

# **Storm Water Management Advisory Board Minutes**

from meeting held on Tuesday July 16, 2024

**Present:** Nefi M. Garza, Rodolfo Munoz, Suzanne Brennan Scott, Kelsey Ann Krueger, Debbie Reid, Jennifer Ramos, Peter Onofre, Bernardino N. Villasenor, Bianca Maldonado, John Gilbert Hafernick Jr., Luis Alday and Patrice Melancon.

**Absent:** Roger Andrade

**Staff:** Jessica Shirly Saenz, Sabrina Santiago, Saif Al Haddad, and Mario Hune

**In Attendance:** Barbara Wittee-Howell

Minutes from the meeting held on June 18, 2024 were approved.

No citizens were signed to speak.

## **Staff Presentation**

Sabrina Santiago presented the Storm Water Funding information to the Board. The two sources are the Storm Water Utility Fee that provides revenues for the Storm Water Operating Fund and the Storm Water Regional Fund that derives revenues primarily from the Fee In Lue Of (FILO). The Utility Fee is based on the use and impervious cover of a parcel. There is a team that reviews this information. The utility fee is broken into two categories, Residential and Non-Residential. Each category is broken into tiers.

Bianca Maldonado asked if staff could provide the percentage breakdown of the residential users by tier and council district. Sabrina shared that we would do what we can to provide that information and can be shared at the next meeting. She also shared that it may be deceptive for some users as IDZ could be included in Tier 1.

Nefi Garza asked for a breakdown of Residential and Non-Residential impervious cover for the city that can be shared at the next meeting.

Susan Scott shared it would be good to incentivize less impervious cover. SAWS incentivizes reducing irrigation areas to reduce the need for watering and irrigation and this could lead to increased impervious cover. She asked if there were any discussions between the two entities to discuss this contradiction in goals.

Sabrina shared the history of the utility fee prior to 2016 and since that time because of this change.

Sabrina went on to present the information on the Regional Facilities Fund which generates its revenues through the Fee In Lieu Of (FILO) onetime fee. The 2022 Bond will utilize the FILO revenue to increase the capacity of drainage related projects.

Susan asked if the FILO funds used within their respective watersheds. The response was affirmative.

Sabrina provided an example of how Storm Water has tried to partner with developers within a small geographic area to develop a larger project that would benefit the development and impact the

surrounding area. Sometimes this partnership works, but sometimes the funding commitment and need prevent a mutually beneficial agreement for taking place.

Bianca shared the bond projects using FILO funds should be scored and partnered with street or other collaborative projects. There needs to be better collaboration between Storm Water and Streets.

Peter Onofre agreed with this approach.

Sabrina reminded the board that every street project is a drainage project because it will have some type of impact.

Nefi agreed and stated that this may help to leverage projects to able to receive state or federal grant funds.

The Board asked for a list of grant submissions for Storm Water projects.

Saif Al Haddad made the presentation on the Project Selection and Scoring. Shared the staff organization and provided a high-level description of the scope and cost estimating process. He then shared the project ranking criteria, tier structure that is used and the number of current unfunded projects within each of the tiers.

Nefi asked if the future projects can be mapped, by tier, watershed, and district. Saif shared that this would be a lot of information on one map, perhaps we can provide a map of the tier one projects and a list of all projects.

Rodolfo Munoz shared that the scope and number of projects is incredible. There must be a top tier of critical and sever unfunded projects.

At a future meeting Nefi wants to see an example project the board can follow through the process to determine how the scoring works. Saif shared that he supports this exercise for process improvement purposes.

From Nefi for staff to provide the committee: Map of these projects and a list of the criteria including the weight factor for each scoring criteria.

Nefi went to each board member if they had any questions.

Peter Onofre asked when we would discuss the subcommittees. Due to the time availability, this item will be moved to the next meeting for the board to discuss.

John Hafernack did not have any questions.

Bianca Maldonado asked if the projects on the list were shovel ready. Saif shared that all projects on the list need some work based on the revised UDC changes and adoption of ATLAS 14. Some will need more in-depth study, review the proposed scope, and update the cost to the current cost estimating levels.

Susan Scott asked how does staff look at all the projects? Do they use a holistic approach to manage and find solutions? Saif shared that that is correct to maximize the potential benefits and ensure that we do not impact another area. The goal is to correct an issue and not just move it to another area.

Rodolfo Munoz stated that he looks forward to getting deeper dive into the scoring process and financial aspects of funding sources and look at appropriate staff for instance. Suggested that we look to see what other communities do and study their processes. Perhaps lean on the private sector to help with the project selection and development.

Kelsey Krueger asked how does FILO and detention impact the Edwards Recharge Zone? Sabrina answered yes, there are different requirements in the Code regarding impervious cover, TCEQ letters of approval prior to permit approval for water quality as an example.

Jennifer Ramos shared she looked forward to receiving information on the impervious cover and asked how schools and churches are treated. Sabrina shared that churches are tricky as they are usually developed on residentially zoned properties. Public schools are treated as a public entity and charter schools fall under commercial rate.

Debbie Reid asked if watershed projects are looked at holistically to also address small, localized flooding and ponding issues.

Luis Alday shared he looks forward to understanding how COSA is interacting with other committees and cities within the area. Are there opportunities for partnership with those other municipalities? Saif responded that the city does look for opportunities and provided examples.

The Board agreed to continue with the next meeting on August 20, 2024 meeting pending any conflicts with the FY 2025 Budget public meetings and staff availability. The Board asked for a list of projects in the FY 2025 proposed projects.

**Meeting Adjourned 7:40 pm**