

## **Wiseman Public Meeting Minutes – Public Meeting #1**

**Date: July 21, 2009**

**Location: Cokesbury United Methodist Church**

**Meeting conducted by Monica Kruckow with the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Storm Water Services and Scott Sigmon with the consulting engineering firm WK Dickson.**

### **Wiseman Project Team Introductions – Monica Kruckow**

Monica Kruckow introduced the Wiseman Project Team including WK Dickson staff.

Monica Kruckow – CSWS Project Manager  
Jackie Bray – CSWS Project Manager  
Scott Sigmon, PE - WK Dickson Project Manager  
Rob Normandy - WK Dickson Project Designer

### **Meeting Purpose – Monica Kruckow**

- ❖ Provide general project information on City of Charlotte Storm Water Capital Improvement Projects;
- ❖ Discuss the current storm water issues within the Wiseman project area; and
- ❖ Receive input from the citizens on what storm water issues they have seen in the area.

### **General Information – Monica Kruckow**

- ❖ The Wiseman project area is bounded by W.T. Harris Blvd. to the north, Idlewild Road to the west, Barncliff Road to the east, and Braewick Place to the south – See attached exhibit.
- ❖ The need for this project was identified from customer drainage requests, including complaints of flooding and erosion.
- ❖ The goal of this project will be to improve the storm drainage infrastructure in order to reduce flooding of streets & structures. In addition, channel improvements may be made to increase capacity and/or to reduce erosion.
- ❖ This was our first meeting and we want feedback on existing storm water issues. The second meeting will present our proposed improvements and we will want your feedback on the information that we present. The third meeting will be held after preliminary design plans are ready and we will present that information and also begin real estate acquisition.
- ❖ In general, we want feedback throughout this entire project. Property owners can contact Monica Kruckow, Jackie Bray, visit the website, or they can call 311. It was noted that property owners will need to call 311 to officially report an issue.

### **Wiseman Existing Conditions Discussion – Scott Sigmon**

The project involves analysis of existing conditions to determine the portions of the storm drainage system needing improvement, planning analysis of improvement alternatives, and design and construction of needed improvements.

This analysis includes the effects of rainfall events within the project area and evaluation of

how these rainfall events impact the streams and storm water infrastructure, also referred to as hydrologic and hydraulic modeling. From the modeling results, flood elevations along the stream can be predicted and compared to actual accounts of homeowner flooding. A full analysis along the primary stream, Wiseman Tributary, was completed which provided flooding predictions for curb inlets, pipes, culverts and streams.

The analysis also included the condition assessment which determined the age and condition of the pipes and culverts. The majority of the storm water infrastructure evaluated was in good working condition. Approximately half of these structures were approaching the end of their expected life cycle. The stream banks were stable although there were several sections that lacked vegetation and were showing signs of erosion. The presentation included several project photos to illustrate the aging pipes and eroding stream banks.

Eight separate systems were analyzed and it was determined that three systems meet City Design Standards. The remaining five systems do not meet City Design Standards. These eight systems were mapped and overlaid on the public meeting exhibit for citizens to review during the breakout session following the meeting – See attached exhibit.

### **Citizen Input – Monica Kruckow**

To determine flooding problems, WK Dickson performed hydrologic and hydraulic modeling, looked at the 311 calls for service and reviewed questionnaires. A public meeting exhibit was created to show registered service requests and questionnaire responses that had been collected for the project – See attached exhibit.

### **Discussion of Upcoming Project Phases – Monica Kruckow**

After completing the existing conditions analysis, the project transitions to alternative analysis where several different alternatives are assessed to meet the project goals. The best available option will be selected to complete the planning phase, which typically last 12 to 27 months. The planning phase of this project began in March 2009 and it anticipated to be completed in the 1st quarter of 2010.

After planning, the project will move into design which involves developing construction drawings for the alternative selected. These plans are to include many details, such as pipe sizes and locations, channel/ditch widths, utility relocations, and easement locations. Typical design phases last 21 to 34 months.

The permitting phase runs concurrently with the design phase. This phase includes obtaining the required water quality permits from Federal and State government agencies. The permitting phase of a project generally lasts 3 to 9 months (typically during the design phase).

The real estate phase runs concurrently with the design phase. The City's real estate staff works with citizens and businesses to acquire easements needed to construct the recommended improvements and provide future maintenance. The easement acquisition phase of a project typically lasts 8 to 12 months but may take longer depending on the issues related to property owners and businesses.

After all design plans are finalized and all easements are acquired, the final plans will go out to contractors for them to bid on (this is known as the Bid Phase). By state law, the lowest responsible bidder is awarded the construction contract. The bid phase of a project typically lasts 4 to 5 months.

Once City Council has accepted and awarded the project to a contractor, construction may begin. Throughout construction, efforts will be made to minimize disruption to nearby property owners. Construction of proposed improvements will be supervised by City

inspectors. Notifications of key construction dates will be mailed to residents prior to construction in those areas. Because projects vary in size, the typical construction phase of a project can last from 3 months to over 2 years.

### **Citizen Discussion (General Q and A)**

- ❖ Q: How does the real estate and easement acquisition process work?  
*A: Monica explained that City real estate agents would be acquiring easements that would be required to construct and maintain any proposed storm water system. The agents will set up meetings with each property owner to discuss the proposed improvements.*
  
- ❖ Q: What is permitting and how long does that process last?  
*A: During the permitting process we work with different agencies to receive permits that are required for construction, such as erosion control. There are also other permits required for projects that impact streams and wetlands. The permitting phase for typical projects has generally taken around 3-9 months.*
  
- ❖ Q: What is a culvert and where it is used?  
*A: Monica explained that a culvert could be any system that conveys stream flow or storm water runoff under a road or through a pipe system.*
  
- ❖ Q: There is a pipe between 8513 & 8521 Sunflower Road that ends half way along the property and appears to have erosion problems. Will the City come out and fix the erosion problems?  
*A: Monica stated that further investigation would be required to determine the cause of the issue.*

### **Break Out Session:**

The citizens in attendance broke out into small groups to review the public meeting exhibit and to comment on the maps and submit additional questions or concerns.

#### Summary of Citizen Concerns

- ❖ 3322 Valley Grove Road, Sheryl Pellom – Brought up stream stabilization and erosion concerns upstream of the Valley Grove culvert. She requested someone visit the stream to address this concern.
  
- ❖ 4413 Sheldon Court, Stacey Dobbins – Brought up stream stabilization and erosion concerns related to the stream bank along her property. She requested someone visit the stream to address this concern.
  
- ❖ 8419 Mission Hills Road, Tiwana Smith – Requested a visit from a drainage inspector to see if her drainage problem would qualify for work.