

CITY-COUNTY COMMON

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A G E N D A

CITY-COUNTY COMMON MEETING

Tuesday, September 7, 2004 - 8:30 a.m.
County-City Building, Room 113

- I. **MINUTES** - Common Meeting on July 6, 2004

- II. **8:30 a.m.** **STEVENS CREEK WATERSHED PLAN** - Nicole Fleck-Tooze, Public Works Special Projects Administrator; Pat O'Neill, Camp Dresser and McKee, Inc.; Milan Wall, Heartland Center for Leadership Development

- III. **9:15 a.m.** **REVISED FLOODPLAIN MAPPING FOR BEAL SLOUGH, SOUTHEAST UPPER SALT CREEK AND CARDWELL BRANCH** - Nicole Fleck-Tooze, Public Works Special Projects Administrator

- IV. **9:30 a.m.** **OVERVIEW OF INCIDENT COMMAND** - Doug Ahlberg, Lincoln-Lancaster County Emergency Management Director; Eric Plautz, Nebraska Emergency Management Agency

- V. **ADJOURNMENT**

MINUTES
CITY-COUNTY COMMON
Tuesday, September 7, 2004 – 8:30 a.m.
County-City Building, Room 113

County Commissioners Present: Deb Schorr, City-County Common Chair; Bernie Heier, Larry Hudkins, Ray Stevens and Bob Workman

City Council Members Present: Patte Newman, City-County Common Vice Chair; Jon Camp, Ken Svoboda and Terry Werner **Absent:** Jonathan Cook, Glenn Friendt and Annette McRoy

Others Present: Mayor Coleen Seng; Ann Harrell, Mayor's Office; Kerry Eagan and Gwen Thorpe, County Board Office; Nicole Fleck-Tooze and Ben Higgins, Public Works & Utilities; Pat O'Neill, Camp Dresser and McKee, Inc.; Milan Wall, Heartland Center for Leadership Development; Doug Ahlberg and Sandy Ramsey, Emergency Management; Eric Plautz, Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA); Marvin Krout, Planning Department; Doug Pillard, County Engineer's Office; Trish Owen, Deputy County Clerk; Glenn Johnson, Ed Ubben, and Paul Zillig, Lower Platte South Natural Resources District (LPSNRD); Bruce Bohrer, Lincoln Chamber of Commerce; and Cori Beattie, County Board Secretary

MINUTES

Approval of the July 6, 2004, Common meeting minutes was postponed until a quorum was present.

STEVENS CREEK WATERSHED PLAN

Fleck-Tooze of Public Works, O'Neill of Camp Dresser and McKee, Inc., and Wall of the Heartland Center for Leadership Development were in attendance to address the Stevens Creek Watershed Basin Planning Study. The following materials were distributed:

1. Stevens Creek Watershed Basin Planning Study Presentation (**See Exhibit A**)
2. Methods 1 and 2: Regional Stormwater Facilities (**See Exhibit B**)

Fleck-Tooze said the Stevens Creek Watershed Study is a joint project of the City and the LPSNRD, done in cooperation with the County. Watershed basin planning for Lincoln and future growth areas began five years ago. She noted the Master Plans for Beal Slough and the Southeast Upper Salt Creek have been completed with Stevens Creek and Cardwell Branch being the next areas of focus. The goal is to have a unified watershed master plan for Lincoln, including future growth areas, whereby the master plans are considered before development proposals.

(Seng, Camp and Heier arrived at 8:33 a.m.)

With regard to Stevens Creek, Fleck-Tooze said the master plan is intended to develop long-term planning tools and improvement projects to address water quality, flood management, stream stability and guidance for urban growth within the watershed.

O'Neill discussed the major components of the study. He noted the three themes were hydrology and hydraulics, water quality and geomorphology. Hydrology is the study of how rainfall interacts with the surface to produce run off. Hydraulics is the study of how water drains through natural channels (during extreme flood events the water will overtop the banks creating the floodplain). Geomorphology is the study of how streams form and react to change.

O'Neill said all major tributaries and streams in the Stevens Creek Watershed were studied within the last six months. Problems were detected and ways to prevent future erosion are being addressed. Combining the processes above will help keep the natural channel flow in its current condition maintaining stream stability and the physical habitat, as well as sustaining the stream environment.

Study goals included preserving water quality, maintaining long-term stream stability and providing flood management. Objectives included developing updated FEMA floodplain maps and a watershed management plan to address existing problems and manage future urbanization. Projects will be prioritized and construction costs estimated.

The key recommendation resulting from the water quality evaluation was to install structural best management practices (BMPs) to preserve water quality and provide long-term stream stability. Structural BMPs are facilities that slow down runoff and remove pollutants from stormwater. Their primary focus is on smaller rainstorms.

O'Neill cited two alternative implementation methods for structural BMPs - regional stormwater facilities (owned and operated by the City and the NRD) and revised standards for site-specific stormwater facilities (privately owned and operated). The method adopted in the master plan would be applied across the entire 55 square mile watershed. For comparison purposes, O'Neill said only the Tier I growth area was considered in the study.

With regard to regional stormwater facilities, seven were identified. Enhancements to the Sky Ranch NRD pond were also recommended. The estimated total capital cost was \$19.4 million. Funding entities would potentially include the City and the NRD. It was noted the average annual operations/maintenance cost would be \$7,000 per pond ($\$7,000 \times 7 = \$49,000$). A key assumption with regard to this method is that all regional facilities and stream improvements would be constructed in 2004 with costs spread among future years.

In reference to revised standards for site-specific stormwater facilities, current design practices would be integrated with a structural BMP to provide water quality. The current design standards for ponds control 2-year, 10-year and 100-year storms. Water quality storms (those occurring several times per year) would be added, as would the utilization of watershed models during the design of detention ponds. The estimated total capital cost was \$2.1 million. Funding would be through private developers with the average annual operations/maintenance cost to be \$500 per BMP ($\$500 \times 133 = \$66,500$).

O'Neill noted the major difference between the two methods is, if the site-specific stormwater facilities are designed and maintained properly, zero dollars in future stream improvements would be necessary.

Advantages/disadvantages of both methods were discussed. Regional stormwater facilities would incur higher overall costs and projected future stream stabilization improvements. Major advantages of the site-specific stormwater facilities would be lower capital costs and

minimal future stream improvements. Disadvantages are higher operation/maintenance costs for the owning entity. This method would also require additional City staff time.

In reference to the project timeline, O'Neill said it began in May, 2003. The second open house is scheduled for Monday, September 13, 2004. The final report should be issued in February, 2005. He noted the FEMA process is quite lengthy, thus, the actual date the FEMA maps would be adopted is likely Spring, 2006. Seng encouraged everyone to attend next week's open house as the public appreciates elected officials' involvement.

Wall said landowners and developers have been very involved in the process and the public can learn more by attending an open house, subscribing to the project newsletter (currently 700 people on the mailing list) or accessing the website. He added special work sessions have also been scheduled for property owners which will provide an opportunity to meet one-on-one with the engineering and consulting staffs. Stakeholder meetings are planned with developers, environmental groups and those of general interest. A citizen advisory committee has also been meeting on a monthly basis.

Heier questioned whether the impact of Stevens Creek had been assumed in these studies. Fleck-Tooze indicated a whole-scale comprehensive process was done in the beginning which considered any existing or future conditions. She added much of the initial focus was only on the Tier I growth area.

Werner asked whether a bus tour for elected officials would be beneficial. Fleck-Tooze said a tour would provide a better perspective of the basin. She volunteered to organize it.

Hudkins inquired about funding. Fleck-Tooze said funding for capital projects currently comes from two sources - the NRD and general obligation bonds (issued by the City; approved by the voters). She said enabling legislation for stormwater utility is also being pursued. If successful, it would provide a more reliable source of funding in the future. Grant dollars are also continually pursued.

Schorr questioned the next step in the process. Fleck-Tooze said the issue would be revisited by officials next year in the form of a Comprehensive Plan Amendment.

MINUTES

Svoboda moved approval of the minutes from the July 6, 2004, Common meeting; seconded by Heier. Roll call vote: Seng, Camp, Heier, Hudkins, Newman, Schorr, Stevens, Svoboda, Werner and Workman. Nays: None. Motion passed 10-0.

REVISED FLOODPLAIN MAPPING FOR BEAL SLOUGH, SOUTHEAST UPPER SALT CREEK AND CARDWELL BRANCH

An outline for revised floodplain mapping was distributed, along with related maps. **(See Exhibit C.)** Fleck-Tooze and Higgins, both of Public Works, were in attendance.

Fleck-Tooze said the Floodplain Task Force recommended the City and County continue to develop/improve a comprehensive watershed approach to floodplain mapping using the latest technology and data. They also suggested using information from the watershed master plan when moving forward with floodplain mapping.

Fleck-Tooze stated the City entered into an interlocal agreement with FEMA which will provide unique opportunities including having local maps mirror FEMA maps. The community will also be able to maximize funding by combining the resources of the two entities. She added grants in excess of \$400,000 were received from FEMA for floodplain map updates.

Fleck-Tooze briefly highlighted the projects outlined in Exhibit C. She indicated the Southeast Upper Salt Creek and Beal Slough watershed master plans have been adopted and FEMA maps are now being updated. The Cardwell Branch project is in progress and specific recommendations from the Floodplain Task Force have been received for Salt Creek.

Hudkins asked if any specific work will be done with the dikes along Salt Creek. Fleck-Tooze said this is strictly a mapping update which looks at what level of flood protection the levies provide and how it relates to overtopping in the floodplain. It would not look at alternatives for any kind of levy upgrade.

Schorr inquired about other areas in the County which may need to be studied in the future. Fleck-Tooze said future growth areas do not necessarily go one watershed at a time. When the time comes newer areas, as well as some existing urban areas, will need to be reviewed with decisions being based on where there is the most eminent short-term urban growth.

Stevens questioned the length of time between the submission to FEMA and their final approval. Fleck-Tooze said staff was conservative with the estimate as they have no control over FEMA's procedures. She hoped the process would not take as long as predicted.

OVERVIEW OF INCIDENT COMMAND

Ahlberg, Lincoln-Lancaster County Emergency Management Director, and Plautz, Training and Exercise Professional for NEMA, provided an overview of incident command. The following items were distributed:

1. Homeland Security Presidential Directive/HSPD-5 **(See Exhibit D)**
2. Article entitled, "NIMS: The National Incident Management System - It's Not Just ICS" **(See Exhibit E)**

Ahlberg stated in order to be eligible for Office of Domestic Preparedness funding in 2005, agencies must agree to function under the National Incident Management System (NIMS). Previously, the agency had been functioning under the incident command and unified command system. A brief overview of elected official requirements was provided.

Plautz noted NIMS will help to integrate communications systems at the state and local levels. To be in compliance for fiscal year 2005, the basic tenants of the incident command system must be adopted. He said there are six components of command management with the biggest part being incident command. This focuses on communications, interoperability between organizations and accountability. Other components include preparedness (training, planning, exercises, etc.), resource management, communications and information management, supporting technologies and ongoing management and maintenance.

Ahlberg noted federal grant funds were recently used to purchase a new interoperable radio system which will allow various local agencies, such as the Lincoln Fire Department, Lincoln Police Department, Lancaster County Sheriff's Department, etc., to better communicate. He thought the system should be operational by the end of the month. Other counties in the area may also follow suit with regard to system upgrades.

Werner asked if NIMS is about communications or the process of how to do things. Ahlberg said it is a complete package - without adopting the NIMS, local government could not even apply for federal funding in the future. Werner inquired about costs. Ahlberg said federal, not local, dollars were used to purchase the new radio system. Heier said Mr. Ahlberg did a great job keeping the County Board up-to-date on this issue. Seng thanked Ahlberg for his leadership with regard to the communications project.

Plautz said basic incident command training was provided this Spring to over 300 responders. He commended Ahlberg for his role in having Lancaster County well ahead of other jurisdictions with regard to domestic preparedness.

OTHER BUSINESS

Werner questioned the status of the County-City Building parking garage security. Hudkins said he was informed by Don Killeen, County Property Manager, that implementation has been delayed until October 1st.

Workman said business owners along the north side of Cornhusker Highway from 35th to 40th Streets are concerned with the lack of median cuts. He felt there should be better access as vehicles are dangerously going the wrong way on Cornhusker to get where they need to go. Seng said she would talk to Allan Abbott, Public Works Director, about the concern. Schorr suggested an update at the next Common meeting.

Camp said he delayed an agenda item on tax increment financing until next month. He would like to discuss how the real outcome is effecting various taxing entities.

Schorr reminded viewers that a special election will be held on Tuesday, September 14, 2004 and encouraged everyone to exercise their right to vote. She also noted the next Common meeting will be on Monday, October 4, 2004 at 8:30 a.m., at the County-City Building, Room 113.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

Submitted by,



Cori R. Beattie
County Board Secretary