

## Minutes of the STORMWATER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

### Stormwater Management Committee Meeting

Friday, September 12, 2008

7:30 A.M., Main Conference Room, Leawood City Hall, Leawood, KS

<b>Committee Members</b>		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jim Rawlings, Chair Councilmember, Ward 2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> James Azeltine Councilmember, Ward 4	<input type="checkbox"/> Gary Bussing Councilmember, Ward 3
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> William "Bill" Chiles	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pat Dunn	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Debra Filla Councilmember, Ward 1
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mel Henderson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> John Kahl	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Carole Lechevin
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alec Weinberg		

= Committee Member present

= Committee Member absent

#### Guests in Attendance:

Camille Croteau, Green Initiative Citizen Task Force Member

Linda Hoffman, Jackson County Offices

Kent Lage, Johnson County Stormwater Office

Ginny Moore, Mid America Regional Council, Watershed Program Manager

Heather Schmidt, Johnson County Stormwater Office

Scott Schulte, Patti Banks & Associates

#### Leawood Staff in Attendance:

Mayor Peggy J. Dunn, Scott Lambers, Joe Johnson, David Ley,

George Ertle, Julie Stasi,

Chair Rawlings called the meeting to order at 7:30AM.

- **First Item of Business:**

Alec Weinberg made a motion to approve the minutes from June 13, 2008.

Mel Henderson seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

- **Welcome Speaker Scott Schulte from Patty Banks Associates.  
Bio-Retention Gardens.**

Committee member Carole Lechevin introduced Scott Schulte and thanked him for coming in to discuss to the group the Upper Blue River Watershed Alliance. Scott has been with Patty Banks Associates for quite some time and heads up the Natural Resources Division which includes natural resources planning, stormwater management, conservation, ecology...several things and other issues as well. Scott has been instrumental in working with the Upper Blue River Watershed Alliance and helping APWA rewrite the manual.

*These minutes were Approved by the Stormwater Committee on October 10, 2008.*

Scott Schulte-Thank you for inviting us here and inviting us back. The first thing we want to talk about is the big picture in the upper Blue River Watershed initiative and actually Mayor Dunn and Councilman Gill were active participants in that and Leawood hosting the steering committee meetings for the Upper Blue River Initiative. It's great to be back.

Scott Schulte has worked with dozens of people throughout the region and has helped update the Best Management Practice Manuals.

Carole Lechevin added that there is much more information available on BMP's, so if there is more information desired, they would be interested to come back to discuss further.

### **Scott Schulte-Presentation Upper Blue River Watershed Alliance**

Scott Schulte concluded his presentation by saying they would like to come back to Leawood with the definition of a sustainable watershed and also a Resolution for Leawood to consider adopting.

- Kent Lage-The reason we went after the Blue Water shed, even though it is 8 cities, 3 counties and 2 states, was that if they couldn't do it in the upper Blue (coordinate) then we probably shouldn't be spending money trying to coordinate both within Johnson County, but more importantly across the State Line. We picked this area for a very specific reason to try to reach across that State Line. As staff we do not view it as a challenge, but it is a challenge. One of the comments made by both sides of the State Line was if this ever formulates into something; what the communities do not want is another layer of bureaucracy. Which is not what we're trying to create; we're trying to create somewhere where we all coordinate. And if funding would ever come to this organization, we are not going to mix funds across State Lines. So if funding is allocated, funding would remain on each side (initially) and what that funding would go for is unknown at this time. It was very clear however from both sides of the State Line that would help move things along if those two items were addressed.

Kent Lage-The alternative future analysis was going to be pursued through the EPA Funding in the Stormwater Management Program Budget for 2009. Believes there is \$700,000 set aside to do that for a future analysis. Initially will look at a smaller development (160 acres, 80 acres or 240 acres). Something in the upper Blue River Watershed and look at a traditional design and then a more sustainable design. We want to look at:

Will it sell?

Is there a savings from an environmental perspective?

Is there a savings from a financial perspective

They also are going to involve the Home Builders Association in the development.

Pat Dunn-This Committee exists because the City of Leawood recognizes the importance of the regional stormwater issues that we are dealing with. One reason we are here, one reason we want to do these things is that we want to make the efforts of this committee meaningful. The questions I wrote down to myself were;

What can Leawood do?

What can this committee do?

What can individual citizens do?

What I heard said was that the next step in this process for us is to consider this Sustainable Watershed Definition.

Is that accurate? So there is nothing for us to do in the meantime?

Scott Schulte-Yes, that is accurate. To bring a definition back to Leawood to be considered and then the next question is, would you consider coming back and being a participant in the alliance and helping form the alliance?

Pat Dunn-Thinks Leawood would welcome the opportunity to have that meeting.

Mayor Dunn-Do we have any idea what Johnson County SMAC Projects alone in monetary backlog equate to today?

Kent Lage-Right now, for the ones we know of, (and you have to have a study to get on the list) it is \$50 million. Our projects are getting bigger and bigger from the days of when John Kahl and Pat Dunn were on the SMAC Committees. His guess by the end of the year, we will have a list that will exceed \$70 million, or a ballpark of \$60-\$70 million. SMAC funds 75% of that. We are bringing in about \$12 million dollars a year. This year because of some projects that were actually under cost, we have a program that is about \$19 million dollars. Of that, about \$12 million is going towards design and construction of stormwater projects. We are making a dent in it, but it's still out there. Some projects that are 5 to 6 million dollars at the bottom of our list; I'm not even sure some of the cities will move forward with them; but they are on there, so they are counted as a project cost.

James Azeltine-Has the Sustainable Water Shed presentation been seen by the County Commission?

Scott Schulte?-No, not yet. Their first stop is the cities.

### **Scott Schulte-Carole Lechevin Presentation Rain Gardens**

Joe Johnson-Advised that at the last meeting, an article had been seen where a City was using bio-retention and bio-swales to capture the water on a parking lot to both filter and then control the release rate. The committee talked about these items and thought they would like to have someone come to the meeting to help educate the committee on these applications and what they do.

The Committee viewed pictures of different rain gardens and example applications in the metropolitan area.

Scott Schulte-Explained some of the differences in applications. Scott advised that rain gardens should not treat more than an acre of land. A rain garden, is creating a depression in the ground, directing flow, runoff into that depression in the ground and you are planting that depression with native vegetation. So that when the water lands in the rain garden, you have deep roots from the native plants that deepen the soil and allow the rainfall to soak into the ground. Also the plants are using that water. A rain garden is more of a passive design, more of a smaller scaled practice. We have a concern about clay soils in this area and that is another reason to use a native plant. We are using the plants as our engineering (to break thru the soil).

Bio-Swales-A good example is along Lee Boulevard. Native Vegetation has no engineering underneath. Some fail immediately upon construction due to the compaction that certain contractors are used to doing in regular applications. Contractors should be familiar with their construction and/or be certified for their installation.

- The Stormwater Management Committee will meet October 10, 2008.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 A.M.  
Minutes transcribed by Julie Stasi.

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