HEART OF THE CITY General Meeting
February 9, 2009 7 pm
Minutes

President Leslie La Muro presidented, or presided if you prefer. Meeting called to order at about 7:05.
Meeting began with speaker presentation.

Speaker was Jeff Woods, Fort Atkinson city engineer. Topic was storm water management- the status of the city's program regarding.

Background: He graduated with civil engineering degree in 1980.

Notes from his presentation:

Because its population is over 10000, FA is a Phase II city. The mandates come down from the feds to the states. Post-erosion control stormwater management ordinances will control what must be done.

Pollution prevention – city's part to do what they can to reduce.Base load for suspended solids had to be reduced 20% by 2008, 40% by 2012. DNR has relaxed some of its deadline. Fort has reduced 12% and is now working toward 40%. Got a grant thru DNR to help pay for the work to reach the goal.

Had to figure out what the base load was to the Rock River so consultant looked at land use through 2004, put in a computer program and came out with a baseload of 469 tons if we were doing nothing – no street sweeping, grass swales for ditches, detention ponds. Reduced to 411 tons. But still need 36 more tons to go. For 40% we need 138 more tons. Staff took the city map and overlaid a storm sewer map, each shows a drainage basin, labeled ABCD and can watch how water gets into the river. Sat down as a city staff to see where the detention ponds could be put to meet the reduction. They started putting yellow stickers on the map to see if ponds can go to these places. Will neighbors put up with pond (safety, liability, skeeters) and will it work economically cpton. Started to do the numbers and saw where each pond could reduce X many pounds. The old Larson Lagoon may be converted into a detention pond, also the Jones property.

Solutions and costs: Looking at increasing street sweeping ($200,000) building ponds $3Mil - $4.2 mil without land or engineering costs. And then there is maintenance for $65,000 yearly

Education and City has joined RRSWGp coalition to address the participation and education to reduce pet waste, reduce use of lawn chems, grass clippings, rain gardens, etc. proper selection and location for erosion control items. If Fort & Milton go together for rain garden demo, or Rock Riv clean up. City costs is $5000. Three levels of membership – permitted community, either $5k or $2k or nonpermitted (Jef) $1k, partners (com gp that is not permitted but wishes to help). Coordinator needed.

Develop ordinances: construction site erosion control ord. Developer must put in devices to reduce solids 80% compared to doing nothing. Developer must have permanent devices 80% new, 40% redevelopment plus 25% reduction for resi devet or 45% for nonresidential

Illicit Discharge Ordinance: Don't put things in the sewer that don't belong there ordinance. Can't clean driveways or carpet mess into the street. There will be fines for doing so.

How are we going to pay for this? Create a stormwater utility, an equitable way to design and construct all of this. You base it on an equivalent residential unit; each residential has approx 3,960 sq ft of impermeable pavement. $38.50 per year (about $6 per month added to water bill.) If you are a downtown commercial development, pay less. If you put it on bill, not tax deductible- if done through taxes, it would be. Churches and schools will be charged the fees. Stormwater management plan is in draft form. Council will adopt if all well.

Present: Beth Gehred, Karen Drydyk, Kitty Welch, Mary Linton, Joan Callan, Kathy Kaufman, John & Stella Kleinschmidt, Matt Loup, Len Bannon, Elaine Dorough-Johnson, Bill Camplin, Josie Gobel, Steve Tesmer, John Landowski, Richard Miller, Jill and John Ottow

Opps for volunteerism: proper lawn care, proper car care for reducing solids

Fox River Valley, Madison ahead of us by a year. Watertown, Janesville one step ahead in some ways.

Some concern that no one can show us that this makes any difference to the river. Are these legit numbers; if it is good for Fort, isn't it good for the rest of state. Discharge is not measured (no phys testing except for illicit discharge)- all computer input. Seems like there should be some way to test says Billy C.

What about farm contribution to this? DNR address the farm fields to do their share. Total Maximum Daily Load, if you want us to leave a grassy barrier along every ditch you have to pay us not to farm that land.

People are not supposed to rake their leaves into the street, but they do. Will there be additional enforcement? Yes in the illicit discharge ordinance.

Building adjacent rain garden, infiltration basins or permeable pavement in city parking lots.

Doug's parking lot would be a good showpiece for innovative parking lots.

There may be credits for people who do handle their stormwater on site.

Steve Whittaker Jville Stormwater engineer says that for one transportation business of 73 acres would cost $43,000 annually. Our biggest fee would be $8000.

Metering ponds are a little cleaner and slow things down. Notetaker Beth Gehred signs off here. Notetaker Kitty Welch takes over.

What about salt use by private owners? Jeff not sure what the city can do about it.

Reach Jeff at jwoods@fortatkinsonwi.net -- there's an stormwater management page on the city website

Meeting:

Big Heart Award is now Lue Ehinger.

Board mtgs March 25 May 27

Milwaukee Hybrid Group will put on alternative transportation show for us. George Polk will let us use warehouse at Jones Dairy Farm Saturday March 21 10-2 . Cris Folk and Bruce Spaight WISPIRG and Prairie Fire Bio Fuels and Community Car and Ozee Cars are people to contact.

Given this we are cancelling the March 9th public meeting- March 21, the event, will be our meeting.

Voted to adjourn at 8:50.