

Communities of the Future Advisory Committee (CFAC) Policy Sub-committee Meeting Summary

August 5, 2011

1pm – 3pm at MSD Conference & Administrative Center

In Attendance:

Chairwoman: Roxanne Qualls, Vice Mayor of the City of Cincinnati

Karen Ball, Hamilton County

Brian Bohl, Hamilton County Soil & Water

Liz Blume, CBI

Michael Burson, Cincinnati Public Schools

James Cunningham, HUD

Robin Corathers, MCRP

Joseph Danyluk, Human Nature

Denise Driehaus, State Representative

Jamie Greene, ACP

Todd Kinskey, HCP&D

Cecilia Kloecker, Sierra Club

Dustin Lester, City Planning & Buildings

MaryLynn Lodor, MSD

Chris Manning, Human Nature

Sheryl Mebane, USEPA - ORD

Dean Niemeyer, HCP&D

Mark Norman, Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease

Jennifer O'Donnell, Office of the Vice Mayor

Marianne Piekutowski, Ohio EPA

Jeff Proctor, Hamilton County Monitor

Andrew Reynolds, MSD

Cameron Ross, City Planning & Buildings

William Shuster, USEPA

Marilyn Wall, Sierra Club

Brian Wamsley, HCP&D

Gary Wolnitzek, Human Nature

CFAC Policy Sub-committee Meeting's Agenda and Recap:

The CFAC Policy Sub-committee meeting brought together 26 watershed-planning professionals and community leaders to discuss current integrated watershed planning efforts and goals. Here is the agenda with selected highlights:

A. Opening Remarks (Roxanne Qualls, Vice Mayor of City of Cincinnati)

Ms. Qualls opened the meeting with the discussion of the upcoming Land Development Code, funded in part by a HUD Community Challenge Grant offered to the City in partnership with MSD. The LDC is the next step of actually implementing parts of the City's Comp Plan and is a tremendous opportunity to potentially address storm water issues, land development and livable communities as part of the HUD Livability Principles.

B. MSD Updates (MaryLynn Lodor, MSD)

- a) Upcoming Lick Run Community Design Workshop reminder – August 11, 2011 at Roberts Paideia Academy from 5:30pm to 9pm.
- b) Lick Run Watershed Tours progress report
 - i) Nearly 70 people have taken tour
 - ii) Last tour before Workshop is on Tuesday August 9th, 2011 from 10am to 12pm
- c) USEPA Strategic Integration Plan summary
 - i) Report available at Project Groundwork Website
 - ii) Quick Summary of five Framework Actions and five Supporting Actions

C. Introduction to report titled “DRAFT Toolbox of Land Use Policies and Best Practices for Addressing Storm Water at the Local and Regional Scale” (Brian Wamsley, HCP&D)

Prepared by Hamilton County Planning and Development in collaboration with CFAC (July 2011), this document is a preliminary catalogue of our local integrated watershed planning efforts and discussions. It is intended to be a starting point for creating a dialogue around different policy tools for consideration

and use. The document is evolving and still in draft phase. Please send any comments, questions, suggested additions or edits to Dean Niemeyer and Brian Wamsley at Hamilton County Planning & Development

Discussion and Context: Storm Water Toolbox Document

- Is MSD pursuing these land-use tools for “credit” under the Consent Decree? MSD’s focus is on large-scale watershed-based CSO reduction projects. The majority of these projects will be “direct” projects (compared to enabled or inform and influence projects) because of the EPA mandate that we deliver a long term, sustained reduction that we can assure through the control of the land or operation of the system. MSD is not currently capturing “credit” for private property stormwater controls through alternative solutions because the Regulators demand the assurance and control. However, improvements and innovations to standards and policies that support green stormwater practices and associated CSO reductions are highly encouraged and supported by MSD wet weather strategy and sustainable infrastructure.
- What is the role of the land use tools? Land use tools are supportive tools that will help advance the overall goals and support sustainable infrastructure and improvements to land development, reducing impacts to water quantity and quality. However, a wide-scale change in land use is not critical to MSD ability to address the Consent Decree. With the Land Development Code, the City will conduct a comprehensive analysis of current codes and rules, with the opportunity to encourage and incorporate elements of watershed planning into future land-use decisions, which will be helpful as it relates to advancing the goal of CSO reduction and better land use planning.
- MSD’s Sustainable Watershed Evaluation Process (SWEP) targets large-scale, strategically selected capital projects (e.g. detention/retention basins, bioswales, daylighted streams, underground storage, etc.). MSD has been planning, designing and starting to construct some sustainable infrastructure solutions to remove stormwater from entering the combined sewer system. Some of these projects are already underway, given current policies and procedures.
- MSD is collaborating with many different public and private partners in various watersheds to implement direct or enabled impact projects and continuing to inform and influence the public on the need for an integrated solution that is focused on water quality as well as water quantity reduction. Through this approach, MSD and partners will be monitoring benefits.
- CFAC encourages innovative ways to promote examples of small scale, widely distributed BMPs on private property (e.g. rain barrels, rain gardens, etc.), and such as the EPA’s Shepherd Creek Pilot Project has demonstrated.
- Emphasis on natural systems integrated into the urban landscape should permeate and flow throughout document. Utilizing natural drainage and stormwater water as a natural resource in the urban environment is challenging; but the toolbox could be used to emphasize and highlight the opportunities.
- The document should outline the many environmental benefits of source control such as cleaner water bodies, improved habitats, and enhanced recreational areas.

Discussion Outcome: As part of the Toolbox document, the Policy Subcommittee would like to develop a gap analysis to identify polices, approaches that can be adopted by City or County that would be timely and supportive of MSD’s Sustainable Infrastructure and the advancement of the City of Cincinnati’s Land Development Code.

Send any comments, questions, suggested additions or edits regarding the DRAFT document to Dean Niemeyer and Brian Wamsley at Hamilton County Planning & Development.

D. Integrated Watershed Planning Efforts of CFAC Members

- a) Land Development Code update (Dustin Lester, City Planning/MSD)
 - i) Expected completion Spring 2014
 - ii) Next Step: City and consultants analyzing current code; looking for outdated, conflicting, or inefficient codes and regulations
- b) Form-Based Codes update (Cameron Ross, City Planning)
 - i) Looking at Light Imprint for South Fairmount Pilot Project
 - ii) If successful, could be scaled up to City's Form-based Code efforts
 - iii) Next Step: City and consultants are preparing for city-wide, form-based codes charrette
- c) Rain Water Harvesting Task Team update
 - i) Working on CPS Dater Montessori Rain Water Harvesting System pilot project
 - ii) First task meeting included major public stakeholders discussing issues in "good faith"
 - iii) Next Step: each regulating authority submitting letter of concerns related to rain water harvesting
- d) Mill Creek Restoration Project, Greenway Trails update (Robin Corathers, MCRP)
 - i) Greenway Trails update
 - ii) Green Careers in urban environments educational program
 - iii) Next step: working on third phase of greenway trail in city, exploring connection to Lick Run Watershed, looking for more matching funds
- e) Hamilton County Land Banking update (Todd Kinskey, HCP&D)
 - i) Currently in process of finalizing administrative authority and administrative tasks
 - ii) Next step: forming Land Reutilization Strategy/Plan for acquisition and disposition of properties
- f) Hamilton County EECBG Building Code Analysis (Todd Kinskey, HCP&D)
 - i) Energy efficiency and stormwater part of analysis
 - ii) Hamilton County will use report to have workshops with other interested communities
 - iii) Next Step: consultant returns with recommendations for County

E. Lick Run Community Design Workshop (MaryLynn Lodor/Chris Manning, Human Nature)

An Overview of Workshop format was discussed and a sample of Visual Preference Survey and Survey Sheet. Discussions included the need to ensure that expectations are managed, with community visions that are implementable, given design opportunities and constraints. Design Workshop outcomes were discussed, including the expected feedback from questionnaires and how they will be integrated into the planning for workshop #2.

Discussion was had about how to encourage all ages to participate in the Lick Run Community Design Workshop planning efforts, to ensure a broad cross-section of participation:

- Every residence and business in the Lick Run Corridor was mailed postcard
- Civic council meetings in South Fairmount, West Price Hill, East Price Hill, and Westwood were attended in the months of June and July to inform them of Community Design Workshop and flyers were distributed
- Civic council newsletters included information on the Design Workshop
- Lick Run Watershed Tours have informed nearly 70 people
- Orion Academy has a rain garden activity to teach them about storm water natural processes at the St. Francis Early Success Project.
- University of Cincinnati's Community Design Center invited to Community Workshop
- What else could we do (suggestion for next design workshop)?
 - Civic class, Master Gardner program for kids, Watershed Tour for kids

Handouts:

- CFAC Policy Sub-committee Meeting Agenda for August 5, 2011
- *“DRAFT Toolbox of Land Use Policies and Best Practices for Addressing Storm Water at the Local and Regional Scale”*

Looking Ahead:

The next CFAC meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, September 22, 2011 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.** In the meantime, CFAC Policy committee members can continue to work on the “Toolbox” document and submitting any comments to Hamilton County Planning and Development. If CFAC members have been involved in related integrated watershed planning efforts, we would be glad to offer the opportunity to give an update at the next CFAC Policy meeting.

Mark your calendars; the date for the Second Lick Run Community Design Workshop has been set for Wednesday, October 26, 2011 from 6:30 – 9:00 p.m. at Gilbert A. Dater Montessori. The address for Dater Montessori is 2840 Boudinot Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio 45238. We look forward to seeing you there.

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