



Environmental Quality & Public Works Committee

November 19, 2019

Summary and Motions

Chair Farmer called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. Committee Members Steve Kay, Richard Moloney, Josh McCurn, Jake Gibbs, Angela Evans, Preston Worley, F. Brown, Jennifer Mossotti, and Amanda Bledsoe were present. Council Members James Brown, Jennifer Reynolds, and Kathy Plomin were also in attendance as non-voting members.

I. Approval of October 22, 2019 Committee Summary

A motion was made by F. Brown to approve the October 22, 2019 Environmental Quality & Public Works Committee Summary, seconded by McCurn. The motion passed without dissent.

II. Snow/Ice Removal Plan

Nancy Albright, Commissioner of Environmental Quality and Public Works, presented the snow/ice removal plan for this coming winter. She provided a snow season expense comparison for years 2018 and 2019 and she explained the salt supply, highlighting how much we currently have on hand and what the salt storage capacity is for the facilities at Old Frankfort Pike and Brannon Road.

She provided a map which illustrated the route rankings throughout Lexington and she explained the three different service levels which define the snow storm and how the city responds to that. She spoke about changes made for this season, which include pre-wetting the salt which will make it work faster and she said the new salt barn is another major change. She explained improvements to the snow plow tracker for more widespread sharing of information. She emphasized how roads and sidewalks are prioritized and provided the link to the snow plow tracker. She concluded by saying that the snow and ice control plan is currently on the web site.

CM Bledsoe commented that she appreciates making this visible on the web site because it is helpful for people to know which streets have been cleared.

Albright provided a slide show of photos from the new salt barn ribbon cutting and spoke about the benefits for this new facility. CM Moloney spoke about his excitement for the salt barn and said it will be a tremendous help on the south and west end. He expressed appreciation for the administration and staff for making this happen.

Albright presented a slide show highlighting the Truck-A-Palooza event held this past Saturday. She said despite the cold weather, there were 800 to 1,000 attendees and there was a great amount of employee engagement with the attendees.

McCurn commented on the event and expressed appreciation to staff who worked on this event. Bledsoe spoke about the appeal this event has for children and the excitement they get being able to have this experience. She said this may seem like a silly workforce development issue, but it allows kids to see all of the different things they can do in working for the city and she appreciates the work put into this.

No further comment or action was taken on this item.

III. MS4 Update / Stormwater Survey

Jennifer Carey, Water Quality Section Manager, provided some background to the Municipal Separated Storm Sewer System (MS4). She said in order to implement permit requirements related to public education and outreach and the participation elements of the permit, the Division of Water Quality works closely with Public Information and Engagement in the Division of Environmental Services. She said Angela (Poe) and her team took the lead in procuring the firm who conducted the survey and the information that we learned will help with the message development and outreach activities over the next few years related to storm water and water quality. Angela Poe, Program Manager for Environmental Services, reviewed the results from the recent survey and what was learned about our citizens' knowledge about stormwater. She spoke about the firm that was used, the cost involved and the requirements to participate. She reviewed the survey topics which include general knowledge, campaign planning, dog waste, lawn care, and car care. She provided a comparison of previous surveys which explained where we are now as opposed to where we have been in previous years. She spoke about the 4 different focus groups used to better build campaigns and get the message out.

CM Mossotti asked what the plan is moving forward and Poe said there are 2 contracts in place for mass marketing around stormwater and both of those are with Wiser. She said one is a creative contract for \$60,000 to develop the first round of new ads on these topics and another was for \$120,000 to purchase mass marketing ads that relate to the topic. She said this year we are focusing on lawncare messaging and fertilizing messages which are the ads that will be developed. Mossotti asked if the lawncare companies are receptive and Poe said it is more about the residents. She said it is important for those residents who use lawncare companies to ask questions and make sure that the companies are being environmentally responsible. Mossotti spoke about her personal concerns regarding chemicals from lawn care that go into the streams.

Plomin asked when the public education campaign started and Carey said it was around 2009. Plomin asked how long the contract with Wiser has lasted because she feels the messaging is very effective. Poe explained that they bid out the mass marketing portion two and a half years ago and it was awarded to another firm, but this past summer it was bid out again and Wiser was awarded the contract.

CM Gibbs expressed appreciation for information, especially pertaining to lawn care. He asked if there are Home Owners Associations that require households to take care of their lawns. Poe said she is not aware of any. Gibbs said this might be a place to start since they already have standards and guidelines in place for aesthetics.

CM Evans asked what the main messages trying be relayed through these survey questions would be. Poe explained that the top four messages would be to apply the proper amount of fertilizer, use fertilizer without phosphorus, apply fertilizer at the correct time of year, and keep grass clippings and leaves out of the streets.

Farmer asked if they spent \$120,000 just this year. Poe said \$120,000 is used to buy ads and \$60,000 to create new ads; and this is just the mass marketing piece. She explained how extensive the marketing campaign is beyond the mass marketing piece, including outreach and education.

No further comment or action was taken on this item.

IV. Division of Water Quality Projects Update

Charlie Martin, Director of the Division of Water Quality, began his presentation by speaking about the connection between the previous presentation and the consent decree. He said the engagement with our citizens has been critical to our success. He said we went from a community that was being sued for failing to have a successful stormwater program to winning two national awards last year. He said the citizens are big part of that because we can't do this by ourselves.

Martin explained that there are two lists; the first is the standard projects and the second is the incentive grant projects. He said the incentive grant projects feed into what was discussed in the previous presentation and the watershed projects are big players in many of our grants. He spoke about stream restoration and rain gardens and how they contribute to the goal of changing endstream water quality.

Farmer asked about the \$323,000 in projects that are complete, \$3.1 million that is encumbered, and \$1.475 million to be completed in the next 6 months and said that is a lot of projects. Martin explained the water quality management fee and requirements under the ordinance to spend 10% of annual revenue to devote to this. He said when we created the water quality management fee, we created the grant program in lieu of a credit program that other communities had done. He said this would be a more effective way to effect the change we wanted to effect which was to provide seed money for folks to do a right thing or a better thing and have a return on their investment.

CM F. Brown asked if we are funding the incentive grants with our accounts 100% and Martin said that is taken from fund 4051, the water quality management fee. F. Brown commented that it appears to be \$5 million in projects and asked if that was 10% and Martin said it was spread over multiple fiscal years. F. Brown asked if it was 10% per year and if so, what that number would be. Martin said it would be roughly \$1.4-1.5 million per year, but that does not include roll back money which rolls into the next year if not used.

Martin continued the presentation focusing on regular projects and consent decree projects and said several projects finished in the last 6 months and most of those were stormwater projects. He said we put this list together to show who we are working with in addition to how much we are spending and these are done by contract. He spoke the first project which is the old Lexington Mall property. He said in 1999, you could have a half inch of rain and cause overflows to that parking lot. He said on Halloween we had 1.4 inches of rain with no overflows at that location. He continued review other projects on the list and upcoming projects.

Farmer asked what is being done physically to eliminate the pump stations. Martin said new pipe networks have been put in place and there is a new pump that is almost complete close to Newtown Pike and we are waiting for the downstream pump station to be complete and able to accept sewage. He said then we can take the 4 pump stations and tie them into this network and get rid of them in those 4 locations. He said essentially we are replacing 4 out-dated pump stations with one state-of-the-art facility. He said the way we have been delivering projects with the consent decree sanitary sewer projects in the past has been to work off an indefinite service contract with 26 engineering firms that are working for us. He said it has worked well up to this point but as we get close to the end of the consent decree, we are switching back to where we will have a single group of firms working one single watershed. He said the hydrolic and physical relationship between these pipelines keeps changing firms

every time you move further up the hill and it creates scheduling problems so its not the best way to deliver.

F. Brown said there are several projects with deadlines of December 2018 and asked what the status of those would be as well as those with a December 2019 deadline. Martin explained these projects will not qualify as complete until the final bill has been paid. He added that there is a requirement to report to the EPA quarterly. F. Brown asked when the next update would occur and Martin said it would be available at the next committee meeting and the link to the quarterly report can be provided to Council because that would show the projects that are truly late because the EPA only cares that we are preventing overflows. F. Brown commented on the East Hickman and West Hickman projects with the December 2019 deadline and asked if those are coming along. Martin said the East Hickman pump station will probably not be complete until April, 2020 and we are working with the EPA on that extension. F. Brown asked the Trunk D project and Martin said that should be complete by early next year.

Farmer spoke about the confidence implied that we will meet our goal in six years. Martin said with all of the weather challenges, we are still on course to deliver by December 31, 2026. He explained how the world has changed a lot since this list was first put together so these priorities might change between now and December 31, 2026. Farmer emphasized the importance of spending tax payers' money as wisely as possible and as inexpensively as possible.

No further comment or action was taken on this item.

V. Items Referred to Committee

No comment or action was taken on this item.

A motion was made by F. Brown to adjourn, seconded by Kay. The motion passed without dissent.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:22 p.m.

KT 1.16.2019