

City of Wildwood, Missouri
Record of Proceedings



Watershed Erosion Task Force Meeting

Thursday, October 30, 2019
Wildwood City Hall, 16860 Main Street, Wildwood, Missouri 63040
Meeting #5 Minutes

The Watershed Erosion Task Force meeting was called to order by Co-Chair Remy, at 6:30 p.m., on Thursday, October 30, 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 Jensen. Council Members Edens, Remy, McCutchen, Garritano, Gragnani, and Farmer.

Absent: Citizen Members Uetrecht, Tripp, and Jensen and 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-Chair Remy welcomed everyone to the meeting, noting Co-Chair Archeski was unable to attend this evening. He then restated, especially for those watching on Livestream, the purpose of the Task Force was to evaluate current issues relative to erosion and develop potential assistance and solutions. He added that funding is not in place at this time to rectify all of the issues.

III. Approval of Minutes from the September 26, 2019 Meeting

A motion was made by Council Member Garritano, seconded by Council Member McCutchen, to approve the minutes from the September 26, 2019 Task Force meeting. A voice vote was taken, with no opposition, while Council Members Gragnani and Farmer abstained, and the minutes were declared approved [9/0/2].

IV. Public Comments

Louise Belt noted she has issues with creeks on her property, but she also is an advisor to the Soil and Water Conservation District, then noted a few items property owners should consider to prevent runoff, such as never having bare dirt.

V. Updates on Work Progress from Subcommittees

Director of Planning Vujnich reviewed a draft tri-fold brochure created by the Department to be sent to effected property owners throughout all nine (9) watersheds. Discussion was held regarding the concern with identifying flooding in the brochure, which is a separate issue from erosion issues the Task Force is trying to address. Director Vujnich noted that, while the Task Force is not addressing flooding issues per se, it is the Department's belief the flooding questions should remain as part of the brochure and survey, given new areas of flooding can be identified and upstream areas can be evaluated and causes determined. He cited it as another good way to gather information. Discussion was held regarding the following: the importance of gathering both sets of data, whether flooding or erosion issues on property; the potential for changing the group's focus, but the resistance to do such; the artificial separation by trying to deny reporting of flooding issues while receiving data on erosion issues; the desire to gather data and use in analysis, but keep the focus on erosion issues for Task Force's purpose and end product of suggested solutions; and the belief all water issues are related.

a. Critical Location Identification Subcommittee

Council Member Edens, leader of this Subcommittee, noted the group's goal was to receive training from Dr. Hammer on how to identify the critical locations. She identified the need to work with him, before the group is able to begin identification of critical locations and its desire to start the process before winter. She questioned if Dr. Hammer is unavailable, who could be utilized for training purposes. Director Vujnich suggested Mark Meyer, of Intuition & Logic, to train the Subcommittee and noted Department staff will try and obtain the list of critical locations from Dr. Hammer to begin evaluation.

Consensus was reached among the Task Force Members to seek a proposal from Dr. Hammer, or if he is unavailable, from Intuition & Logic, to train the Subcommittee on how to proceed with critical location identification and review the data after it has been gathered by the volunteers.

Council Member Remy reviewed the survey questions proposed to be added to the online form. Discussion included the need to add contact information on the brochure, in case the recipient has internet issues or prefers to report issues via the telephone or in person, and to add to the online survey a link to sign up for e-newsletter.

b. City Regulations and Plans Subcommittee

Task Force Member Rambaud reviewed this Subcommittee's meeting from earlier this week and the items they discussed, including Maryland Heights, St. Peters, and Creve Coeur's Watershed Master Plans. He noted Creve Coeur's plan included photographs, with rankings, and projected solutions, which the Subcommittee liked. He can send out links via FTP site of these plans, if anyone would like to review them. Staff noted they are working on a Sharepoint site to make documents available among the Task Force, but it will not be available until late December. The Subcommittee also suggested contracting with Dr. Hammer to evaluate regulations to determine if they are up-to-date and current.

Task Force Member Guenther noted the need to separate Wildwood from other communities due to its unique landforms. He also questioned if there are weak points in the current ordinances that staff has found through implementing them for 20+ years and the importance of asking Dr. Hammer if he would update the percentages of protection in the Natural Resource Protection Standards based on current storm trends.

Council Member Gragnani referenced a document from Missouri Department of Natural Resources on assessing stream hydrology and appropriate corrections.

Consensus was reached among the Task Force Members to invite a representative from the Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District to the December meeting to explain their regulations and future plans.

c. Financing Subcommittee

Task Force Member Sturman noted a spreadsheet has been provided regarding this Subcommittee's work. Twenty (20) agencies have been contacted, with only one (1) agency, Region 7 of the EPA, potentially having a grant process for funding. This opportunity and the City's ability to pass a parks and stormwater tax are the only available sources of funding. He noted he will continue to follow up with these agencies and also send letters to them confirming discussions. He requested suggestions from other Task Force Members on any other funding sources.

Co-Chair Remy questioned if a sales tax was going to be proposed at a future election and how early does the effort need to begin. Discussion was then held regarding the following: the fact that specific projects should be identified in the education campaign for the election; the need for more education on a variety of issues to take place, prior to the election; the desire for City Council to authorize the pursuance of a tax; the previous failure of this tax effort; the necessity to promote the tax as parks and stormwater; the need to team up with parks supporters; the desire not to rush the vote, so the message is well thought and the education effort is thorough; the need to determine a deadline for placement on the ballot for an August 2020 vote; the question if a tax is approved, when would it go into effect; the need for a budget estimate of projects; and the desire to investigate free saplings from Missouri Department of Natural Resources to use for creek stabilization.

d. Agency Outreach Subcommittee

Task Force Member Holthouse, as the Leader of this Subcommittee, noted this group met last week and began making a list of agencies to contact and a draft of a letter to send to them. The goal of the letter is to understand permitting knowledge and then provide to residents.

Council Member McCutchen noted she will research a culvert clean out program from MSD.

e. **Public Education Subcommittee**

Task Force Member Holthouse, as the Leader of this Subcommittee, noted this group also met last week and developed twenty-five (25) ideas of outlets to provide education and is working on prioritizing them to ensure each message achieves the goals of the group.

VI. Subcommittee Breakout Sessions

Co-Chairs Remy questioned if anyone would object to skipping this agenda item due to time, noting Subcommittees could meet after the meeting. There was no objection from the Task Force Members.

VII. Other Matters for Consideration

Council Member Remy summarized a list of items to be completed before the Task Force's next meeting, which included:

1. establish contact with Dr. Hammer and request a proposal regarding assistance in training, code review, etc., and to obtain the priority list he created in Caulks Creek;
2. continue with subcommittee meetings;
3. invite a representative from MSD to the December meeting;
4. finalize the mailer;
5. determine the deadlines for placing a stormwater and park tax on the ballot;
6. development of a timeline for each subcommittee for the next six (6) months;
7. update website content;
8. identify what subcommittees can do for each other; and
9. create a Sharepoint site, when City software is updated to Office 365 near the end of the year.

VIII. Next Meeting Date – Thursday, December 4, 2019, at 6:30 p.m.

The next meeting, as currently set for December 4th, and remains as is.

X. Closing Remarks and Adjournment

A motion was made by Member Garritano, seconded by Member Holthouse, to adjourn the meeting. Hearing no objections among the membership, the meeting was declared adjourned by Co-Chair Remy at 8:16 p.m.