MEETING NOTES

Patricia Love made introductions and provided a definition of Low Impact Development.

Scott Williams, Tetra Tech reviewed the team guidelines, the purpose of and success factors for the committee. Discussion followed.

Eric Hovland stated he has read a lot about low impact development and he feels the main goal is to mimic nature’s process by allowing rain water to re-infiltrate the ground and he doesn’t feel the City’s projects are accomplishing this goal.

Tim Ellis asked why it is called a “demonstration” project.

Patricia Love explained that Smuggler’s Gulch Basin was the area that needed the most storm drainage management improvements so we wanted to use it as a test to see if a good result occurs. If so we could use it as a model and apply it throughout the City. Smuggler’s Gulch was our starting point.

Bruce Simpson asked what the problems within the gulch were. He doesn’t see any flooding on the upper end. He had heard of some houses where basements were flooded.

Sylvia Kawabata responded that during heavy rain events the flows are very heavy once they get to the bottom of the gulch. Discussion followed by the committee about where and how water flows down the gulch.

Patricia Love brought the basin map to the attention of the Committee and how it shows the network of pipes and culverts and open creek of the storm drainage system and showed the general path of storm drainage.

David Davenport asked if there are any measurements of the overflow volume we experience during a rain event and how this project will help reduce the volume.
Jim Niggemyer responded that in general the measurement of the volume is not important; the important thing is that we have too high a flow. So if we can make improvements to slow it down at the top, it will reduce the peak flows below.

Eric Hovland requested documentation of the existing problems and measurements of existing volume of the flows and water levels as recommended by the 2010 Pre-Design report before the projects that are already approved are constructed along with the other recommendations from the report.

Sylvia Kawabata stated another issue in the basin is the failure of the road on 61st Place where the failing soldier pile wall is located and off of 89th Place off of 44th were flooding occurs.

Mary Bess Johnson asked that along with the identifying flow rates she would like to know the volumes. She feels the solution is to direct water to its appropriate channel, distribute and direct it, or spread it out to be managed appropriately.

Scott Williams spoke of the team purpose and operating guidelines; balance and respect each other’s opinion, allow him to facilitate, listen well, be open to ideas, be open to a learning experience, stay on topic, take ownership of the meeting agenda, start on time and end on time, be outcome focused, and focus on at what we are trying to accomplish.

David Davenport identified a problem below his house that has an access issue.

Jim Niggemyer stated the City is aware of this problem and it is within the basin but is a sub basin as the drainage from the area does not enter Smugglers Gulch Creek and is a separate outfall. This project is identified as Naketa Outfall and is in the budget and we hope to get it completed this year.

Dean Franz, Tetra Tech gave a presentation on Best Practices and showed examples of different storm detention/retention options.

Andy Higgins provided some background on the history of the State’s requirements for Cities to get a storm water permits (NPDES) and cities are required to implement low impact facilities as part of that permit. This drives the need to consider this type of project. Underlying that is the fact that all of our storm drainage dumps into the Sound. This problem starts with every little area that does not infiltrate into the ground and eventually ends up in the Sound.

Committee discussion followed. Issues and concerns throughout the basin were identified and mapped. See attached project/issues list.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS**
The following comments were made by the audience.

Intersection of 88th and 44th, there is a detention pond on the east side that is not well maintained. Can we add pressure to get the County to better maintain the pond? To the east of that intersection and somewhat south there is a lot of flooding that occurs on the road.

Flooding in the upper part of the Gulch, in the December of 1996, there was a significant mud flow just south of the 88th and Speedway pond.

There appears to be a lot of iron oxide algae in the storm drainage system and it turns into a gel and clogs drains.

There was a request to remove the fences on the detention ponds to make them more visibly aesthetic.

Two detention ponds, one in Whisperwood and one at 88th and 46th Place W. gets loaded with blackberries. There was a request for better maintenance of the ponds.

These items were added to the issues list.
It was requested to have some form of online collaboration with a map of the issues so the Committee could click on the map and the link would lead to a web page that provides the status.

Scott Williams asked the committee what we could do better at the next meeting to utilize our time well. Following are the comments from the Committee

- Post the agenda during the meeting and add the times to the agenda so we can keep on schedule.
- Focus on the deliverables for the meeting and post them so we can be sure we achieve our objectives by the end of the meeting.
- Asked staff to provide the City’s documentation of the existing issues and have the Committee provide any documentation they have of known issues.

A member of the audience said that he heard that the Wisperwoods detention pond was too shallow to be included in this project.

Patricia Love said it may be and the City will be determining that by next week. The LID projects must have enough benefit from the changes to qualify for the grant. So it will remain on the issues list for the basin even if it isn’t covered under the grant.

Scott Williams asked the Committee what we did well during the meeting. The Committee provided the following comments:

- Good job keeping the meeting going.
- Good job in assigning responsibility.
- Andy Higgins’ explanation was very helpful.

Eric Hovland asked one final question regarding if any of the proposed sites will be infiltration sites. This should be answered at the next meeting.

These notes are excerpts from the Citizen Advisory Committee for the Smuggler’s Gulch LID Project. An audio recording of the meeting was made.

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