



## **2A Stormwater Advisory Committee (SAC) Meeting** **Minutes**

**2-4 p.m., February 15, 2024**

**Location: 401 Large and Teams**

Quorum was not reached, so meeting was held for informational purposes only and without any votes taken. Attendees included Sam Acosta, Douglas Conlon, Richard Mulledy, Tim Biolchini, City Councilors Dave Donelson and David Leinweber, Maren McDowell, Gayle Sturdivant, and Christina Aragon.

Stormwater Enterprise Division Manager Richard Mulledy provided the financial overview and update. He provided a review of the operating budget for the year, explaining budget plus rollover. He also discussed what comprises each budget category and explained the number of channel inspections. Discussed how SWENT sets goals and surpasses requirement and production goals.

Stormwater projects manager Tim Biolchini talked about how we SWENT undertake channel inspections and fulfills FEMA requirements to inspect 100 percent of our channels every year. He also discussed Stormwater Capital Improvements/consent decree reserve and how/why money gets moved into that account. Tim explained more about the upcoming consent decree channel improvements that will be needed soon and how SWENT has been saving \$10.5M for that work. All the capital budget is designated to be spent.

Richard Mulledy then provided the quarterly billing overview. SWENT has collected 96% of what we billed through 2023, and the rest will be captured through liens against homes. Over a 24-month period, we run about 99.7% collected rate. Increased revenues are a result of the rate increase and city growth.

Richard discussed "Phase 5" as we work with Utilities to figure out how to bill properties that do not have active CSU services. We are close to being 100% billed through CSU, which is our goal (plus SWENT can use the CSU customer service center for billing concerns). Phase five is the final phase; it provides a service point with a unique identifier to determine total charge per property. Discussed the cost of the phases with CSU, up to roughly \$1M. Phase 5 will be about \$400k to implement.

Richard and Tim provided a current and future projects discussion, including Envisioning Fountain Creek effort and funding status.

COS Creek Vision: Restore Monument and Fountain Creek from GOG to Nevada (slide deck included with these minutes). They provided status- currently asking federal sources for \$3M to do a feasibility study. Discussion followed of how the project came to be, and discussion of how the city grew up around the infrastructure, as well as what is needed in the future. They also discussed federal involvement and history.

Discussion of how funding could potentially be allocated since total funding would be over a \$1B. Probably 40-year period coming from multiple funding sources.

Councilors Donelson and Leinweber expressed a desire for in-depth waterway cleanup statistics by the Stormwater Enterprise as they relate to the homeless population. Richard provided the following:

Trash and debris are removed through multiple avenues:

1. Ops/Keep it Clean (channels, debris pickup, trash pickup)
2. Vac operations (about 10k per year)
3. Street sweeping (minor litter)
4. Contracted with Keep Colorado Springs Beautiful- about \$30k per year, some years broach \$45, this is a budgeted line item over the last five years
5. Adopt-a-waterway (statistics)
  - a. Supplies- about \$15k/year, only sometimes pay for trash haul away
  - b. Most of the stuff is donated
  - c. We track the events, totals, number of volunteers, number of hours, give an assigned value based on a standard wage, approximate the tons of garbage removed

What about the homeless literally living in culverts? Talked about how volunteers go around the camps.

From a creek standpoint: we coordinate internally and decide who would be best to handle.

Active homeless camps require support from the HOTeam and help with equipment and safety.

What is the hard cost- councilors both asked. One issue is the cleanups that we keep doing over and over. Councilors desired a hard number. Rich- from the stormwater program- probably \$60k annually for trash and homeless cleanups, for homeless-specific cleanups, probably \$15-20k.

We are working on engineering solutions to try to keep people out of our culverts. Extended conversation about the impact of homeless communities on the City of Colorado Springs and the multiple groups involved and affected. Rich said we will see if we can get out more data for the future.

Councilor Leinweber then brought up the Fountain creek watershed district, discussing how they initially had \$50M provided to do restoration and \$9M remains.

Leinweber said: we have to think about this as a watershed as a whole; we are getting the downstream of Monument and other smaller cities upstream of us and receive ecoli and other biological contaminants from upstream. Should COS stay in the watershed? We don't technically need it, but do we need it for the watershed and do what Pueblo did to us? After the \$9m is gone they are done.

Discussion: what else could we do as a region? How would the City need to get involved? What about visioning? What is the end goal? More will be discussed in the future.

Adjournment at 3:40.