



Environmental Quality & Public Works Committee

Virtual Meeting

July 7, 2020

Summary and Motions

Chair Farmer called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m. Committee Members Kay, Moloney, McCurn, Swanson, Evans, Worley, F. Brown, Mossotti, and Bledsoe were present. Council Members Lamb, Reynolds and Plomin were also in attendance as non-voting members.

Farmer began the meeting by providing the following statement: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, state of emergency and Governor Beshear's Executive Orders regarding social distancing, this meeting is being held via teleconference pursuant to Senate Bill 150 (as signed by the Governor on March 30, 2020) and Attorney General Opinion 20-05, and in accordance with KRS 61.826, because it is not feasible to offer a primary physical location for the meeting.

I. Approval of June 2, 2020 Committee Summary

A motion was made by Kay to approve the June 2, 2020 Environmental Quality & Public Works Committee Summary, seconded by Mossotti. The motion passed without dissent.

II. Annual Stormwater Priority List

Greg Lubeck, Deputy Director of Division of Water Quality, began the presentation with a look at the history of the program since 1996, saying it was modified in 2012 because of the Consent Decree. He reviewed the map to illustrate the remaining projects and highlighted the budget for these projects. He spoke about the active stormwater priority projects and said the momentum of projects was derailed due to impacts of COVID-19. Lastly, he explained the project on Ohio and East 3rd Street which presents two alternatives. One alternative is to replace the existing pipe system and construct additional inlets. The second alternative would mean construction of a new storm sewer to divert flow and the pipe would connect to an upsized pipe at 3rd Street and Elm Tree Lane.

Swanson asked for a response to an issue in the Goodrich area where greenspace is taking a while to drain causing standing water for multiple days. Lubeck said having plants established will help, but that might take 2 or 3 seasons so we need to keep an eye on it. Swanson spoke about new construction in the Wolf Run area off South Broadway and asked if work is being done in the prevention area or if work is only being done to address existing problems. Lubeck said they work with Division of Engineering as the development goes through its review. He said right now, one impact is the vegetative buffer and we are trying to figure out how to preserve things like this.

Moloney spoke about the MPO widening project to expand Winchester Road to four lanes and he asked if we are working with the state in connection with this widening project. Lubeck said he is not aware of the widening project, but they will look into it to see if something needs to be done.

With regard to the Ohio and Third Street project, Farmer asked how the decision is made between the two options. Lubeck said alternative one appears to be the best option because it is in the street which we own and with alternative two, easement would have to be purchased.

Charlie Martin, Director of Division of Water Quality, continued the presentation with a review of the

Commonwealth Environmental Projects (CEP) requirements including flood prone areas; methodology for identifying flood abatement capital projects; Water Quality Management Fee; and the cost for investigation, analysis, and report. Martin said CEP did not require us to spend \$30M on priority flooding projects in 10 years, but that was the goal set in 2008 and adopted in 2011. He said we have met the requirements for the 10 year period and spent \$19.5M so it can be closed out. He emphasized that, although the CEP can be closed out, capital construction for priority flooding will continue until the priority list no longer exists.

No further comment or action was taken on this item.

III. Division of Water Quality Projects Update

Charlie Martin, Director of Division of Water Quality, provided a presentation on the status of Division of Water Quality projects. He spoke about the UK Trunk Sewer Project on Euclid Avenue as well as Bolivar Street, South Upper Street, Winslow Street, and Avenue of Champions. He said businesses have been cooperative and they expect to finish by Labor Day weekend. He provided an update on the Manchester-Willard Project and said this is complete with the exception of resurfacing that will take place in conjunction with Town Branch Commons work in that area. He spoke about the Overbrook Project which includes 7 individual projects and he explained the estimated costs and the completion schedule for that project. He concluded with a status update on the Consent Decree Remedial Measures Plan (RMP) and said there are 117 total projects with 57 projects complete or under construction.

Moloney asked if choosing the second option for the Overbrook Project would provide an opportunity to save money and if the other option would eliminate pump stations. Martin said going the other way would mean upgrading the pump stations as opposed to eliminating them. Moloney asked if we are looking at a rate increase since we have not had one in a while. Martin said there have been no discussions of rate increases in 2020. He said Kentucky Infrastructure Authority (KIA) has extended the opportunity for a loan for a portion of the Overbrook system.

Swanson spoke about the impressiveness of the Euclid (UK Trunk Sewer) project which is a silver lining to come out of COVID-19, but he expressed concern about the businesses on Euclid that are just opening. He spoke about previous conversations regarding the rental of parking spaces as an option to replace off- street parking and he asked if this is still possible. Martin said he understands that this is an inopportune time for businesses to reopen when street work is being done. He said he is happy to discuss this to determine what options there are for making this a smoother landing for those businesses.

Plomin asked what the positive and negative impacts of the Overbrook Project would be to the Hartland area. Martin said the original Consent Decree was for this to pump directly to West Hickman and go through Overbrook, but those owners objected. He explained the “pump around” and he detailed the pipeline connection which includes streets in the Hartland area. He said the impact of this would be the traffic around Kroger on Hartland Parkway.

Several councilmembers expressed appreciation for the timeliness in the completion of projects as well as responsiveness to concerns.

Kay asked for a clarification on what the deadline means (completion of design or completion of projects). Martin explained that with the 2026 deadline, it means everything would be done and

construction would be complete. With regard to rate increases, Kay questioned if we have been paying as we go or if we have been bonding/borrowing so that when we get to 2026 and projects are complete we will still have a financial obligation for those projects. Martin said he is not sure and he could only speculate. Farmer asked if we have borrowed from KIA and Martin confirmed that we have borrowed close to \$140M over a period of time and most of those are 20-year notes. Farmer illustrated that this is a long “bell curve” that goes up and down, but we are going to have to pay off all of the debt service for completion of these projects. Kay said it might be helpful to remind committee what the fees imposed have covered, what has been borrowed, and what the obligation will be beyond the completion of these projects. He requested someone from Finance at the next committee meeting to provide an explanation.

No further comment or action was taken on this item.

IV. Recycling Center Update

Nancy Albright, Commissioner of Environmental Quality & Public Works, provided an update on the Recycling Center which includes maintenance challenges, market changes, current status of operations, and continued progress. She spoke about multiple closures of the facility due to hazardous materials. Those materials were diverted to the landfill to protect employees and direct tracing was conducted and found the source business for educational outreach. She spoke about scheduled maintenance which included the replacement of the main conveyor belt, replacement of a portion of the fire sprinkler, and installation of a permanent water line. She explained one of the maintenance challenges was the replacement of a broken shaft of the material sorting conveyor. She said multiple parts were needed which resulted in closure of the facility for three weeks. She highlighted that with the pandemic, there is more demand for recycled paper. She spoke about the yellow paper bins and said this is much cleaner and we receive about \$50 per ton for this paper. She emphasized that the recycling center is now open for business and there are multiple drop-off locations which are monitored and collected regularly. She spoke about the continuing progress which includes issuing a bid for a new optical sorter. She said there is work being done on a larger bid package for additional improvements and more reliable processing.

F. Brown asked if the checklist of improvements provided by the Recycling Subcommittee has been addressed. Albright confirmed that there has been a lot of progress and she said one of the charges was to restore paper collection curbside and the next bid package should help us get there. F. Brown asked about volume in the last two to three months as far as pick-up. Albright said it increased, but not significantly. She said there was adequate staffing and availability to keep everything moving. F. Brown asked how safety measures are handled at the Recycling Center with COVID-19. Albright said they wear masks, gloves, and protective eyewear. She also emphasized that on the sorting line, there are markings to indicate 6-foot distancing.

Moloney spoke about the zero-waste facility in Sevierville, TN which puts all waste collected is mixed and turned into compost for mulch. He said landscaping is important to Lexington and this is something we should look into. He also expressed concern with hiring temporary employees at the recycling facility because of liability issues.

Farmer asked about the size of Sevierville compared to Lexington. Albright said there is about a third to half difference in the tonnage of materials. She said they do still have to divert things to the landfill, but it is a lower percentage.

No further comment or action was taken on this item.

V. Review of Hardware/Software for Route and Trip Optimization

Christina Baker, Legislative Aide to CM Bledsoe, began the presentation with a history of the current routing software. She said the original RFP for routing software was issued in 2008 and we have been using a sole source provider, *Routeware*, for last 12 years. She explained the purpose of this software which is to provide GPS tracking for the divisions of Streets and Roads, Water Quality, and Waste Management. She said routing software also tracks maintenance and repair logs for each vehicle. She said some companies are beginning to use dashboard cameras to capture additional data such as garbage cans or leaves not left at the curb which could potentially help with calls that come in regarding missed pick-ups. She said the waste management trucks drive over the majority of our roads every week so future technologies might include dash-cams and GPS to capture pothole locations or monitor sub-surface road conditions. Bledsoe added that having the technology in place to compare and track potholes or curb conditions would give us information and provide value without the cost of a contractor or a curb analysis. She said she would like to issue an RFI to see what technology is available so we can make sure we are getting the best option for our money.

Moloney spoke about the *Routeware* item on the docket today and he asked if the intent is to make *Routeware* uniform across divisions. Albright said they have all been using *Routeware* for the last few years and the item on the docket would be to update the equipment and software. Bledsoe said the intent is to continue with the \$40,000 expenditure on today's docket, but would stop further amendments or additional money spent until we open the RFI.

Lamb said there are a lot of things that can come out of this including cost savings for the government. She said we can expand our thinking beyond this presentation and think about the way contiguous routes could provide even more cost savings.

Bledsoe requested the administration to have an open RFI or an RFP for routing software. Hamilton pointed out that one thing to consider with "sole source" is that there are times when you get used to using the same thing and it becomes "sole source". She said things change and there are a couple of things we need to look at to determine if there is something better out there. Todd Slatin, Director of Purchasing, added that there is no set timeline for an RFI so we can search for potential options and have responses in next 6 weeks and Hamilton confirmed this can be done over break. Slatin said when speaking about sole source it is important to consider that with technology-heavy investments, sometimes you have to utilize it for several years to get your monies worth. He said it is also important to watch the market so you know when it is time to start searching for another source. Bledsoe said information can be gathered over break for a presentation this fall to show what our options are.

No further comment or action was taken on this item.

VI. Items Referred to Committee

No further comment or action was taken on this item.

A motion was made by Bledsoe to adjourn, seconded by F. Brown. The motion passed without dissent. The meeting was adjourned at 2:42 p.m.