

# Watershed-based Organization

Sub-Committee



# Funding Approach

Sub-Committee



## Meeting Notes

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**Meeting Date:** January 31, 2018

**Time:** 9:00-12:00 am

**Meeting Location:**

Johnson County Transit Facility, 1701 W Old Hwy 56, Olathe, KS 66061

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### Attendees:

#### Funding Approach Sub-Committee

Courtney Christensen – City of Mission Hills  
Burt Morey – City of Overland Park  
Melissa Prenger – City of Prairie Village  
Rob Beilfuss – City of Olathe  
Joe Johnson – City of Leawood  
Mike Brungardt – City of De Soto  
Tim Collins – City of Lenexa  
Jim Hendershot – City of Spring Hill  
Lowen Garwood – City of Overland Park  
Tim McEldowney – City of Gardner  
Doug Whitacre – City of Shawnee  
John Belger – City of Mission  
Randy Gorton – BHC Rhodes  
Tom Jacobs – Mid-America Regional Council  
Brenda Macke – Burns and McDonnell  
Chad Johnson – Olsson Associates  
Les Barnt - GBA  
Matt Scott – CDM Smith  
Chris Burns – CDM Smith  
Brad Schleeter – Affinis  
Tony Stanton – Olsson Associates  
Steve Roth - Benesch  
Ginny Moore – The Conservation Fund

#### JC SMP

Lee Kellenberger  
Sarah Smith  
Heather Schmidt

#### Consultant Team

Patti Banks – Vireo  
Triveece Penelton – Vireo  
Andrew Smith – B&V  
Jim Schlaman – B&V  
Justina Gonzalez – B&V

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## Agenda Objectives

Receive sub-committee feedback on public presentation of SMP new program direction

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**Handouts:** Agenda

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## Notes

### Introduction / Update of Implementation Status / Joint Meeting Goals

- Andrew of B&V welcomed attendees to the joint meeting of the watershed-based organization sub-committee and the funding approach sub-committee. He explained that the joint meeting will be the final meeting for both sub-committees. He provided a quick update of SMP strategic implementation to date.
  - **Strategic Plan Implementation Progress:** The watershed-based organization sub-committee has drafted a new structure and established the process for communicating and implementing organizational change. The funding approach sub-committee has provided consensus on the new funding strategy. The next step in implementation is to inform sub-committee participants and the public of the finalized framework.
- Consultants outlined the agenda and goals of the joint sub-committee meeting.
  - **Watershed-based Organization & Funding Approach Joint Meeting Goals:** Consultants will run through a draft educational presentation of the SMP new program direction. The goal of the joint meeting is to summarize the decisions that have been made and the path forward. During the joint meeting, consultants would like to receive feedback on the presentation so as to ensure that key points of the sub-committees are being communicated.

### Presentation of the SMP New Program Direction

- Consultants showed the subcommittees the draft presentation of the SMP new program direction. The presentation outlines the SMP historical background, key differences between past strategies and the focus ahead, and the process for organizational change.
- Consultants explained that the program understands that there will need to be some flexibility in the amount of information given to some audiences and in who will be the presenter. But the overall slideshow is intended as a comprehensive template. The template can then be tailored per audience needs such as for individual city councils and County entities.
- Sub-committee members gave suggestions and feedback on the presentation slides. Slide suggestions have been incorporated into a revised presentation.
- Sub-committee members gave the following additional comments on the overall presentation and SMP new direction:
  - Since the representation of the Stormwater Management Advisory Council (SMAC) will change to members of the six watershed organizations, then there should be consideration as to what that council will be called going forward. Updated and accurate naming should be included from the beginning in the informational process.
  - Sub-committees have discussed having a future liaison from the SMP to assist with the coordination of watershed meetings and other activities. The SMP should look at additional support mechanisms that could help these communities work together and ease what could be confusing transitions. Over time, the watershed organizations may have to evaluate potential needs for an operating budget or assigned staff.

- A County-wide green infrastructure plan could be an additional mechanism to help coordinate communities, along with the watershed plans and system/asset management plans.
- Presenters of the new direction should also make note that this is an organic model that will grow and change over time. There will be a set timeframe at which the direction will be reviewed and modified but this is the beginning of that process.
- Presenters should emphasize the past successes of this program and that the SMP has initiated significant flooding projects. The County, however, still has many needs and that is why system management and water quality initiatives are being incorporated. The new direction is to ensure continuation of that success.
- The technical assistance for homeowners as a flood damage reduction initiative should be carefully considered. There is potential for some situations to place contractors, private owners, and cities in difficult positions. The contractors would likely have other contracts with the cities which could give an owner the impression that an assessment is non-independent. Cities would not want to put owners in that situation nor would they want to pit contractors against each other if an owner did not like the initial assessment.
- Presenters should stress that the watershed organizations are not a stand-alone entity. The inter-local agreements will be between the municipalities and the County as put forward. The organizations will not be another level of government.
- An important point that does not come through clearly in the slides is that the program has always been merit based and still is. Under the new direction, now the SMP is looking at refined prioritization factors and a comprehensive scale. That point should be strongly emphasized.
- Any presentation to city councils or other entities should start with a clear explanation of why the new program direction. That reasoning should be established from the beginning.

### Closing / Next Steps

- Consultants closed by calling for any final comments or questions.
  - Participants stated:
    - A more detailed timeline on the process for organizational change, such as a tentative timeline for city council presentations, will help city representatives in organizing their agendas.
    - The meeting for city managers is March 7<sup>th</sup>. It would be good to discuss the new direction with them at that time.
    - A one page marketing flyer would be helpful as well. The flyer should include the map of the watershed organizations and the chart comparing past and new directions.
- Lee of JC SMP explained that a revised presentation of the new program direction will be given at the **SMAC meeting on March 2<sup>nd</sup>**. After the SMAC meeting, a final template presentation will be available for use.
- Lee also stated that the SMP would like to **solicit volunteers from each of the five sub-committees** to assist as presenters. Volunteers would report on the decisions that their sub-committee made which would help demonstrate the range of entities involved in this process. The SMP will be sending out a volunteer request.
- Consultants explained that there will be some additional **targeted sub-committee work** for three focus areas; that being guidance on the inter-local agreements, the strategic asset management plans, and watershed master plans. Further information on those sub-committees will be made available.
- JC SMP and Consultants thanked sub-committee members for all of their time and efforts that they volunteered over the past months. The sub-committees provided instrumental guidance and collaboration in developing a new direction that will enable continued program success.