

MEETING RECORD

NAME OF GROUP: PLANNING COMMISSION

DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING: Wednesday, November 7, 2007, 2:25 p.m., City Council Chambers, First Floor, County-City Building, 555 S. 10th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Leirion Gaylor-Baird, Gene Carroll, Michael Cornelius, Dick Esseks, Wendy Francis, Roger Larson, Robert Moline and Lynn Sunderman; (Tommy Taylor absent).

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Nicole Fleck-Tooze and Devin Biesecker of Public Works Watershed Management; Paul Zillig of Lower Platte South Natural Resources District and Pat O'Neal of CDM.

STATED PURPOSE OF MEETING: **Deadmans Run Watershed Master Plan**

Devin Biesecker stated that there are some unique circumstances that had to be looked at with regard to Deadmans Run. CDM out of Kansas City was the engineering consulting team. The watershed management master planning process is a joint effort between the Watershed Management Department and the Lower Platte South Natural Resources District. Four watershed master plans have now been completed. Two master plans are ongoing. Little Salt Creek Master Plan was just started. There were several components to this master plan. There was public involvement. New mapping was looked at along with stream stability. Some water quality was looked at. Several capital improvement projects were identified. The lower portion of the watershed dumps into Salt Creek around 27th and Cornhusker Hwy. The upper portion is around 70th and "A" St. The final open house is tonight. There were newsletters, a web page, a citizen advisory committee along with information sessions. Stakeholder meetings with adjacent land holders were also held. The floodplain map was updated recently in 1997. Staff felt the need to update the master planning again as the topographic data is much better than it was in 1997. The computer models are also a little different today. There is a total of 982 structures in the floodplain today.

Pat O'Neal with CDM was the project manager. He stated that the focus was flood control projects. Stream stability and water quality was also integrated. There are 13 projects that make up the CIP. Project 13 was added just recently based upon a comment received from Parks and Recreation. They did a study a few years ago in Herberts Park that showed some stream work was needed.

Projects one through four have a lot of stream instability problems. In many situations, they are trying to widen and improve the channel. Some vertical walls will be built. In other areas they will be widening the creek. More natural components will be integrated.

Projects five through six have a flow control and flow reduction problems. As floodwaters rise in the channel, the water would cascade over the channel into the first cell. As the water continues to rise, it would cascade into a second cell. The two cells would work together to store water. These facilities have been constructed across the country. The second storage cell could be used for recreational uses as it would only be filled during a ten year flood event.

Project six is a recommended dry detention facility. There is a large parcel of land in Taylor Park. It would entail an earthen berm. Some high ground would be excavated.

Project seven is a local flood control project. There is an area near East High School where some homes are getting drainage in their back yards. They are recommending a three or four foot high earthen berm. It would keep the flow directed more towards Deadmans Run.

Projects eight through thirteen are more water quality focused. They have introduced projects to improve the runoff before it reaches the Deadmans Run channel. Best management practices will be used. There is extended wet detention and extended dry detention. They have looked at retrofitting existing ponds and installing new ponds. These facilities are best equipped to improve water quality. More natural vegetation will be introduced. Sediment forebays will trap some of the sediment.

Project twelve is a hydrodynamic separator. This would be placed underground. It would trap debris and would have to be cleaned out one or twice a year.

The estimated cost for all projects is \$49.6 million.

Larson questioned project one and how it would impact existing buildings. O'Neal replied that they believe they can accomplish this without impacting existing buildings.

Larson questioned how quickly the detention in parks is drained. O'Neal replied that they tend to drain within 48 to 72 hours.

O'Neal stated that there are 982 homes in the floodplain. That is significant. With these improvements, there is a large amount of floodplain that is removed from the area. A fair amount of time was spent looking at the economic feasibility. Physical damages and loss of function were looked at. The benefit cost ratio was close to one. He believes they would be over one if they did a detailed cost analysis. Typically on projects this size, you try to tap into federal funds.

Larson still sees a lot of homes in the floodplain in the North 27th St. shopping area. Paul Zillig noted that a lot of that is due to Salt Creek. O'Neal stated that the probability of having a flood event on Salt Creek and Deadmans Run at the same time would be slim.

Nicole Fleck-Tooze noted that a study regarding flooding on Salt Creek is just being started. That is a much larger area.

O'Neal stated that their final report will be presented to the NRD Board on December 18, 2007. The report will be presented to Planning Commission in January, 2008, and to the City Council and County Board around January or February of 2008.

Esseks stated that so far there are three watershed plans completed. It seems it would be easier to sell funding to the federal government and the community if there was some evaluation as to how effective these plans have been so far. Is there any evidence that the flooding projections are true? Fleck-Tooze noted that each master plan is very different. This is the first master plan for a fully urbanized watershed. It is completely different than a future urban area.

Larson questioned what happens after the local authorities approve this. Biesecker replied that there have been discussions with the federal government. They do not see anything that would prevent the city from applying for federal funding. The prior master plans were on a much smaller scale than what is in Deadmans Run.

Fleck-Tooze thinks the important thing to remember is this gives us a basis to identify funding sources. They will work on a partnership with the NRD. Having this adopted is the first step.

The meeting concluded at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Teresa McKinstry
Planning Department