

URBAN COUNTY COUNCIL
PLANNING COMMITTEE SUMMARY

FEBRUARY 19, 2008

CM Gorton chaired the meeting, calling it to order at 1:00 pm. All committee members were present except Dr. Stevens.

I. Loudon Ave Phase I Update

Bob Bayert, Division of Engineering, stated Loudon Ave project is under construction. He stated they are working on the storm sewer portion and have completed from Idlewild to Oakhill. He stated they are working on sanitary sewers as well.

CM James stated the contractor on this phase has given themselves some pretty strict timelines.

2. Constructed Wetlands

CM Gorton gave council members a copy of an article that was in the January 2008 American City and County magazine about rainmakers. She stated it is about communities that have solved water problems in many ways and one being constructed wetlands.

Vice Mayor Gray stated council was fascinated with the proposal the Shore's presented to council about six weeks ago. He stated it is worthwhile for council to recognize how this relates to the six foundational pillars the council adopted a little over a year ago. He stated the number one pillar was environmental sustainability. He stated the timing of this is appropriate since the article in today's Herald Leader regarding Popular Science ranking Lexington as the 25th Most Greenest City in the Country.

Dr. Dick Shore gave a Powerpoint presentation regarding constructed wetlands.

Vice Mayor Gray asked Dr. Shore if he has had any conversations with anyone at LFUCG regarding wetlands.

Dr. Shore stated yes he has talked with David Gabbard. He stated David Gabbard gave him the concept study that he prepared in 1999. He stated he has talked with others as well. Dr. Shore stated there are 19 constructed wetlands in Kentucky now and 28 in Florida. He stated this is not new technology.

CM Beard stated he still wonders if this is the solution to the water supply problem. He stated he can understand from environmental view where it would help.

Dr. Shore stated the major job a filtration plant does is take out suspended solids. He stated water in Kentucky River has a lot of suspended solids and a constructed wetland would not have the suspended solids in it. It would run through the filters faster and would have the affect of increasing the throughput even if there wasn't an expansion of the facilities.

CM Beard asked how we would pay for this.

Dr. Shore stated he thinks because we are talking about waste water treatment either through a \$35M phosphate removal plant or a \$50M or \$60M pipe and constructed wetland that it would make since to have waste water fees identified to amortize a bond. He stated if this was the case we would be looking at a revenue bond. Once the revenue bond is in place and the facility is operational then we can shut down the phosphate removal plant on Hickman which gives LFUCG \$2.5M and we have avoided \$2.5M at Town Branch. He stated with that \$5M LFUCG may service the bond and lower the rates back down.

CM Beard stated he doesn't know if we could service the bond with money we don't spend. He stated we should be doing some of this anyway for the environmental reason and leave the question of pipe lines out of it. He stated he is not opposed of doing a study.

CM Gorton stated this does have potential for future discussion and possible implementation.

David Gabbard, Division of Water and Air Quality, explained what he was looking at when he did the 1999 concept plan. He stated in 1999 there were numerous grants available for something that could be so innovating. He stated this is community health. He also stated if we looked at working with Winchester which is facing the same thing and look at a regional solution then it may open up a possibility of even more grants. He stated if a feasibility study was done all these elements could be brought to the table.

CM Gorton asked how much a feasibility study would cost.

Mr. Gabbard stated he doesn't know. He stated a request to Mr. Buckles in Phoenix may give us an estimate on what something like this would cost.

CM McChord stated take the water supply element out of it and take this as something we incorporate into our city and this is where we need to be. He stated we hear there is money out there but LFUCG is not set up to handle that. He stated we have one grant writer. He stated administration needs to look internally that we don't have the ability to handle this. He stated when we do get grants then

we sit on them for long periods of time. He asked about the Homeland Security Grant that Dr. Shore mentioned during his presentation.

Dr. Shore stated Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act of 2002 provided \$89M to the US EPA for the improvement of the security of the nations' water supplies by reducing water system vulnerability to terrorist attacks and to enhance water infrastructures security. He stated he recognizes this is out of date but there may very well be additional funding that has followed.

CM McChord stated there is \$89M for the states so that is \$1.5M for each state. He stated when you call Homeland Security in Frankfort their chief areas of spending the monies they control is in the areas of communication devices for first responders. He stated he would be curious to see if the money is still there and how we would write the grant to get the money.

Mr. Gabbard stated from the source water protection angle we could go for the grant.

CM McChord stated we need to recognize as a government that we have some things that are broke.

A motion by CM Crosbie for Mr. Buckles to tell the committee how much a feasibility study would cost by the next meeting, seconded by CM Beard, passed without dissent.

CM Beard asked if they should form link like committees within the Planning Committee to go see some of the constructed wetlands.

CM Gorton stated it is a good idea and once they have an idea as to what the feasibility study will cost then they can look into the suggestion.

3. Items Referred to Committee

No motions came out of this issue.

Planning Committee meeting adjourned at 2:02PM