

Livia Smith, Chair

Portia West, Vice Chair

Joan Neal, Secretary

William Riley, Treasurer

John Shelton, Board Member

Joseph Oxman, Solicitor

Dr. Horace Strand, Executive Manager

Stormwater Authority City of Chester Board Meeting Minutes June 20, 2017

Opening Prayer & Pledge Allegiance

Meeting Call to Order:

Livia Smith: Please give us the roll call of the Board Members.

Roll Call of Board Members - (Joan Neal): Present: John Shelton (Board Member), Portia West (Vice Chair), Livia Smith (Chair), Joan Neal (Secretary), Dr. Horace Strand (Executive Manager), Bill Riley (Treasurer), and Joseph Oxman (Solicitor).

Livia Smith: We do have a quorum so we can proceed with the business at hand.

1st Business Item

Approval of purchase of 31 East 5th Street, Chester, PA. Any questions on that item? Okay no questions, seeing none, can I have a motion?

Joan Neal: I make a motion that we approve the purchase of 31 East 5th Street, Chester.

John Shelton: Second.

Livia: Ok, it has been moved and seconded. All in favor voice vote by saying I.

Board's Response: I.

Livia: Anyone oppose? Okay, the motion has been carried.

Livia: We have a report of recent expenditures for the period, May and June, take a look at it. Any questions on that report? There is no motion needed for it. Any questions? Okay, it's filed. Next, we will have the Executive Director's report.

Executive Director's Report - Dr. Horace Strand

Madam Chairman and members of the Board, thank you for the opportunity to share with you briefly the work that we are doing regarding the Chester Stormwater Authority.

As you know, we just had a tremendous celebration announcing the kick-off for the Stormwater Authority at the soccer stadium two weeks ago. It was a phenomenal gathering of influential individuals who came to offer their expertise and their resources to help us make this endeavor a successful endeavor for the City of Chester. Meeting our legal responsibility to meet the federal guidelines to reduce the poison that goes into the rivers, the Delaware

River and our waterways because of carelessness in and on our streets, and the overflowing of the combined sewer system. And, also to create an atmosphere where it is wholesome and rich for folks to live in through green infrastructure development. And then other opportunities through economic development in hopes to provide many, many jobs for our residents, and opportunities for our local entrepreneurs and businessmen to strive in their own community.

The wealth of knowledge and support that came at that meeting was overwhelming. The partnership that we have not only with the federal government, the state, the Chester Water Authority, and the work that we are contracted to do with Delcora, puts all three local municipal authorities together to improve the quality of life for residents in the City of Chester.

What we are working on now is our GIS mapping, and we are working on a rate survey to determine what the rate system should be for future revenues in support of this endeavor. And, also, the responsibility that will come as Delcora separates from the combined sewer system.

As you know, they already have a comprehensive plan to do that over a certain period. Once that is done, then the City takes full responsibility for all storm water flow into the Delaware River, and we must look at the system which is antiquated, and possibly spend millions of dollars, and try to, "you know," revamp it to make sure that the flow ways are proper, and the discharge is proper.

We are also scheduling public meetings. We have two public meetings scheduled as you can see thus far. One is June 29th at Asbury Church. This is to formally make the public aware of what we are planning to do and what we are required to do by law, and to talk about the fee system that will be put in place in the future. So, the public will have full knowledge of what we intend to do, and have opportunity to have input to ask questions regarding that.

So, there is one scheduled for June and there is one scheduled for July, is that correct? That is going to be at the Leake Center on July 13th. So, we are making sure that we are transparent, and that what we are doing is open to the public, and that they understand the benefit associated with this opportunity.

One thing I do want to reiterate is that this is the first time that we as a community can say that we are going to control our own economic development and bring into the community the things that we feel are necessary to meet the needs of our community, rather than to be dependent upon outside investors and developers coming in and saying, "I would like to put that in your community;" and as we see, that hasn't happened for a long time.

We have no recreation in this community for the kids, no restaurants for adults to go to and enjoy themselves, and we hope that through this endeavor we will be able to turn the tide.

It was exciting to hear about the City breaking ground for the new hotel that is coming on 4th and Welsh Street, and other things that are on the table; together we can enhance these things by working to make things accessible to our residents and to our guests that come into our community.

Now I also have a document emailed from our engineer, her name is Jill, that is working with us through the State. Her name is Jill Marie and she works with our partner which is called Corvias. This is a private-public partnership, and what the private partnership means is that the Stormwater Authority represents the government and the community, and then the partner represents industry. And what they do for us is, they provide for us the technical support (i.e. engineers, scientists and architects) so that we are a full-fledged municipal authority.

Without having to have a stationary place for employees, they are our employees, and they are paid through grants and through funds that we are acquired to do the work and the planning to make what we do right and proper.

What I was saying, Jill has a scope of some of the things that she wants to do and requests that we identify key players. Vanessa will you read that email please so that we can hear what she is asking us to do.

Contents of email is as follows:

Dr. Strand -

At our last Progress Meeting, we talked about the interviews that we would like to hold with various City staff and other community stakeholders. We agreed to provide you with a list of the type of information we are seeking and the purpose for the meeting. Below is the list organized by category with the information we are looking to gather. We hope you can help fill-in the "Interviewee" column and provide contact information. If there are any groups that you feel we could interview together or combine, please let us know. Also, please advise which interviews you would like to participate in and which we can proceed with on our own.

We would suggest sitting down with SAC and discussing as many of these items as possible. Then moving onto other City staff/other agencies such as public works/roads, city council/chamber of commerce, staff in charge of parks, schools, and private properties such as Widener University.

Please advise on how you think it would be best to proceed with these activities.

Category	Purpose of Interview	Interviewee(s)
Water Quality	 Identify CSO and MS4 Priority areas for project siting Understand drainage and sewer networks and identifications network features that are abnormal or may not be apparent Identify known problem areas or sites that could be easy targets for GI 	
Flooding Mitigation	 Identify locations of regular surface flooding and/or property damages Collect details about flooding (frequency, depth, extent, etc.) Understand the issues contributing to flooding problems 	

	 Identify sites that could be easy targets for larger GI systems 	
Social Justice & Community Revitalization	 Identify community/residential areas that are most in need of revitalization Discuss strategies that would be most effective to revitalize these areas and improve business development Identify opportunities for partnering with churches, non-profits or other community groups, and opportunities for community stewardship Identify sites that could be easy targets for GI 	
Public Property Opportunities	 Identify publicly-owned properties that would benefit from GI (streets/sidewalks, parks, schools, vacant lots, other facilities) Establish points-of-contact for potential partnering agencies such as schools, parks, transportation, etc. Establish protocol for investigating GI opportunities at these types of properties Identify sites that could be easy targets for GI 	
Private Property Opportunities	 Identify local businesses and private property owners that could form GI partnerships (e.g., Widener University, Crozer Medical Center) Establish points-of-contact for these potential partners Establish protocol for investigating GI opportunities at these properties Identify sites that could be easy targets for GI 	

Thank you! The whole idea is to be all inclusive and to make sure that we cover every area, involve other stakeholders, every department of City Government that has a part to play, so that everybody can be a part of the planning and have input because we cannot do this without this type of collaboration. So, this is what the engineer is asking us to identify, key individuals for them to contact and communicate with to make sure that they are addressing the areas of concern that are known. Of course, they are not from this area so they do not know everything; it's that we teach them and tell them.

So those of us who have the knowledge and experience can tell them where there is major flooding, what homes have suffered. Where should we target? What should we target first? Where should we put our resources? Because it is about remediation, and correction, and we want to make sure that we are

meeting the needs of the community in the process. So, it is going to take a long-term investigation and studying, but they are geared to do this. With that, I think that concludes my report. I hope to have information available to the public by our 29th meeting, and will also concur with the Board once we get complete information on our GIS mapping and our fee system.

End of Executive Director's Report

Portia West: Dr. Strand can you also give us the time for those public meetings, the one at Asbury, the ones in June and July?

Dr. Strand: Yes. What time is that meeting Vanessa? (Response: The first official meeting is on June 29th at 6:00 p.m. at Asbury Church, and the second official meeting is July 13th at the Leake Center. There is no indication of a time.)

Dr. Strand: Okay, we will set the time once we get closer to that date.

Livia: Any other questions from the Board about Dr. Strand's report? Okay, thank you Dr. Strand for providing that information to the community so that they will have a more knowledgeable idea of what is going on.

Dr. Strand: And the other thing I was remised at saying, my staff is working everyday putting out information into the community, mailers going to everybody's address, to familiarize them on the storm water so that they will understand the work that we are doing, so that is what's going on. The 14,000 addresses, I think we are putting out about a 1,000 a week. Is that right? (Response: Yes). So, we are doing that to make sure that...... The one thing that I do need to emphasize is this that education, and I think Ms. Carter emphasized that last night at the Health and Environmental Justice meeting, it's crucial. If you don't educate your community as to what storm water is and the need for them to participate and take responsibility for what is going on in our community, they will never understand what we are trying to accomplish, or what we are mandated to do. Because if we do not do what we are doing, the

City will be fined by the Federal Government and that will come out of taxpayer's money, revenues. Okay.

For instance, Delcora was already fined \$1.3 million or \$1.1 million dollars for improper discharge. And so, we must reduce the amount of storm water that is going to the combined sewer system. And it is our responsibility, so this education is a work in progress but, and then we are required by law to educate the community. That is something too that we must understand that we are doing. Thank you.

Livia: And I know that 2018 is one of our target dates that they are requiring us to have something to show that we are doing our due diligence.

Dr. Strand: Yes, that is the date. That's right. This is what we will be able to show them. We have been doing it in compliance with the law.

Livia: Anybody else? Alright, moving right along. Any old business? New business? I guess the new business is what was already mentioned in Dr. Strand's report about these town meetings that will be going on for a period of maybe two to three months for us to inform the citizens of what storm water is about and how they can play a role in this storm water process. Okay that is what is taking place, and as already stated June 29th at Asbury Church, 1720 Providence Avenue from 6-7:30 will be the time to get your first information. And these meetings will be taking place throughout the city and not just one local geographical area; but it will be spread out through all the different neighborhoods.

Dr. Strand: Wards, that's right, all eleven wards.

Livia: Based on our wards. Okay, now we have the floor open for public comments.

Public Comments

Livia: State your name and address and we can move onto with your questions.

Theresa Goode: My name is Theresa Good and I reside at 1310 Parker Street. I don't need to be trained by the Stormwater because I live in a flood plain, nobody comes up there and care about us. Only people that come up there is the fire company. We have construction people that come. You see there is no one that patrols that area. You have construction workers that come; we have drains that are filled up with cement and sand. On my street, we are in a flood plain. They come by, they give these us letters.

We have senior citizens living in our neighborhood who are in their 80s, some of them can't walk, we have disabled children. There is no plan. There used to be a plan, but there is no plan anymore. What they do is they come and pass out these letters and tell us that we have to go if it floods or whatever.

Now yesterday I showed the fire company the drain. I have been telling the City about the drain. They have been taking pictures about the area. I walked these streets, and from 13th and Parker up to Upland, there is not a drain open, they are all full of trash. From Parker Street, from 13th Street back up here they just cleaned out the drain with the new machine that you all received, right on the corner there at Kerlin Street. From 12th Street on down, those drains are filled. And when those drains are filled with the trash and everything, that water overflows and then it comes up there where we are, we are affected by that.

They have torn down a whole block of houses because of the flooding. Nobody came and really repaired our streets after the flood came. Our streets are sinking. I have been in my neighborhood for 42 years so this is nothing that nobody told me, I know the season where I live. Now the rain season is getting

ready to come and those drains need to be cleaned out for that purpose, even for the storm water.

You know it's a shame how nobody has to control these people to come in and do work and stuff in our communities, and then they dump trash and stuff that affects us and nobody really cares. You know what I am saying. I am not saying that the City doesn't care, but I am saying that the people who come, they don't care. And we need to get that drain and stuff cleaned out because the rain season is coming. And then when it rains, they have to shut off our electricity. They don't know if we are going to be flooded or not. Then we have senior citizens and people with kids trying to figure out where they are going to go.

You know it is easy for somebody to give you a paper and tell you where you are to go. Like my granddaughter, she is five years old. When she sees it raining, and when she knows that the fire company is coming, she knows what they are doing, she knows she is going to have to leave. I don't leave but I want my kids and stuff to leave.

But I say this to say that when the engineer comes out, have them to come out and check our area because something is not right in the flow of our area. And when they built those houses up on Kerlin Street even though they said that it wasn't going to affect us, but it does affect us when it rains and the water comes down where we are, it goes right to that spot where the drain is not open. You know, so it is not helping us for that stuff to be stopped up. And then one of our drains is sunken in. They repaired one of them but one of them is sunken in that they just repaired and it is falling in in the ground. I just want somebody to come out and check our area when they start coming out and doing any kind of you know, you know whatever they do to check and see what is going on. That's

all I have. I just came here to represent my area. We have disabled people up there.

The firemen, they love us. They come up there, they are so friendly, they are so nice, they make us feel good, they really do. But they know when they come and they have the letter, they know I give them a hard time anyway, but they come with those letters. I had them to look at that drain yesterday and he said that they were going to send it to his Fire Chief.

Just have them come and check our area because this is a flood plain and everything goes right there where we are. And then, the area where the water needs to go out, it can't go out because it is full of trash. And you know before Jimmy left, they cleaned a lot of rubbish out of that area and stuff to make the water flow. So, the water flows a little bit better, and whatever they did on Kerlin Street with those pipes and stuff, it has relieved a lot of the flooding. But the main thing is to open those drains.

Portia: So you are saying that they were on Kerlin Street but not on Parker Street?

Theresa Goode: Well I live on Parker Street.

Portia: I know where you live. You are on Parker St. between 12th and 13th?

Theresa Goode: Yeah.

Portia: Now you are saying that the drains there

Theresa Goode: No, on the end of 13th Street. You know the houses that they tore down where Dexter use to live? Where Dexter used to live there, on that corner there was a drain there, that's why he had to leave because of the drain. It's right there, they just fixed it, they put a new one there. But those guys, the construction workers came here last year, not even last year; the one's that replaced the gas pipes, well they had to come back to re-cement our patios, and they dumped everything right there, our whole thing is just clogged up.

Portia: Okay. I am sorry for the inconvenience with that. But, I have been checking with my guys because we are responsible for cleaning up the inlets and what have you.

Theresa Goode: I talked to the one guy (Mark) and he said when he gets a chance, probably because we are not on the list and I know he probably needs some kind of

Portia: I will check with him.

Theresa Goode: Then when the City, then when the grass gets so full and they have to cut the grass, it takes them three days to cut the grass; then the grass grows there and that grass goes into the thing, into the drain and stuff. Like I told them, don't you have a schedule where you can come out once a week and cut the property that you own, that the City owns.

Portia: We don't have that luxury of being able to cut once a week because of all the other problems.

Theresa Goode: I don't mean once a week. You know the last time you cut a certain area, if you can put that on your list to go back. Because that fills up our

drain. For some reason, I guess because we are sunken down, everything just goes right to that spot there, you know with the drain. You should see it, it is sand and rocks, you have to like scrape to find it, you can't even find it.

Portia: I will go up with my engineer and director, Rodney. I think you talked to Rodney.

Theresa Goode: Yes, I talked to Rodney, he was busy doing something else.

Portia: So we will go up there and look at it.

Theresa Goode: I am just asking you all to take a look at it. I am not here trying to cause any problems.

Dr. Strand: Can I say something please, we are happy that you are here and we appreciate you bringing this information to us because that is what we need. Because we are going to make sure that our engineers, when they start doing their planning, that they look at your area as a priority area.

Theresa Goode: Yes, they need to look at our streets. There is something wrong with our streets. The streets are sinking in certain areas. There are pipes and stuff, and it's really sinking. It's like something is happening up there, I don't know if the houses are sinking because there is so much moisture or something, but something is taking place there.

Dr. Strand: Right. And let me explain this to you too, this will be helpful to you. The Stormwater, we are in what we call the developmental stage.

Theresa Goode: I understand.

Dr. Strand: I want you to understand so that you can get a better picture. We do not have resources other than grant funding that we have from the State to develop a plan to do the kind of stuff that you are talking about. Eventually, the total responsibility of the inlets and all the things that you are talking about will fall on the Authority. Right now, the highway department, with its limited resources, is handling that. But I want you to understand that this is the whole purpose of what we are doing so that we can do things and be a help to the City to do things on a larger scale.

Theresa Goode: We're talking about storm water. I am talking about run-off stuff. I am talking about stuff that keeps blocking up our drains. See right here (showing of pictures), that's a drain.

Dr. Strand: Your right, we understand, but I am just trying to help you understand that we are working towards putting

Livia: Is that cement on it?

Theresa Goode: I don't know. Whatever they use to make cement, that's what that is. You can't even see the drain.

Livia: They shouldn't be doing that.

Dr. Strand: Yeah. No, they shouldn't be doing that. But thank you so much Ms. Goode.

Portia: Thank you Ms. Goode.

Theresa Goode: I am not asking anybody to do something right away. When you have these meetings, just keep me on your brain when you go to these meetings.

Dr. Strand: That's what we want. That's what we want.

Therese Goode: I care about my neighbors; I have eighty-year-old neighbors. Carol's up there, she is disabled.

Portia: You guys have a good community network up there.

Theresa Goode: We try to keep it clean; we try to keep the trash up. But something is really happening up there, I don't know what it is but something is happening in our area.

Livia: Thank you for that information so that we can put it on our list of things that we need to know.

Elizabeth Williams: Councilwoman, isn't it the electric company that when it rains down there, they give us orders too?

Theresa Goode: I can tell you about that, I can tell you about that. I am going to tell you about that. We had a plan that when they came, my meter where I am, I am in the middle so my meter is high up. The people across the street, their meters are low so they would also shut down their side first, and we would stay there. You see when we started getting all that federal money for shutting down whole areas, they have been shutting down from Kerlin Street all the way around that whole radius there. You know it was never like that before. That's what I was saying before, they had a plan.

Portia: And we still do have an emergency plan for evacuation and what have you. The fire commissioner, Travis Thomas is in before. And what we do is, if we are going to get a significant amount of rainwater and we know there is going to be a threat, especially to the people who live across the street from you Ms. Goode, we shut them down and evacuate. But there is still a plan in place.

Elizabeth Williams: We have STEM and our community room at City Hall.

Theresa Goode: They don't do that anymore, I am telling you.

Portia: Yes, we did that. But that is a reaction to the problem but she is talking about fixing it so that we don't have to go through all of that.

Livia: I am thankful that we are having this information that we need as we develop the storm water, but some of these things that are ongoing now falls into the City's responsibility level. So, we don't want to mix our conversations.

Theresa Goode: I just want someone to come out, I don't care who does it, I just want someone to come up there and check on those drains. I don't care. I can tell you every drain that is stopped up in this city. It's not just where I am at, especially on 9th Street. All of them are just full.

Portia: Well that's a part of the study too that was just read, that they are going to look at those flood plain areas, and we have too. Those of us who work in the City, we have to identify those areas for them, and that's going to be a part of the study and the planning.

Theresa Goode: I am just glad. I love my city and the area. Every time I want to leave and move out when the make me mad; I say I am going to move out but I am not going anywhere. You know I am only here for thought provoking, I don't mean no harm.

Livia: And we know that, thank you. Any other questions? Anybody else? Anything else from the public.

Monir Ahmad: My name is Monir Ahmad. 783 East 24th Street, Chester. My problems are in comparison with Ms. Goode. I just want to know that when you put out your plan, it was rather ambitious about the start-up date, the acquisition being securing a funding. Can you talk about where you are in your schedule?

Dr. Strand: In relation to what part of the plan sir?

Monir Ahmad: Well I believe you were supposed to try and secure funding in July. Demolition?

Dr. Strand: I don't know. Let me help you understand what we are doing. I think maybe you have some ideas that we are not even aware of ourselves. Okay, basically this right now, we are operating off a \$1 million dollar Pennvest grant, for the purpose of putting together a (trying to get attention of audience talking in the background). We are working off a \$1 million dollar Pennvest state grant to do a comprehensive plan to do green infrastructure development within the City of Chester. This grant will enable us to go back to the state to acquire another \$11-\$12 million dollars for the actual construction once we present them with a shovel ready permitted project. This is what we are working on right now.

The other part is that we are working to put together a comprehensive plan to establish a fee system in the community so that the Authority will have revenues that it controls to meet the needs of its community, and, also to do the kinds of projects that we are talking about, like hire workers to help alleviate the burden on the Highway Dept. in cleaning the inlets and things like that. So, this is what we are doing, this is our scope of operation, our plan and nothing has really changed from that. And, we are hoping to have place sometime before the meeting on the 29th so that we can make the residents aware of what we intend to do.

But as far as any demolition or anything like that, we have no knowledge of that right now.

Monir Ahmad: So I can conclude that the demolition is taking place between Front and Parker, Front and Kerlin, and Cherry Street is not a site that has been selected by your Authority?

Dr. Strand: We have nothing to do with that.

Monir Ahmad: Okay.

Dr. Strand: Okay we have nothing to do with that sir. I had no knowledge of this until now.

Monir Ahmad: Just two more things Reverend if you don't mind.

Dr. Strand: Yes sir.

Monir Ahmad: The streets, I mean I have seen, I am not trying to be sarcastic but I have seen a house fly, I have seen a butterfly, I have seen a dragonfly but I have never in my life see water go uphill. Now the Stormwater Authority is charged with making sure the water is clean, it goes into the rivers and the lakes, creeks, and beds; things to that nature, correct. What about Aston and Upland, places like that where water runs downhill? It is going into our system.

Dr. Strand: Well that is a good question Mr. Ahmad. And a part of what our responsibility is, is to identify those communities that effect the flood water in our community.

We have a map that the State of Pennsylvania puts out that specifically identifies those communities. Those communities that are in close proximity to waterways, have the same responsibility that we have to control the waterflow and to come up with a comprehensive plan. If they fail to do so, then they will come under the same scrutiny that any communities that are close to any waterway. And then, if we deem that they are creating an unusual burden on us, we have the right to try to negotiate with them with some type of fee system to help us to maintain operations because of the burden that they are putting on us, or we have the right to sue them by law to force them to contribute to what we are doing. But, we haven't got to that yet. Right now, keep in mind that this is a baby just born, trying to get its feet on the ground so that we can be established to have a full-fledged operation. With no designated funds that we control, we are at the mercy of the grant right now.

Monir Ahmad: Alright Reverend, thank you for that answer. There are just two more things.

Dr. Strand: Yes sir.

Monir Ahmad: If you could, if the Authority could use some influence on the City to put the streets people out there to help keep the streets clean, I think that would help a great deal. And finally, sir if you don't mind me saying, "The older we get, the more life takes away from us." And, in this intimate surrounding I had difficulty hearing, so if you could speak up at the next meeting I would certainly appreciate it.

Dr. Strand: I apologize, maybe the speakers were not on.

Portia: They were on but they were not turned up.

Dr. Strand: Okay. Now, let me say this Mr. Ahmad, I want to say this for the public, we are a municipal authority, we do not have jurisdiction over the City of Chester, and quite frankly, the City of Chester does not have jurisdiction over us. We answer to the Secretary of the State of Pennsylvania by law. We have the same credentials that the Chester Water Authority has and Delcora has. Okay, so we do not interfere or dictate to the City of Chester how to run its operation. As a citizen, I think it's best that you go the City Council meeting and other things to make them aware of your concerns as it relates to those kinds of things. That is not our responsibility or our call.

Monir Ahmad: Alright. Thank you.

Dr. Strand: Thank you sir.

Livia: Okay, any other public comments? Seeing none, motion to adjourn the meeting.

Joan: I make a motion to adjourn the meeting.

John: Second.

Livia: Okay, meeting adjourned.