

# **CARSON CITY STORM DRAINAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

## **Minutes of the July 10, 2000 Meeting**

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A regular meeting of the Carson City Storm Drainage Advisory Committee was held at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, July 10, 2000 in the City Hall Capitol Conference Room, 201 North Carson Street, Carson City, Nevada.

**PRESENT:** Vice Chairperson Howard Anderson  
Delacy Perry  
Russell Plume  
Robert Saunders

**STAFF:** John Berkich, City Manager  
Mahmood Azad, Development Services Manager  
Andrew Burnham, Engineering Manager  
Kathleen King, Recording Secretary  
(SDAC 07/10/00; Tape 1-0001)

**NOTE:** Unless indicated otherwise, each item was introduced by Vice Chairperson Anderson. A tape recording of these proceedings is on file in the Clerk-Recorder's Office and is available for review and inspection during regular business hours.

**A. ROLL CALL AND DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM (1-0001)** - Vice Chairperson Anderson called the meeting to order at 5:40 p.m. Roll call was taken; a quorum was present. Chairperson Aldean and Members Bawden and Oakwood were absent.

**B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (1-0010)** - Member Perry moved to approve the minutes of the May 8, 2000 meeting. Member Plume seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

**C. MODIFICATION OF AGENDA** - None.

**D. PUBLIC COMMENT (1-0051)** - Tony Marangi provided information on his background and experience, and expressed support for a storm water utility.

(1-0952) Salvador Gurgiolo provided information regarding his property, which borders BLM land, and the problems he has experienced with drainage, specifically during the 1997 flood. He advised of contacts with BLM representatives who visited his property and advised him of the preference to have water "run its natural course." He was asked to dig a ditch to reroute the water to a drainage ditch at the back of his property, but has been unable to do so due to health problems. He advised of a temporary solution provided by the City in the form of a large rock pile which he is supposed to start adding to the ditch behind his property should the water rise to a certain level. Mr. Azad advised Mr. Gurgiolo of assistance to be made available through the storm water management project. Mr. Gurgiolo described the location of his property. In response to a question, Mr. Gurgiolo indicated he had not been aware of any of the public meetings held last year. Discussion took place regarding noticing/publication methods, and Mr. Gurgiolo acknowledged that a notice in his utility bill would have been sufficient. Vice Chairperson Anderson thanked Mr. Gurgiolo for his comments and attendance.

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**E. DISCLOSURES (1-0020)** - Vice Chairperson Anderson advised of a conversation with a reporter who was inquiring as to the recent activities of the Committee.

**F. PUBLIC MEETING ITEMS:**

**F-1. DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING THE REVISED PARTICIPATION STATUS OF THE STORM DRAINAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE IN REFERENCE TO A STORM WATER UTILITY (1-0090)** - Mr. Burnham advised that staff is developing a scope of work and a program to move forward with the Committee's recommendation to develop a storm water utility. Staff will be presenting a contract for review by the Board of Supervisors at their August 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting. The contract is the first step in moving forward to develop the program which will eventually culminate in a storm water utility ordinance to be presented to the Supervisors by the end of the year. Mr. Burnham requested the continued participation of the Committee members throughout the next year to assist in guiding the development process through its crucial steps.

Mr. Berkich expressed appreciation, on behalf of City staff and the Board of Supervisors, for the involvement of the Committee members in the future resolution of Carson City's storm drainage problems. He pointed out that the storm water utility will need endorsement from all levels in the community in order for the citizens of Carson City to support it. He discussed the reason for forming the Committee and commented that critical work will be done in the months ahead. He requested an additional one-year commitment from the Committee members. Consensus of the members present was to continue with the work of the Committee.

Mr. Azad advised that Paul Lumos and Lumos & Associates have been appointed as the lead consultants for formation of the storm water utility. Hector Cyre, the most successful consultant in developing storm water utilities, has contracted with Lumos & Associates to assist with the project. Mr. Azad provided information on Mr. Cyre's background and experience. Paul Lumos, of Lumos & Associates, provided historical information on the contract between Carson City and Hector Cyre to develop a storm water utility in 1983. He provided background information on Mr. Cyre's experience, and discussed the process developed by Mr. Cyre for implementation of a storm water management program. He noted that the storm water management program will need to be defined early in the process. Much of the process has already been determined in the form of detention basins, conveyance facilities, etc. These facilities constitute large capital investments which will require maintenance. The capital improvement program will increase the capability of the existing system in order to provide a higher level of drainage protection. The elements of the storm water program are operation/maintenance, together with a storm drain utility or storm drain department, regulation, separate rates, and the possibility of connection fees, mitigation fees, and plan check fees. In the past, these functions have been subsidized by the general fund, which has been essentially supporting the program as it is now known. The proposal is to create an enterprise fund, similar to water and sewer, which pays for itself.

Mr. Lumos advised that a broad range of funding resources will be available to review for the program, and that a combination of revenues will be developed to cover costs. User fees could be one source of revenue but there will be a number of other sources which will support the program as well. The user fee will be

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tied directly to whatever services it provides and other revenue sources tied to other services that more directly reflect the costs.

The process developed is step-by-step and involves reviewing the City's storm drain needs and working with the City to establish a storm water program that fulfills its needs. The amount of maintenance, the operation, the number of people, facilities, equipment, etc. are all considerations. As part of the storm drainage master plan, WRC is developing a capital improvement program. 55%-65% of a monthly user fee typically goes to operation and maintenance. The balance is generally available for capital projects. Decisions then have to be made regarding how the balance is best used for capital projects, i.e., prioritizing projects, whether bonds are sold, retiring the bonds with annual revenues, and keeping enough for smaller capital projects on an annual basis. The role of the Committee will be as a sounding board. Studies and ideas will be generated and the consultants will present them to City staff for review. The Lumos & Associates contract will go all the way through establishing the storm water management program, user fees, the billing system, the first billing and collection, and adjustments to the billing system as needed. This is important because billing for a storm water utility is different than water and sewer. Storm water utility fees are not based on the benefit received but on contribution to the problem. One task is to verify that storm water utility fees are provided for in the statutes.

The Committee, with its history, is the logical "head of this hierarchy" directly under the Board of Supervisors. The consultants and staff will be funneling issues and projects to the Committee to receive input and direction. As part of that, a subcommittee is being contemplated which the Committee would be involved in appointing. Mr. Lumos advised that Randy Bowling has agreed to be the public information systems consultant. The approach identified by Mr. Bowling, who will have a direct contract with the City, is to conduct surveys to identify stakeholders, issues, and needs which are relevant to the program. Mr. Bowling will then design a public involvement program. Having contact with the ultimate users, Mr. Bowling will sit in on the consultant team meetings to oversee public information issues.

Vice Chairperson Anderson pointed out that major contributors to the drainage problems are the U.S. Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, and Western Nevada Community College, and that these agencies have not been represented. Mr. Lumos advised that the state will be considered a storm water utility customer just as every commercial entity. He explained that the big stakeholders are the commercial entities, and their fees are generally based on percentage of coverage. The Capitol Complex is a very large entity and would be expected to pay storm water utility fees just as they pay water and sewer fees. Highways are an issue as well, however as NDOT representatives have pointed out, solutions have been provided in the form of major drainage structures built in conjunction with the freeway. This will be taken into account and other political considerations will be addressed as well. All buildings will be included, whether public or private, because of contribution to the problem. Vice Chairperson Anderson commented that WNCC should be an essential element in developing solutions. Mr. Azad indicated that a WNCC representative will be asked to participate in the subcommittee. Mr. Lumos advised that WNCC representatives have begun to realize that storm drainage is an issue which needs to be addressed. Nothing is being presupposed. All issues will be considered objectively and solutions will be developed.

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In response to a question, Mr. Lumos advised that water moving through the substructure of the freeway will be funded and maintained by the State. The City has built laterals into the substructure which it has paid for, with some State subsidy, and will maintain. Mr. Azad advised that the regional detention basins being constructed by the City will be operated and maintained by the City. The big boxes and underground culverts constructed by the State will be operated and maintained by the State. Member Perry inquired as to merging the storm drain and the water in the substructure of the freeway at Highway 50. Mr. Azad advised of very large, twin box culverts to be installed underneath Highway 50 which end up on the Lompa property. At this point, the solution is unknown but may be an overland flow, a ditch, or wetlands. He advised that a design concept to direct the water to the River exists but needs to be refined by hydraulics experts. Member Perry further inquired as to the time frame for the average homeowner to write their first check, and Mr. Azad advised that it should be approximately one year from now. Member Perry pointed out the acronym for the Storm Water Management Program will be "SWMP", and suggested that it be changed. She commented that when she was appointed to the Committee, there were 18 major storm drainage issues to be addressed. She commended Mr. Azad and Carson City staff as only two issues remain to be addressed.

Mr. Azad discussed water quality issues imposed by the federal government, and commented that Member Saunders is very familiar with the requirements in his position as the State Storm Water Management Coordinator. The storm water utility fee will include a small component which will cover water quality issues. Member Plume requested an update on all the ongoing and completed projects at the next meeting. Member Perry reminded the Committee of the tour which was conducted two years ago, and Vice Chairperson Anderson suggested another tour of the facilities.

Mr. Azad advised of a groundbreaking ceremony at Shenandoah Heights Detention Basin on Wednesday, July 12, 2000 at 10:00 a.m. Vice Chairperson Anderson requested Mr. Lumos to advise of the staff which will be working on this project. Mr. Lumos advised that he will be managing the project through to completion. Hector Cyre will develop the program. Lumos & Associates staff will do legwork for Mr. Cyre in working with the City on operation/maintenance details. Lumos & Associates will be heavily involved in setting rates, rate structure, and developing a chart of accounts. Chaz McQueary will work together with Larry Werner, who has committed to continuing to work with Lumos & Associates on the City's payroll. Mr. Lumos provided background information on Mr. Werner's experience. Tom Young will be doing design work and Mr. Bowling will work on the public information system.

Member Saunders commented on the thoroughness of the presentation, and indicated that he is looking forward to working on the project. Mr. Berkich acknowledged that the Committee members will need to seek reappointment in August. Mr. Azad advised that Member Bawden will be resigning. He has asked him to provide a recommendation for his replacement. He is unaware of Member Oakwood's intentions.

**F-2. DISCUSSION AND PRESENTATION FROM HOWARD ANDERSON AND ROB SAUNDERS ON THE CREATION OF A STORM WATER UTILITY (1-0845) -** Vice Chairperson Anderson advised of the meeting with Member Saunders, Mr. Azad, and Mr. Lumos on June 9th. He indicated that the issues discussed at that meeting had been covered in Mr. Lumos' presentation. Mr. Azad clarified the role of the Committee in relation to the subcommittee, with the assistance of Mr. Bowling.

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At the request of Vice Chairperson Anderson, Member Saunders explained his role with the State of Nevada.

**G. INTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS (1-0925) - None.**

**G-1. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS (1-0928)** - Mr. Azad advised that he would provide a status report, as requested, at the next meeting. An additional item will include review of the scope of work and a schedule. A tour will most likely be scheduled in mid-August. Vice Chairperson Anderson encouraged attendance at the Shenandoah Heights groundbreaking ceremony.

**H. ADJOURNMENT (1-1150)** - Member Perry moved to adjourn the meeting. Member Plume seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

The Minutes of the July 10, 2000 meeting of the Carson City Storm Drainage Advisory Committee are so approved this \_\_\_\_\_ day of August, 2000.

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JAY ALDEAN, Chairperson