



**The City of Lee's Summit**  
**Action Letter**  
**Public Works Committee**

Monday, September 12, 2016

4:30 PM

City Council Chambers

City Hall

220 SE Green Street

Lee's Summit, MO 64063

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CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

**Present:** 3 - Chairperson Dave Mosby  
Councilmember Craig Faith  
Councilmember Phyllis Edson

**Absent:** 1 - Vice Chair Rob Binney

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None

BUSINESS

[2016-0523](#) Continued Discussion of Stormwater Program

**Presenter:** Presenter: Scott Edgar & Kara Taylor, Public Works Engineering Division

Mr. Scott Edgar, Senior Staff Engineer, gave a presentation on stormwater that included a follow-up on scenarios, details on the level of service, the new NPDES permit, projects for CIP consideration and the taskforce recommendations and where the city stands with peer communities. Historically, just under \$600,000 dollars has been spent annually on stormwater issues.

Councilmember Edson asked about crew size. Mr. Edgar explained that it is 2 equipment operators, 1 maintenance worker and 1 Supervisor.

There was discussion about staff costs. It was explained that the staff costs reported include benefits, administration, overhead, etc.

Chairman Mosby asked for an explanation of how Public Works has been using the historical scenario and doing the bond projects at the same time. The historical scenario represents only the work that was done through the Operations Division and did not include any Engineering. The projects paid through the bond were handled by the Engineering group using contractors.

Chairman Mosby then stated that the stormwater program needs to address long-term needs which would address maintenance of the system as well as large projects. Ms. Dena Mezger, Director of Public Works, added that the 2007 bond issue projects added to the system but didn't provide for any maintenance. Chairman Mosby then asked about the 1% capital sales tax. Ms. Mezger explained that the sales tax sunsets, so salaries have never been paid out of the sales tax because if the tax isn't renewed then you would have staff on the books with no funding source to pay them. The discussion then turned to a quick overview of different funding sources: the General Fund; a utility tax; a sales tax; a property tax; or user fees.

Mr. Edgar then went through the level of service that could be addressed with each scenario.

Ms. Kara Taylor, Environmental Specialist, discussed the expected new requirements for the NPDES permit. These requirements will have to be implemented regardless of scenarios and there currently isn't any funding for them. Illicit discharge is defined as anything that isn't stormwater going into the storm drains; paint, oil, yardwaste, etc. Councilmembers Edson and Faith asked about procedures for when private actions, like storing salt, hits the public system. Ms. Taylor replied that there aren't currently any procedures but it may be required by the changes in the new permit. She then went on to give examples of the "good housekeeping" issues that the state has said need to be addressed. Chairman Mosby asked when the NPDES permit will be required to be implemented. Ms. Taylor said it is expected to be in the fall of this year.

Mr. Edgar then addressed some potential CIP projects and the difference between public and private stormwater issues.

The goals of the stormwater program that were identified by the previous committee are the maintenance of the existing system, meeting the new regulatory NPDES permit requirements and improvement of the system by adding some capital projects.

Chairman Mosby asked to have some e-mails submitted by Councilmembers put on the overhead for discussion. He also drew attention to items from the citizens stormwater task force.

- Other municipalities' stormwater draining into yards in Lee's Summit.
- Streets that flood during heavy rain; safety concerns.
- System deficiencies that causes damage to private property. The task force saw this as a last priority; issues that affect public safety need to be done first.

(note: these are only the points that were verbalized and not the complete

list provided to the committee.)

Councilmember Edson asked what the situation is between private versus public. Ms. Mezger explained that using public money for a private issue can create legal issues. There are also budget considerations.

Councilmember Edson also asked about creeks that were on public land that have now meandered onto public property. Ms. Mezger reported that around 5 miles of streams are on public property; the other 65 miles of streams are on private property. A lot of the issues have been caused by developments that filled in streams and built houses on them.

Councilmember Faith expressed his concern for cause and effect, specifically predicting for new development.

Councilmember Mosby asked staff to put all of the goals together (4 goals; 1 with sub-sections) and note which are short-term goals and which are long-term goals. He requested they be brought back to the next meeting.

Councilmember Faith asked about optional or unique funding sources like grants or how other municipalities are funding their stormwater programs.

#### ROUNDTABLE:

Ms. Taylor, announced that RecycleFest will be held in the parking lot at City Hall on September 17 from 9:00 am to noon. There will be a stream team event held in October and there is a new storm drain stenciling program; both rely on volunteers.

Councilmember Faith asked about people that dump their dog waste in the openings of storm drains. Ms. Taylor explained the difference between sanitary sewers and stormwater curb inlets. Stormwater inlets do not go to a treatment plant - they go directly to a lake or stream. Putting anything in a storm drain, other than stormwater, is called illicite discharge and it is illegal.

#### ADJOURNMENT

The September 12, 2016, Public Works Committee meeting was adjourned by Chairman Mosby at 6:36 p.m. at City Hall, 220 SE Green Street, City Council Chambers.

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