

MINUTES
INFRASTRUCTURE REVIEW ADVISORY BOARD
Oak View Library
January 5, 2011 8:30 a.m.

Members and Alternates Present

Mark Cotter, Chad Huwe, Jeff Schmitt, Steve VanBuskirk, Preston Mettler, Matt Carlson, Steve Brockmueller, Myron Adam, Tim Galbraith, Mark Vellinga, Pat Beckman

Members and Alternates Absent

Mike Cooper, Scott Hofer, Bill Kemmis

Others Present

Chad Hanisch, Shannon VerHey, Kurt Peppel, Jeff DesLauriers, Kerry Ellis, Ken Dunlap, Brad Stangohr, Todd Anawski, Doug Hoy, Ben Ronning, Chuck Point, Eric Willadsen, Kim Buell, Cynthia Monnin, Denise Tucker, Jon Brown, Kris Ronning, Jarrod Smart, Paul Fick, Andy Berg

Approval of Minutes of Last Meeting

Meeting minutes of October 6, 2010 meeting were not presented for approval. They will be presented for approval at February 2, 2011 meeting.

Business

Chad Huwe, City Engineer, announced to the group that Betsy Odden was promoted from Technical Clerk to Document Control Clerk and will no longer be serving the board.

a. Sump Pump Collection Systems (Andy Berg)

Andy Berg, Principal Storm Drainage Engineer, provided an overview of the City's Sump Pump Collection System (SPCS) program. The program started in 2005 and requires developers to install collection systems for lots not adjacent to a storm sewer pipe or drainage channel. The City then reimburses the developer for materials installed. To date, the City has reimbursed developers \$937,000. Looking at the 2010 sewer, water, and sump pump permits issued, approximately 10% were for connection to a SPCS, which equated to 35 connections in 2010. Since 2005, the City has spent \$337,000 on installation of SPCS in established neighborhoods where sump pump water is a nuisance. To date, 95 connections have been made to these retrofit systems. This equates to \$3,550 per connection. The City is asking for an ordinance change to require mandatory connection of all new homes to the SPCS, where available. The current ordinances allow for the City to require connection to the SPCS for a nuisance pumper. This would continue as-is moving forward.

Chad Huwe mentioned the amount of money spent on retrofits seems low. Andy Berg responded that from 2006-2009, the budget was \$100,000 per year. In addition, the full budget was not spent because the funds were used to reimburse developers. In 2010, \$150,000 was spent on retrofit projects.

Chad also asked how many existing petitions exist for retrofits. Kerry Ellis, a Civil Engineer on the Storm Drain team, said they have received 10 or 11 neighborhood petitions.

Cindy Monnin questioned how the retrofit information relates to the money spent on a new hook up. The issue now is enforcing the new homeowner to hook up to the SPCS. Cindy also mentioned there is a current city ordinance requiring a homeowner who has a septic system and lives within 300 feet of a sanitary sewer system to hook up. She questioned how well the City enforces that ordinance. Chad Huwe responded fairly well. Andy Berg replied enforcing homeowners to connect is difficult, especially if they are not a nuisance pumper. The cost to retrofit would be a minimum of \$1,000 to hook up an existing house to the SPCS.

Paul Fick argued if the homeowner is not going to pump, why are they being forced to hook up? He said the City should give the builder some credit. Paul mentioned that he requires every home buyer to sign an agreement stating they have been made aware of the SPCS and the City's requirements regarding sump pumps and whether or not they want to hook up to the SPCS.

Chuck Point indicated his company hired a soil engineer that found water changes paths and the water levels can change dramatically in different developments. Enforcing this will be very challenging because reasonable people will resist having their backyard tore up to connect to the SPCS. Chuck Point suggested the City should give the developers a choice. Either install the system now or pay to install it later. If it has to be retrofitted then the developer should pay 100% of the cost.

Preston Mettler asked how many nuisance pumpers were reported that are located in a collection system area that aren't connected. Kerry Ellis replied less than 50%. Kerry explained that after a nuisance pumper is reported, the City normally sends out a letter. If no response is received within a month, a date is then set to have that nuisance pumper hook up. The majority of people do eventually hook up to the system.

Jon Brown questioned what the sump pump connection fee was. Andy replied the amount is \$15.00.

Steve VanBuskirk asked if the City would have more success if the homeowners were shown a shallow bury option in lieu of the recommended standard detail option. The City recommends the homeowner use the standard detail option, but there is no enforcement if the homeowner chooses to use the shallow bury option. Andy responded the success rate would be better if homeowners were allowed to install the pipe off of the Y to the surface and then allowed to insert their hose in the pipe when needing to frequently pump. However, there is a concern with this because if the homeowner lays it flush on the ground with no cap and it rains, the pipe could drain the backyard and inundate the system. Ideally, they should install it 3 to 4 inches above the ground, cap it, and remove the cap when they are pumping. Andy said the City's concern is loss of control. Steve VanBuskirk had asked whether or not the developers could explore the option of not installing a hard connection to the house but install a backyard drain that people could hook up to during the summer.

Jon Brown mentioned another item to consider when installing the sump pump collection systems is that the ground water amount can change considerably.

Chad Huwe questioned what percentage of builder's follow Paul Fick's notification practice to the potential homebuyer about the sump pump connection. Paul replied the only other builder he knows of is the Ronning Company. Paul stated he is proactive and will recommend the homeowner connect to the system if he thinks they need to.

Mark Cotter said it would be helpful if Andy communicated the sump pump survey information to this group at a future date. The reality is the City needs to take the necessary steps to remove future inflow and infiltration off of our drainage system. Some of the comments Mark heard from people that completed the survey had very little knowledge of what the sump pump system should do and where it should be discharged. Andy stated a summary of the survey information could be brought to this group in the future.

Mark Cotter stated there is \$25 million dollars worth of sanity sewer projects scheduled for 2011. In two weeks, there will be a large presentation to discuss the upcoming projects for the next fifteen years.

Andy Berg said he would research what other communities are using and what effects it will have on the shallow bury option versus the open connections returning to the backyard and will bring the results to this group in a future meeting.

Chuck Point requested an update from Andy regarding the status of the regional pond reimbursement. Andy replied there are three options being considered: 1) letting the fund replenish, 2) looking at different funding options, 3) eliminating the program.

An additional option is to change the current state law regarding oversize utilities. Current state law allows a municipality to reimburse a developer for the material cost difference between standard size water or sewer pipe and the size requested by the municipality. State law could be revised to allow for the reimbursement of the costs to construct a regional pond. Mark Cotter stated he brought this issue to the South Dakota Municipal League. He stated the program worked well and shared this information with other public work agencies. He requested a more efficient way of building regional detention ponds. This would mean the state law would need to be changed and get an exception for portions of this. The South Dakota Municipal League seemed receptive of this idea. The Municipal League said it would not be something included in the current legislative session. Chuck would like the City to push this exception forward rather than waiting for the next legislative session and asked Mark Cotter to consider the possibility of discussing this further internally with the City Attorney and Mayor.

Mark said the question to ask is will platting fee revenue come back at a predictable rate, or does it make sense to create a \$6 million dollar bond to build the ponds?

b. 2010 Drainage System Cost Recovery Reimbursement Rates (Andy Berg)

Andy Berg, Principal Storm Drainage Engineer, provided a handout regarding the 2010 Drainage System Cost Recovery Reimbursement Rates. Andy indicated the bid items for pond construction were removed. The rates are based the Engineering News Record Construction Cost Index (CCI), the City's 3-year average weighted bid prices, the Department of Transportation's 2-year average weighted bid prices, and Hanson Pipe's furnished costs. After

review, the recommendation made was to use the Construction Cost Index (CCI) increase along with the Hanson Pipe furnish costs.

Andy Berg asked the group for their input regarding whether or not these rates should be set in the fall of the year. Cindy Monnin requested clarification on the whether the furnished price from Hanson included sales tax. Andy responded he did not know. Andy did state the CCI percentage increase is less than last year.

The reimbursement rates are typically determined for the year in March of that year. The other option is to set the rates in the fall of the year. Steve VanBuskirk asked whether the reimbursements would be made before October or November. Andy said typically not. The majority of reimbursement requests are sent in after the construction season has ended. Mark Cotter asked Andy if the average increase was between 1-1/2 and 3%. Andy replied yes. With the Hanson products included, it puts the percentage increase average about 3%.

Chad asked if the group would like to see a hard copy of these rates before taking action. Andy will furnish hard copies of the 2010 proposed DSCR reimbursement rates and verify whether the furnished prices from Hanson include sales tax. Please note, the 2010 DSCR Reimbursement Rates and a clarification on the sales tax were e-mailed to the IRAB group on January 6, 2011.

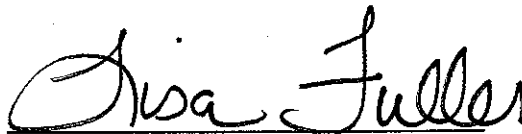
In closing, Chad Huwe stated the IRAB meeting scheduled for January 19, 2011 is cancelled. Tentatively, the meeting on February 2 will be an update on the Regional Waste Water System Study. At the February 16 meeting, Shannon VerHey will give an update on the Subdivision Financial Security.

Board Action:

Action Items

Adjournment

The next IRAB meeting is set for February 2, 2011 at 8:30 a.m., at the Oak View Library. A motion was made by Chad Huwe for adjournment at 9:40 a.m.; the motion was seconded by Jeff Schmitt. Roll call: Yeses- Cotter, Schmitt, VanBuskirk, Carlson, Brockmueller, Galbraith, Vellinga - 7. Noes, none.



Lisa Fuller
Secretary



Chad J. Huwe
City Engineer