate with the City to repair critical areas. Mr. Linam note he was not aware of them working with any other cities, yet he was agreeable to such an endeavor with the Task Force.

Member Rambaud asked what aesthetics are taken into consideration by Missouri-American Water Company for creek stabilization. Mr. Linam noted a rather costly Bonhomme Creek project in Chesterfield, which required a very elaborate engineered design of large rip-rap installation. Thereafter, he noted groundcover would establish over the years and appear as natural vegetative restoration.

Following Mr. Linam’s presentation and Q&A by the Task Force, Council Member Edens suggested creating a standardized protocol for private property maintenance. Director Vujnich noted such already exists for public right-of-way areas, maintained by the Department of Public Works. He further stated he could discuss parameters for private property with City Attorney Young. Being the City has nine (9) major watersheds across its boundaries, public education is key with regard to property maintenance; i.e. a ‘how-to’ brochure on culvert clean-out, etc.

Council Member McCutchen made a motion that the Department request a report from Dr. Hammer of key locations to the Critical Locations Subcommittee to focus upon in the future, of which they would include a prioritized list of the ten (10) to twelve (12) sites he referenced in his presentation at a previous meeting. The motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

IV. Approval of Minutes from the August 29, 2019 Meeting

With a quorum attained as of 6:45 p.m., and after Public Comments and guest speaker Linam’s presentation, a motion was made by Member Holthouse, seconded by Member Sturman, to approve the minutes from the August 29, 2019 Task Force meeting [7:24 p.m.]. A voice vote was taken, with no opposition, while Council Member Garritano abstained, and the minutes were declared approved [8/0/1].

V. Overview of City’s GIS System and Its Potential applications for the Task Force’s Data Collection and Analysis

Director Vujnich introduced Senior Planner Gaston, who presented a draft workbook and slide presentation of it, to the Task Force, which would be supplied to each member of the Critical Location Identification Subcommittee. She explained the two (2) techniques of utilizing the City’s mapping capabilities, those approaches being static and dynamic.

The static method would be the workbook for field notes and include hardcopy maps ranging from a large-scale, general map of the City, depicting the nine (9) watersheds within it, to the categorized watershed subsections of them. Each watershed subsection would include maps containing the following labeled data:

- a) Watershed boundary in relation to roadways and other bordering watersheds;
- b) Areas of interest and its closest intersection;
- c) Site Maps, being small-scaled to show greater detail, depicting parcels of ground to identify public/ private ownership; and
- d) Aerial photographs of Site Maps, depicting stream, riparian zone, and groundcover; another with topographic contours.

The dynamic mapping method would involve ArcGIS Online: a cloud-based, geographic information system mapping module. Once the field data is collected for each identified critical location and a list of issues associated with it, the information is imported into ArcGIS Online and accessible to the public via the City’s website.

Following Senior Planner Gaston’s presentation, there was consensus among the Task Force for the Department to move forward with the field workbooks, as presented.

VI. Setting of Parameters for Subcommittees

- a. Critical Location Identification Subcommittee
- b. City Regulations and Plans Subcommittee
- c. Financing Subcommittee
- d. Agency Outreach Subcommittee
- e. Public Education Subcommittee

Co-Chairs Remy and Archeski noted the five (5) subcommittees would organize into their groups at this time. Assistant Director Arnett provided a spreadsheet of the subcommittee leaders and associated members, as follows, and present this evening:

Subcommittee	Subcommittee Leader	Members
Critical Location Identification	Council Member Edens	Rambaud, Garritano, and Remy
City Regulations and Plans	Co-Chair Archeski	Guenther and Rambaud
Financing	Director Vujnich	Sturman
Agency Outreach	Sr. Planner Gaston	Holthouse and McCutchen
Public Education	Asst. Director Arnett	Edens and Holthouse

Being that Public Education would support the other subcommittees and several members were on more than one (1) subcommittee, Assistant Director Arnett facilitated between them.

VII. Subcommittee Breakout Sessions

Co-Chairs Remy and Archeski paused the meeting for the Subcommittees to breakout into their individual sessions for the next 25-minutes, after which the full Task Force would then reconvene to finish agenda items.

Subcommittees would discuss duties and target dates for completion of their tasks, setting up meeting timeframes accordingly, outside of the full Task Force schedule. As mentioned at the last meeting, these subcommittee sessions do not necessitate posting of agendas, nor keeping minutes for public record, given a quorum would not be attained at any of these meetings.

Subcommittee session concluded and the full Task Force reconvened at 8:20 p.m., with each group presenting highlights of their discussions, with consensus the first step should be to prioritize the nine (9) watersheds.

VIII. Other Matters for Consideration - none

IX. Next Meeting Date – ~~Thursday, October 30, 2019, at 6:30 p.m.~~

Meeting schedule, as currently set for October 17th, is not possible with staff needing to attend another Board meeting the same evening and give the Subcommittees ample time to meet on their own schedules, then reconvene later in the month. Consensus was reached on the remaining meetings for the year, **being 10/30/2019 and 12/4/2019, both starting at 6:30 p.m.**

X. Closing Remarks and Adjournment

A motion was made by Member Guenther, seconded by Council Member McCutchen, to adjourn the meeting. Hearing no objections among the membership, the meeting was declared adjourned by the Co-Chairs at 9:10 p.m.