

**City of Champaign, Illinois**  
**Minutes of Meeting**

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**Stormwater Utility Fee Advisory & Technical Committees Meeting**

**January 10, 2011**

**Advisory Committee Members Present:** Donald Agin, Eliana Brown, Clif Carey, Steve Cochran, James Creighton, Jim Jesso, Vic McIntosh

**Advisory Committee Members Absent:** Charles Allen, Jim Bustard, Karen Foster, Chris Hamelburg, Jim Spencer, David Tomlinson, Anna Maria Watkin

**Technical Committee Members Present:** Shawn Luesse, Leslie Lundy, Lorrie Pearson, Andrew Proctor, Mark Toalson

**Technical Committee Members Absent:** None

**City Staff Present:** Dennis Schmidt

**Consultants Present:** Greg Kacvinsky – Foth Infrastructure & Environmental

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**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m.

**Minutes**

The minutes from December 13, 2010 were approved.

**Member Inquiries/Staff Follow-up**

At the December 13, 2010 meeting, Brown made an inquiry to staff asking if any communities with a stormwater utility fee are combined sanitary/storm sewer systems. The full response is included in the January 10, 2011 Advisory Committee Meeting packet.

**Stormwater Management - Unfunded Needs**

Schmidt made a presentation describing the unfunded needs staff has identified for the Stormwater Management Program.

Brown asked if the City still owes money on Phases I and II of the Boneyard project. Schmidt indicated the City continues to pay for the first two phases of the Boneyard project and this debt will be retired in 2016.

Creighton asked if there are areas within the City of Champaign not utilizing the City's drainage system. Schmidt explained there are some subdivisions that drain directly into the Copper Slough and therefore do not impact the City's drainage infrastructure.

McIntosh asked if there is more concern with how much water a detention basin holds under normal pool or how much water a detention basin holds during a rain event. Schmidt explained the concern is whether the detention basin can hold what it is supposed to hold during and after a rain event. There are also concerns about the inlet and outlet structures.

McIntosh described an instance where tiles collapsed in the subdivision where he resides and the Homeowners Association paid 50% of the repair costs. Cochran asked who paid the other 50%. McIntosh indicated the City of Champaign accepted 50% of the responsibility for repair costs. Schmidt explained this was not common practice. The City had improved Duncan Road which brought additional runoff through the tiles draining to the lake in McIntosh's subdivision. Since the City was utilizing the tiles for drainage that benefitted the City, Council agreed to pay half of the cost of the tile repair. Normally, the Homeowners or Lakeowners Association would be 100% responsible for any issues concerning private detention basins.

Cochran asked if Homeowners Associations are typically aware of their maintenance responsibilities for the private detention basins. Schmidt indicated that in the limited number of cases he has seen, most do not clearly understand the full scope of their maintenance responsibilities. They generally are aware of yearly normal maintenance responsibilities, but are unsure where responsibility lies should a large unexpected problem occur.

Carey asked if the City has addressed the concerns with private basins by revising the subdivision regulations. Schmidt explained that regulations have been modified to address wave action problems seen in some detention basins. However, staff has not yet addressed issues regarding ownership of inlet and outlet structures.

Creighton asked if maintenance on the Phinney Branch and Beaver Lake could become a semi-annual project, since these activities have not been occurring due to lack of funding. Schmidt indicated that the City has been deferring maintenance on these two areas. Staff will find the \$50,000 to perform channel maintenance on these two areas, but it will be at the cost of something else such as storm sewer rehabilitation. Similarly with the Boneyard, staff will find the \$150,000 to perform maintenance, but it will be done at the expense of some other project.

Carey asked if staff has calculated the annual maintenance that would be required if the recommended capital projects were completed (Washington Street West, Phinney Branch Channel Improvements and Boneyard Creek Phase III). Schmidt indicated there are figures for maintenance included in the budgets. Carey then asked if the maintenance costs are included in the bonding. Schmidt said that those costs are not bonded.

Agin asked why the City would take it upon itself to take ownership of private detention pond maintenance. Additionally, Agin asked if there would be a way to recoup maintenance costs from the owners of the ponds. Schmidt explained that it is unlikely the City would take ownership of all private detention basins. If a stormwater utility fee is adopted, residents may be eligible for a credit program assuming they perform detention basin maintenance.

Agin asked how close the City's actual spending is to the projected spending. Schmidt explained this depends upon the age of the study, the approach taken and what amenities are included in the project. Specifically, Schmidt has very little confidence that the remaining five phases of the Boneyard Project will be completed for the projected cost of \$15.3 million. Schmidt is confident in the projected cost for Washington Street West because this is a number from a recent study. However, Schmidt has little confidence in the projected cost for the Phinney Branch, due to age of the study.

Cochran asked if a developer provides cost estimates for maintenance at the time a detention basin is proposed. Luesse explained that when detention basins are built, they are developed based upon subdivision regulations put into place by the City. After they are built, they are bonded for a period of 12-18 months and then inspected by City staff and brought back to original condition, if any deficiencies are found. At this point the HOA assumes responsibility for the detention basin. When buyers purchase lots, they should be aware that they will be part of an HOA and depending upon how the covenants are setup, those in the HOA may be responsible for detention basin maintenance.

### **Public Participation**

There were no questions or comments made by the public.

### **Next Meeting**

McIntosh announced the next meeting will be held February 14, 2011 at 4 p.m. in EC1, which is located in the basement of City Building.

### **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:13 p.m.