



## CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEMS

**To:** Mayor Graham and City Council  
**From:** Dennis Sullivan, Director of Engineering & Public Works  
Walter Denton, City Administrator  
**Date:** May 2, 2005  
**Subject:** RESOLUTION – Stormwater Program and Financing Action Plan

**List of committees that have reviewed:** Public Works Committee.

**Background:** With the passage of the Proposition S referendum perceptions of many within the community has been the stormwater problems that have plagued their part of town or caused them concern would be remediated. To define the scope of the problem the Council employed Black & Veatch (B&V), an internationally known engineering firm, to poll the citizens of O'Fallon, record their complaints/concerns, analyze those concerns and categorize the need for addressing them, assess O'Fallon's risk for catastrophic stormwater problems, and report on their findings. In the report (titled: *Stormwater Master Plan*) B&V proposed "notional" remediation projects that addressed some areas of the City that have stormwater problems, not all areas or problems were addressed. The Engineering staff limited B&V's assessment to a number of larger problem areas and some representative ones midway through the report process as it became apparent that to address every problem or concern in this planning document was going to be extremely costly and very time consuming. The representative problems selected were things such creek armoring or inlet system repair that at a later date staff could apply information provided in the plan to come up with estimates for those needed remedies. A goal of the plan became to scope as many problem areas as could be done for a reasonable cost and within the agreed upon time frame. The total cost of the repairs and improvements summarized in the plan was **\$12,000,000** in current year dollars. **Note:** That does not include the cost of roadway improvements to provide curb and gutter along newly profiled streets with underground stormwater collection systems, nor does it address stream bank armoring along all the reaches of Engle, Rock Spring, or Ogles Creeks that is likely to be needed over the next 10 years.

To provide a check of what B&V accomplished in the Stormwater Master Plan, the City had Hoelscher Engineering with regional expertise in water management review the document. Hoelscher Engineering's review provided many useful comments to staff. Many of the general comments were directed to the fact that St. Louis Metropolitan Sewer District (MSD) criteria were used in the formulation of the plan. This deviation from IDOT and Illinois industry practices could

be harmful in litigation against the City for problems caused by using the data as presented in the plan for design purposes. As the plan was conducted by B&V to provide a benchmark for needed improvements in comparison to our neighbors in the Metro West at the direction of City staff, B&V did only as directed. Use of MSD criteria does not invalidate the findings in the plan, nor does it grossly affect the costs attributed to the "notional" proposed improvements which in no way are designs. Therefore, any actual design of storm water improvements that will be carried out in the future as a result of the plan's suggestions will need to use IDOT/local Illinois criteria.

So, we have a plan. It gives us relative costs for the projects listed. Therefore, if we limit our remediation effort to the \$12,000,000 listed, ignoring the others not specifically covered in the plan; apply \$250,000 of Proposition S funding currently allocated to the stormwater program; and pay engineering consultant costs for design of the remediations; we will get through the plan's list in about 56 years.

Realizing this dilemma, staff sought out AMEC Earth & Environmental, Inc. to provide facilitation and consultation services to a citizen-based, 12 to 15 member Storm Water Action Committee (SWAC). SWACs have been successful forums for determining total stormwater improvement requirements and researching alternative ways to finance improvements throughout the U.S. AMEC has assisted many cities in the U.S. focus on the problems associated with stormwater management, and find consensus solutions. With our storm water master plan, we have collected much of the data that is normally needed by AMEC to assist a SWAC; therefore, we have been working with them informally for a number of months to reduce their fee for service as it is now scoped.

**Legal Considerations, if any:** The contract carries normal legal considerations for awarding consultant services agreements.

**Budget Impact:** Proposition S funding will be used for this work package.

**Staff Recommendation:** Staff recommends Council approval of the proposal and formation of a citizen based SWAC to consider O'Fallon's future approach to storm water management. AMEC's fee for this service is \$34,708.