

# CITY UTILITIES

200 E Berry Street, Suite 270  
Fort Wayne, IN 46802



## UTILITY ADVISORY GROUP MEETING – Meeting Notes

Wednesday, September 6, 2017 – 5:30 p.m.

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 PM by Rod Vargo.

### Attending

Rod Vargo, Northwest Area Partnership  
Pone Vongphachanh, Upstate Association of Realtors  
Bryan McMillan, Southwest Area Partnership  
Beulah Matzak, Southwest Area Partnership  
Justin Brugger, Deputy Director for Finance, Controller and Chief Financial Officer, City Utilities  
Ashley Faurote, Economic Analyst, City Utilities  
Anne Marie Smrchek, P.E., Manager of Sewer & Stormwater Engineering, City Utilities  
Mike Kiester, City Utilities Engineering  
TJ Short, P.E., City Utilities Engineering  
Todd Webster, CH2MHill  
Manfred Lechner, Project Manager, Salini Impregilo  
Claudio Cimiotti, Construction Manager, Salini Impregilo  
Frank Suarez, Public Information Officer, Fort Wayne City Utilities and Public Works  
Mary Jane Slaton, Program Manager, City Utilities

### City Utilities Financial Update, Strategic Plan, Annual Report

Justin Brugger thanked the UAG members who were interviewed by Springsted Inc. as part of development of the City Utilities' strategic plan and he distributed copies of the plan. While Springsted compiled the plan and was compensated for the work, the document was designed and printed in-house by Ashley Faurote.

Justin also distributed copies of the just-published City Utilities' Annual Report for 2016. The report was compiled by CU staff members with design and layout by Ashley and annual reports will become a regular publication by City Utilities. City Utilities will have 300 copies professionally printed for distribution to largest customers, elected officials, stakeholders and the report will be available on the City Utilities' website. UAG members were asked for general feedback that could be used in planning next year's annual report.

Justin explained that City Utilities will be looking to adjust water rates early in 2018. The adjustment is needed to continue to cover increasing costs and the need to maintain, repair and replace aging infrastructure at a time when overall water use, especially use by residential customers, is dropping. City Utilities has prioritized seeking large water users as part of a growth and economic development strategy for the community in hopes of beginning to drive water use back up. There was discussion about how receptive CU customers may be to a water rate increase proposal.



City Utilities is currently working on updates to non-recurring rates and charges, which were last adjusted in 1997. These are rates charged in the water and sewer utility for things such as installation of taps, service calls to customer properties, meter testing, and trips by utility crews for things such as shutting off or turning on water service. The proposed changes are based on analysis of each process for which a charge is imposed including the equipment, staff resources and materials involved in each. The non-recurring rates and charges must be reviewed and approved by the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC) before they are implemented.

### **Stormwater Utility Update**

Anne Marie Smrcek, P.E., Manager of Sewer & Stormwater Engineering, provided an update on recent heavy rains and stormwater projects that are currently in design.

The rain event on August 29 caused localized flooding. The event was worse in northeast and southwest Fort Wayne with lots in the Spy Run basin.

- Mayhew Road – 3.75” of rain in 3 hours – this was a 100 year event
- Lima Road – 3” in 3 hours
- Downtown 1.5” in 3 hours

There were some reports of basement back-ups. Improvement projects on the Spy Run including work in Interstate Industrial Park appear to have kept the creek within its banks and lowered flood elevations in the industrial park. CU stormwater staff has been visiting some area ditches and drains with staff from the Allen County Surveyor’s office to identify clean-out and maintenance projects that would have mutual benefit and could be accomplished jointly.

Projects in design:

- Hessen Cassel from McKinney to Paulding – currently selecting a design consultant; will address standing water in side ditches and add sidewalks; expect to bid in 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2018
- Aboite Meadows neighborhood – design underway; expect to bid early in 2018; after drainage work Public Works division will be doing concrete street rehab
- Lawrence Drain phase 2 – several homes purchased and demolished; voluntary buy-outs only; project will involve channel improvements; will be working with Meijer store to increase storage in their detention area; construction expected this winter
- Bullerman Drain – many localized drainage complaints but also issues with the stream as a whole; design work will include modeling flows in the entire Bullerman watershed
- Maplewood Park – an issue that has been on the books for a while; ready to bid
- Storm Utility will follow the model of Public Works and will be putting together “spot repair” packages to bid – could include several small projects in one bid package; NE package will be first
- Working with Public Works on drainage issues in Pine Valley – need to address drainage to clear the way for street repairs
- CU working with PW on Dupont Road widening – project to be bid by area south of Oxford and east of Hessen Cassel Road – design will begin in summer 2017 and will include storm sewers, ditches, regional detention and sidewalks
- Hessen Cassel area west of Hessen Cassel Road – construction will begin this year
- Ardmore at Airport Expressway – TIF funding will help pay for this project

Anne Marie stressed that drainage issues and concerns should be reported to 311 and asked UAG members to remind their Partnerships and neighborhoods to use 311.

In response to a question about how increased funding in Public Works for sidewalk and alley projects will impact the allocation of resources in the stormwater utility, Anne Marie explained that all PW project plans are routed to City Utilities for review. While some PW projects may need drainage work, some may not – depending on the neighborhood. With the slight increase in revenue being generated by the increase in stormwater fees, CU should be able to accommodate any increased work without having to de-fund larger stormwater management projects such as those listed above. Anne Marie and Frank Suarez also stressed that City Utilities and Public Works coordinate closely so that drainage concerns in areas where Public Works projects are being planned can be addressed either ahead of time or as part of the project to avoid having City Utilities come through with a project after a street has been improved.

Mike Kiester and Anne Marie observed that the bidding “environment” has been changing. Contractors are at capacity and as a result bids are coming in higher. As a result of good planning, City Utilities was able to bid lots of work when the environment was more competitive. The amount of work CU is bidding now is down slightly.

### **Water Use Trends**

CU Economic Analyst Ashley Faurote presented information showing that from 2002 – 2016, average residential water use in Fort Wayne declined by 33%. The reduction is a national trend and is due to a conservation mindset and also to the design, manufacture and distribution of increasingly water efficient appliances and fixtures such as front load clothes washing machines, low-flow toilets and low-flow showerheads. The paradox is that while water consumption is decreasing, fixed costs to operate and maintain public water treatment and distribution systems continue to increase as a result of increased regulatory requirements, the need to rehab or replace aging infrastructure and increases in chemical and power costs such as the current rate increase being proposed by I&M.

Suggestions were made that City Utilities could consider encouraging people who are still on wells to connect to the public water system (although in some cases costs to property owners are high if there is no public water main adjacent to their property) and to encourage more customers to install irrigation meters to encourage sale of water for use on lawns.

### **3RPORT/TunnelWorks Program Update**

TJ Short, P.E., introduced Todd Webster with CH2MHILL who will be contract manager, and Manfred Lechner and Claudio Cimiotti, Project Manager and Construction Manager respectively with Salini Impregilo. TJ provided information on construction progress:

- Building demo for the construction site on Galsgow complete
- Electrical service to the site has been upgraded
- A road has been installed and site prep work for muck handling at the east end of the sewage treatment plant property has been done. This will be extremely helpful in reducing truck traffic leaving the construction site by as many as 75,000 trucks during the length of the boring project
- Construction site fencing is in place
- Preparations are being made for digging the working shaft (approx. 65’ in diameter and 240’ deep) and the shaft for the dewatering pump station (about 35’ in diameter) – a subcontractor will be excavating the shafts. Working shaft excavation is expected to be complete in April 2018

- Construction schedules for the drop shafts are being finalized
- The Tunnel Boring Machine has been ordered and will be built – delivery expected in spring
- Most property/easement acquisition has been completed. Negotiations continue with 2 property owners
- The project will employ 30 staff, 150 laborers and will support or create an estimated 4,500 ancillary jobs for designers, suppliers and support industries

### **Departmental and Project Updates**

Mike Kiester, Manager of Engineering Support Services, provided an update on projects that are currently in construction – see attached report

Mary Jane Slaton outlined upcoming outreach and education events including:

- Saturday, Sept. 9 – tours at Filtration Plant
- Sunday, Sept. 10 – informational display at Little River Wetlands pollinator event
- Saturday, Sept. 16 – tours at sewage treatment plant
- Saturday, Sept. 23 – open house at Camp Scott Wetlands
- Tuesday, Oct. 3 – annual stormwater construction site training for developers, engineers, contractors
- Thursday, Oct. 5 – annual outreach event for Honeysuckle water system

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 PM

**Next Meeting: Wednesday, December 6, 2017 at 5:30 PM, Room 255, Citizens Square, 200 E. Berry Street**

(Please contact Karen Salge at 427-5065 or at [karen.salge@cityoffortwayne.org](mailto:karen.salge@cityoffortwayne.org) if you are unable to attend. Thank you!)



## Open Project Report - Utility Advisory Group - September 6, 2017

No.	Project Name	Work Order	Planning Area	% Phase Complete	Bid Date	Project End Date	PM Estimate
1	State & Hobson Area WWMR	66236	Council District 2	90	12/2/2015	10/12/2017	\$2,436,970.00
2	Rudisill/Warsaw Area WWMR	66300	Council District 6	95	4/6/2016	9/27/2017	\$2,193,460.00
3	Coldwater Road Pump Station	66398	NW	90	2/22/2017	12/13/2017	\$692,400.00
4	California Rd Water Main Extension	66484	NW	10	3/29/2017	1/17/2018	\$474,170.00
5	Plant 2 Sludge Collectors	66610	City-Wide	80	2/15/2017	11/22/2017	\$272,000.00
6	Plant 3 Flocculation Improvements Phase 4	66627	City-Wide	100	2/22/2017	9/20/2017	\$347,000.00
					<b>WATER</b>		<b>\$6,416,000.00</b>
1	Junk Ditch / GS Interceptor Force Mains	75820	Council District 4	90	3/2/2016	10/25/2017	\$4,374,744.00
2	Upper Ely Interceptor Phase IV	75940	NW	85	4/27/2016	12/27/2017	\$1,889,350.00
3	Wheelock Road Lift Station (Relief LS for Foxwood)	75960	Council District 1	5	6/7/2017	5/9/2018	\$360,330.00
4	St. Marys Interceptor Manhole Rehabilitation	75988	Council District 4	90	10/12/2016	11/6/2017	\$200,230.20
5	Three Rivers Protection & Overflow Reduction Tunnel (3RPORT)	76003	City-Wide	1	2/16/2017	2/2/2022	\$228,588,112.00
6	Smith Road Lift Station (GS Interceptor Relief)	76037	SW	98	3/30/2016	9/6/2017	\$1,881,177.00
7	St Joe Interceptor - Exposed Pipe Repair	76078	NE	90	2/1/2017	12/6/2017	\$165,000.00
8	CSOCM9 - Outfall 61/62 Relief Sewer	76087	Council District 1	40	1/18/2017	1/9/2019	\$8,024,421.00
9	CSOCM11-E Wayne Pl / South Maumee Relief Sewer	76089	Council District 6	70	3/9/2016	9/27/2017	\$7,265,996.00
10	Glendale LS (Junk Ditch Interceptor Relief)	76102	Council District 5	95	4/20/2016	9/6/2017	\$1,649,260.00
11	Lakeside Sewer Separation - Phase I	76113	Council District 2	60	10/26/2016	12/6/2017	\$4,089,842.00
12	Digester Improvements - #3 and #4 Upgrades	76189	City-Wide	2	3/22/3017	4/30/2019	\$7,634,000.00
13	2016 General Manhole Rehabilitation	76215	Council District 1	90	9/14/2016	9/20/2017	\$136,525.00
14	2016 CIPP Package #1	76223	SE	60	12/14/2016	2/22/2018	\$1,999,500.00
15	Pond 2 & 3 Sweetwater Pump Station	76242	City-Wide	10	5/17/2017	4/25/2018	\$2,999,000.00
16	Pond Fiber Eastern Network Ring Improvements	76283	City-Wide	10	9/13/2017	12/13/2017	\$96,000.00
17	3RPORT Working Shaft Area Site Improvements	76298	City-Wide	85	3/29/2017	9/13/2017	\$1,080,100.00
18	Harrison & Superior Street Consolidation Sewer	76301	Council District 5	30	8/16/2017	7/18/2018	\$2,632,110.00
19	Wet Weather Pond 1 and Pond 2 Gate Improvements	76318	City-Wide	85	1/18/2017	11/15/2017	\$300,000.00
20	Digester Boiler and Heat Exchanger Improvements	76324	City-Wide	55	12/14/2016	1/31/2018	\$1,294,000.00
21	WPCP Secondary Clarifier 6-9 Hydraulic Improvements	76374	City-Wide	20	5/31/2017	11/29/2017	\$146,912.00
22	Wheelock Road Force Main Extension	76386	Council District 1	5	6/21/2017	3/28/2018	\$90,027.50
					<b>SEWER</b>		<b>\$276,896,636.70</b>
1	Saratoga Road Culvert Replacement	83440	Council District 4	90	12/7/2016	10/4/2017	\$102,898.00
2	Wyandotte Drive Storm Improvements	83451	Council District 2	85	9/21/2016	6/14/2017	\$422,729.00
3	Mesa Glen Court Storm Drainage Improvements	83466	Council District 4	90	8/10/2016	7/19/2017	\$70,973.00
4	Hessen Cassel & Crestmont & Commercial Rd Storm Drainage	83510	Council District 6	15	7/12/2017	2/20/2018	\$166,494.11
5	Warsaw Street Storm Drainage Improvements	83517	Council District 6	30	11/2/2016	11/6/2017	\$253,673.66
6	2017 Southwest Storm Drainage Improvements Package	83521	Council District 4	80	7/19/2017	11/29/2017	\$85,758.00
					<b>STORM</b>		<b>\$1,102,525.77</b>
					<b>TOTAL MINUS TUNNEL</b>		<b>\$55,827,050.47</b>