

STORMWATER PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING
Minutes for August 28, 2017

Members Present:

Chairman, Robert Pollard
Gussie Glasper
Clint Jones
Mick Madison
Marty Reynolds

Members Absent:

Mayor Allen Adomite
Lori Daiber
Rick Fancher
Jack Minner
Eleanor Schumacher
Larry Trucano
Dennis Weber
Richard Worthen

Others Present:

Matt Brandmeyer
Steve Brendel
Breana Lamb
Chris Doucleff
Charlie Leman

Call of Meeting to Order:

Chairman Robert Pollard called the meeting to order. Mr. Brendel and Mr. Brandmeyer led the meeting with updates on each of the agenda items.

Approval of Minutes:

Approval of minutes was not conducted as there was not a quorum. However, there was a majority of the quorum present.

Citizens Wishing to Address the Commission:

None.

Old Business:

None.

New Business:

Mr. Brendel presented a summary of what has been accomplished for the Cahokia Creek Watershed planning process. Mr. Brendel stated that Technical Committee meetings have been conducted and the final part of the planning process is implementing what was discussed at the Technical Committee meetings into the issues section of the plan. Mr. Brendel stated that the goal is to have fifty percent of the plan done by December 2017. Mr. Brendel stated that there will be more open houses scheduled in December to present to the public what has been done so far regarding the Cahokia Creek Watershed.

Mr. Brandmeyer stated that open houses are used as direction from the public. The public indicates where they live and what flooding issues they experience. Mr. Brandmeyer stated that there are meetings with stakeholders in the community such as townships and municipalities. Mr. Brendel said that the public will indicate problem areas on a map at the open houses. Mr. Brendel stated that all the information from the open houses and the flood inventory will be incorporated into the plan. Mr. Brandmeyer said that ten to twenty projects are developed in order to alleviate issues. Mr. Brandmeyer said that the projects would be the end of the plan. Mr. Brendel stated that once the plan has been created, then the department will apply for grants to implement the proposed projects. Mr. Brendel said that goal is to have the plan ready before August 1, 2018 in order to apply for the 319 grant and other grants.

Mr. Brandmeyer said that they are still looking into using Brushy Lake for a retention area for stormwater and that the land has been used agriculturally but it could be restored. Mr. Brandmeyer stated that IDOT, MESD, and Heartlands Conservancy own part of Brushy Lake and that other parcels of land will have to be acquired and stormwater facilities would have to be installed in order to be used for retention. IDNR has received funding and Mr. Brendel will speak with them about getting Brushy Lake project on the list to receive money. Mr. Brandmeyer stated that Brushy Lake is within the Canteen Creek Watershed and it would provide flood storage for Edwardsville, Maryville, Glen Carbon, and Collinsville. Mr. Brendel said that it would take strain off of the Cahokia Canal. Mr. Brandmeyer stated that it would provide relief to the pumps as well, since there have been issues with nonfunctioning pumps. Mr. Madison asked where the pumps push water too and Mr. Brandmeyer stated that the pumps are the last location before it enters into the Mississippi River. Mr. Madison asked how long the pumps have been nonfunctioning and Mr. Brandmeyer stated that one is being fixed by the Corps and Mr. Brendel indicated that another pump is being fixed locally in St. Louis, but it has been a longer duration since they had been functioning. Mr. Brandmeyer stated that the Corps will fix pumps for free but it could be years before it is fixed which is why one of the pumps is getting fixed in St. Louis.

Mr. Brendel stated that the American Bottoms Watershed is still in the early stages of planning but the flood survey has been completed. Mr. Brendel stated that the responses are being compiled and it should be completed this week. Mr. Brendel said that there was a 19 percent response rate which is just under 400 surveys. Mr. Brandmeyer stated some may have not been returned due to the renter instead of owner occupied homes in Granite City and Pontoon Beach. Mr. Brandmeyer stated that they are mapping the results and seeing if there are any gaps. Mr. Brendel stated that the Corps is scheduling their water resource inventory flights for December. Mr. Brandmeyer stated that it will be the same as the Cahokia Watershed Plan, staff will work to find ten to twenty projects to improve stormwater issues within the watershed.

Mr. Brandmeyer stated that the projects are not only county projects, they are municipal projects as well and the entities will work in a partnership. Mr. Brandmeyer stated that grants will not be able to pay for all of the projects therefore once the levee district finishes their improvements, Mr. Brandmeyer has proposed that the levee tax be continued to help pay for the stormwater improvements. Mr. Brandmeyer stated that it would be a few years before the levee district is complete with the improvements and that the plan is to have the stormwater plans completed with a list of projects ready by the time the funding would be available. Mr. Brandmeyer there is a potential that the levee district could want to sunset the fees. Mr. Brandmeyer continued to discuss the fees from the levee district.

Mr. Madison asked Mr. Brandmeyer about a discussion in the previous meeting about local municipalities taking out obstructions in their waterways and if those are to be considered projects. Mr. Brandmeyer stated that creek maintenance should be a program within municipalities. Mr. Brandmeyer stated that there is no one doing this type of program within the county. Mr. Brandmeyer discussed the program that Mr. Brendel had previously had for the county. Ms. Glasper asked if there would be projects to address issues within State Park Place and Mr. Brandmeyer stated that there would be projects included in the American Bottoms plan. A discussion ensued about the program Mr. Brendel was able to provide the county with creek cleanups.

Mr. Brandmeyer began to discuss improvement areas that the county is working on. Mr. Brandmeyer discussed the Lakeshore Mobile Home Park flooding issues. Mr. Brandmeyer said that Stanley ditch goes to two pump stations along the chain or rocks canal. Mr. Brandmeyer said that it does not flow into Horseshoe Lake system but it goes north several thousand acres into Stanley ditch. Mr. Brandmeyer said that Stanley ditch has had maintenance done to it and it previously had not drained like it has supposed to. Mr. Brandmeyer stated that the mobile home park relies on a pump station in order to drain. Mr. Brandmeyer stated that the two issues they found as to why the mobile home park flooded and he mention that the rains

in December 2015 was due to excessive amounts rain. There is a channel that goes to the pump station that is overgrown and it is the mobile home parks responsibility to clear the channel and Mr. Brandmeyer stated that the renewal of their mobile home park license has been postponed until they work on addressing some of the issues. Mr. Brandmeyer said there is a lot of property maintenance issues and 3,000 police visits in the past 3 years and they need to improve their stormwater issues and it is their responsibility to fix the stormwater grates from any covering. A discussion ensued about stormwater issues within Lakeshore Mobile Home Park.

Mr. Brandmeyer said that the Long Lake system drains Mitchell and that a lot of the properties along Long Lake depend on it to be drained but there is not a lot of drainage capacity. Mr. Brandmeyer stated that new culverts added to 162 and by the bike trail would open up space for drainage and MESD is working on that and removing the sediment and clearing the channel. They are working closer to 111 and restoring an existing channel. Mr. Brandmeyer continued to discuss the drainage for Mitchell. Mr. Brandmeyer stated that installing an underground pipe on Lake Drive could help alleviate some issues but it would be a 5 million project that would fix all of the problems, which is expensive. Mr. Madison asked if Mitchell and Pontoon Beach would help out with the cost and Mr. Brandmeyer stated that they are working on that and they are working with the townships as well.

Mr. Brandmeyer said that Juneau and SIUE are looking into modeling the area and which would allow them to determine how potential projects will alleviate stormwater issues. Mr. Brandmeyer stated that a cost benefit analysis could be created which would allow us to review projects that provide benefits at less cost. Mr. Brandmeyer stated an option would be to obtain farm land and use it to drain Long Lake for overflow storage. Mr. Brendel stated that Doberly Slough had a project where a 54 inch drainage pipe was installed and sends water to Horseshoe Lake which has provided a great amount of relief in the area. Mr. Madison asked what percentage that Mr. Brandmeyer believes that a drainage pipe would alleviate the problem. Mr. Brendel stated that the modeling would be able to give a forecast of what it would do if it was installed. A discussion ensued about different projects that would help stormwater issues in that area. Mr. Brendel stated that the Corps is going to have the conversion done on the existing models this week but it could change due to the flooding in Texas. Mr. Brandmeyer stated that after the Corps is done with their part, SIUE students are going to work with the models.

Mr. Brandmeyer said that Mitchell has their own interior system issues and that their ditches need to be maintained and reestablished. Mr. Brendel stated that there is only two places for stormwater to go which is a concrete swale or another location. Mr. Madison asked if the warehousing is causing issues to the area. Mr. Brandmeyer stated that is not the case, the warehouses drain into a county ditch and into Cahokia Creek and does not enter into Mitchell.

Mr. Jones said that there is always discussion about draining into Horseshoe Lake and asked when it would have to be dredged. Mr. Brandmeyer stated that is a \$20 million dollar project and Mr. Jones said that is the issue, that there is a lot of talk about draining there but the lake is not deep. Mr. Brandmeyer stated it depends on how you operate the lake because you can create space seasonally but as far as dredging it, it wouldn't create volume, but if you dredge it and adjust the outfall, it would create volume. Mr. Brandmeyer said that the bigger issue is that the soil is contaminated and they would have to find a place to take it.

Mr. Brendel stated that the most important thing to be done is maintain the water level by taking down the water level and taking on more water into that would help. Mr. Jones asked if IDNR or MESD would let them do that and Mr. Brandmeyer stated that MESD has been controlling the water levels over the years.

Mr. Madison stated that it wouldn't have to be a \$20 million project all at once, that over months different items can be purchased to start with the dredging process and Mr. Brandmeyer stated that was correct and asked who would be responsible for and Mr. Madison stated that it sounds like it is IDNR's responsibility and that we would have to work with them to make the project happen. Mr. Brandmeyer stated that if the only solution to flooding concerns was due to dredging Horseshoe Lake that there would be more pressure to get it done. Mr. Brandmeyer stated that he has contacted them over the past two years and never heard anything back.

Mr. Brendel discussed the next MS4 meeting and has stated that they are still conducting audits in the municipalities that do them. Mr. Brendel continued to discuss MS4 audits and their purposes.

Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at 10:15 AM.