

City of Springfield/Green County, Missouri
Stormwater Management Task Force Meeting #3
Meeting Summary
12/13/2012

The Springfield/Green County, Missouri Stormwater Management Task Force met on Thursday, December 13, 2012 at 5:00 p.m. Task Force members present were: Brian Perdue, Matthew Pierson, Eric Dove, Karen Spence, Geoffrey Butler, Dana Elwell, Dave Murray, Patrick Harrington, Stacy Armstrong, Fred Schlegel, Andy Hosmer, Ronda Headland, Casey Haynes, Dan Hoy, Tom Kisse, Bill Bretall, Chris Macioce, and Tom DeWitt. Greene County staff present included: Kevin Barnes, Tim Davis, Vanessa Brandon, Tim Smith, and Karen Elmer. City of Springfield staff present included: Todd Wagner, Carrie Lamb, Sarah Davis, Barbara Lucks, Fred Marty, Kimberly White, Jan Millington, Steve Meyers, Phil Broyles, Cora Scott, and Greg Burris. Others present were: Jes Wilson, AM Hydro; Milton Dickensheet, City of Nixa; Mike Pessina, HDR; Dave Fraley, City Utilities; and Sheila Shockey, Shockey Consulting Services, LLC.

Dan Hoy, Co-Chairperson, welcomed the group and asked them to introduce themselves. He asked the task force to approve the meeting minutes from the last meeting. The minutes were unanimously approved without changes.

Water Quality and Regulations Presentation:

Carrie Lamb, City of Springfield and Kevin Barnes, Greene County, made a presentation regarding the City and County water quality programs. Carrie described the waterways the City and County are trying to protect. They are important recreational features to the region. They also are the community's source of drinking water. She described the regulations to comply with in regards to the Clean Water Act and the MS4 Permit. She also described the process of establishing and complying with the Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs). Carrie described what the City and County do to protect water quality that is not necessarily required by the regulations. She described the partnerships that the City, County and nonprofits in the region have to deliver educational programs about water quality. Kevin described the unique features and geology of the region and how that impacts stormwater management. He said that because of the karst geology, pollution in sinkholes flows to other water bodies including the community's drinking water supply.

Task Force Discussion:

The task force had the following conversation about the presentation.

Comment: Karst topography may be a reason to go above and beyond what the regulations say. It is important to protect our drinking water supply.

Comment: Could we have the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) administer the Land Disturbance Permit for the City and the County? They already are involved with this process.

Response: MDNR doesn't have adequate staffing to administer the Land Disturbance Permit locally. It is also a requirement of the City's and County's MS4 permits.

Comment: Are we planning locally for the impact of climate change on stormwater?

Response: Standards are based upon average rainfall events. If climate change results in changes to annual average rainfall events, the design storms will need to be adjusted.

Response: Drury is planning for increasing drought conditions on their campus by looking at ways to better capture and utilize rainwater.

Guiding Principles Discussion:

Sheila Shockey facilitated a session with the task force discussing the guiding principles survey results. She reviewed the guiding principles that were developed at the last meeting.

The task force discussed the guiding principles. The following comments were made:

- "Fair" should be based on objective science.
- How are the people treated that were good stewards on their property from the beginning. Do they pay less?
- Public perception should include how cost-efficient and effective the stormwater practices are in reality.
- Sometimes a best practice such as native landscaping is perceived negatively by the public because of the way it looks.
- Our community has successful projects to point to so it is not so important to do quick win projects. We should develop good master plans.
- Improvement in water quality is hard for the public to see unless the pollution is visible like sediment. Macroinvertebrates are not easily seen.
- We don't want to spend all the money on planning and never get to implementation.
- We need a master plan so we can build projects that are a priority. What percentage of cost does planning usually take in stormwater. The response was about 10%. Master planning is usually a per square mile cost.
- It is important to do story-telling as part of planning to be able to see what the next steps are and convey it to the public.
- Small projects that show immediate benefits at the top of the watershed should be built early on and then we move downstream and have larger, more complex projects. We need to identify and prioritize what investments are needed.
- Projects should be built that help meet environmental mandates. The public will understand why those types of projects are needed. It is not that important to spread the projects around to all parts of the city/county.
- This isn't a park program, projects should be based on priorities and not politically based.
- Regulations are unclear and sometimes we can't meet them such as the TMDLs. Exceeding water quality regulations only if feasible. We should not aim for the minimum but we should aim for the best water quality we can afford. But if the wishlist is bigger than the resources we have then we can't exceed requirements.
- Drinking water and recreation shouldn't be in the same sentence as drinking water is so much more important. We need to understand the consequences of not meeting water quality regulations.
- The task force agreed that the principles should promote the use of best practices as it recognizes evolving state of the practice. The task force also agreed to the terms "balanced" and "evidence-based." Remove the phrase "heavy burden."

The task force came to agreement on the following guiding principles. They are:

Understandability/Public Education: Citizens should be made aware of how they can protect water quality through their actions.

Understandability/Public Education: Citizens should understand how improvements can help protect water quality and how improvement programs are funded.

Conservation: The efficient use of resources should be encouraged.

Public Benefit: The public should benefit from the investments made in stormwater management.

Innovation/Planning: The long-term stormwater management program should be flexible to adapt to new technologies and innovations.

The task force made modifications to the following guiding principles:

Environmental Stewardship: It is important to protect & improve drinking water sources and quality of water in streams in Southwest Missouri. **Good stormwater management is in everyone's best interest.**

Public Acceptance: The public perception should be that the stormwater management programs are **balanced**; decision-making is open and is influenced by public input.

Effectiveness: **Stormwater management programs utilize best practices & sound science; investments that are cost-effective.**

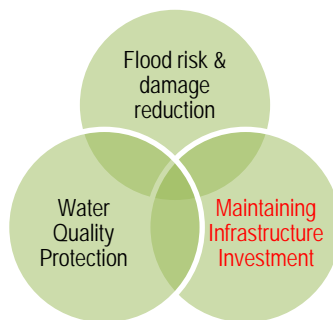
Next Steps & Closing Comments:

Sheila Shockey said the next meeting will be held on January 17 and will cover the topic of maintaining infrastructure investments.

Dan Hoy invited the task force to look at the Jordan Creek: Story of an Urban Stream book that was distributed at the beginning of the meeting. They should also look on the city's website to learn more about the water quality programs.

Adjourn at 7:00 p.m.

Maintaining Infrastructure Investment



Stormwater System Summary

The drainage system of Springfield and the surrounding Urban Service Area is an extensive network of natural and manmade channels, box culverts, pipes, inlets, junction boxes, and detention basins, both surface and underground. Example photos of these infrastructure components are shown on page 7. This system drains into several relatively small streams that originate in or near the City due to its location on a ridge. These small streams drain north into the Sac River or south into the James River. Over the last several years, the City and County have mapped their stormwater drainage systems in geographic information system (GIS) mapping databases. The map of the drainage system and streams resembles trees with branches (Figure 1). Modifications and additions to the systems occur through capital improvement projects and by private property owners through new developments. There is a process to ensure that modifications and additions to the system are added to the City and County maps once construction is complete. Other mapping corrections or additions are made in a timely manner based on ongoing field investigations and findings. The City's mapped drainage system is approximately 675 miles in length with the breakdown shown in Table 1.