



Stormwater Committee Meeting Summary

Date: Tuesday, January 12, 2021

Attendees: Jon Fitch, Pat Parsley, Kim Downs, Ethan Ronnebaum, Kevin Neuendorf, Jamie Fiedler

1. Introductions by all attending members
 - a. Who you are
 - b. Why part of the committee?
 - c. Anything that you may be hoping to gain or contribute
2. Stormwater – review the city’s website, <https://hiawatha-iowa.com/departments/public-works/storm-water/>, for additional information
 - a. MS4 Permit – Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems. Required of 44 municipalities and universities to minimize stormwater runoff. Determined by the Iowa DNR and primarily dependent on population or proximity to a metro area. Permitted MS4’s are required to have a construction site runoff erosion control ordinance and post construction stormwater ordinance in place
 - b. 6 minimum requirements
 - i. Public outreach on stormwater impacts
 - ii. Public involvement and participation. Past year has been tough. Website has a lot of information and brochures
 - iii. Illicit discharge and elimination program and ordinance
 - iv. Construction site regulation and sediment and erosion control ordinance
 - v. Post-construction on stormwater management and ordinance
 - vi. Good housekeeping practices
 - c. Quarterly inspections of basins in the community
 - d. Annual report sent to the IDNR for review and acceptance. We invite the DNR to come each year to review our practices and numerous sites for input.
3. Derecho Cleanup in waterways
 - a. This is different than most of our other cleanup. Because it is in a waterway, we are required to go through the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). This is through the state and funded by the federal government. The NRC has recently indicated that the damage reduction calculation can likely be used to justify the project sites on Dry Creek and Blairs Ferry Creek based on the assessed value of improvements on nearby property that lie in or near the floodplain. As a reminder, the guidance we have been given is that the weighted value of future damages must exceed the cost of a project. We are currently looking at up to \$925,000. They pay 75% and the city is responsible for 25%. This could leave



the city on the hook for \$200-230k. We have not been released by the NRCS to start design work. Schedule for removal of downed trees is unknown.

4. Storm Sewer Easement Policy
 - a. Pat discussed why an easement policy is being considered.
 - b. Concerns – Older neighborhood drainage easements being blocked by sheds, fences, other; homeowners filling in drainage ways; Northwoods area does not have an easement thus not allowing the city to go in to clean up
 - c. Hard to get consistency in policies between the different metro communities.

Issue	Hiawatha	Marion	Cedar Rapids
Sheds in drainage easements	Allowed if on runners Not allowed if on cement slab	allowed in drainage easement: hold harmless agreement required	Not allowed in drainage easement
Fences in drainage easements	Allowed; however, placement must allow drainage flow.	Allowed in drainage easement: hold harmless agreement required	Allowed with restriction to allow drainage flow.
Drainage easement maintenance enforcement	Ordinance authority to enforce: Except: if the drainage is not operable due to time and infill	Does not enforce: it is deemed a private issue	Ordinance authority to enforce but not enough resources to be totally affective
Drainage basins	Recertifications enforced by ordinance	Takes over all basins and maintains	
Development enforcement for plats	SUDAS: the development SWPPP is inspected but no elevations are taken or checked.	SUDAS: the development SWPPP is inspected but no elevations are taken or checked.	SUDAS: the development SWPPP is inspected: elevations are taken and reported by the contractor.
Derecho cleanup	?????????????	City will do a one-time clean up of the drainage easements	City has assistance available but the responsibility is private
Drainage ways (not designated as easements) maintenance			
Dedicated Staff	Added duties to existing staff in Engineering and CD	One dedicated position	Dedicated department of 3+



5. Future Storm Sewer Rates discussion

a. List of future projects

- i. 2021 – 3 projects totaling \$287k
- ii. 2022 – 3 projects totaling \$475k
- iii. Derecho cleanup could have been included in these numbers but are separate
- iv. City Detention Basin modifications
- v. City storm sewer infrastructure upgrades

b. Current rates

- i. Residential - $\$3.75 \times 2117$ units - \$95,265
- ii. Commercial and Government - $\$6.50 \times 377$ units - \$29,400
- iii. Current rates bring in roughly \$125,000-150,000/year

c. Newton Article - <https://www.newtondailynews.com/2020/09/08/stormwater-utility-added-to-newton-water-bills-in-2021/amiel12/>

d. Marion and Cedar Rapids

- i. Marion Storm Water Utility - <https://www.cityofmarion.org/home/showpublisheddocument?id=1138>
- ii. Rates based on an average Equivalent Runoff Unit (ERU) of a standard lot. This equates to 2,791 sf.
- iii. Residential Storm Water Fee – (ERU Fee x No. of Living Units) + (Account Service Charge x No. of Accounts)
 1. Apartments with up to 4 units fall into residential
- iv. Non-residential Parcel Charge – (Parcel Impervious Area / 2,791 sf x ERU Fee) + Account Service Charge
 1. Apartments with 5 units or more fall into this category
- v. Non-residential Parcels charges were stepped in over 5 years for large lots (i.e. Wal-Mart).
- vi. Marion indicates there are still some grey areas to be cleaned up but would like for the communities to work together for consistency especially for apartment owners that have units in all communities

e. Hiawatha will provide options for the committee's consideration at our April meeting.