Scriber Creek Advisory Committee
Meeting Summary

March 17, 2014, 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
19100 44th Avenue West, Lynnwood, WA 98046
Lynnwood Civic Center

Action Items

	Action Items	Person Responsible
1.	Review Operating Protocols and send any suggested revisions to Shanese Crosby by April 21, 2014.	Committee Members
2.	Outline the area of service for Lift Station 16 and the proposed construction schedule at the April 21st meeting.	City of Lynnwood
3.	Coordinate with David Plodwick to examine the gate valve on his property.	City of Lynnwood
4.	Provide information on what fish are in the creek at the April 21st meeting.	City of Lynnwood
5.	Provide information on the history of the old 196th bridge and the fill that it was built upon.	City of Lynnwood
6.	Roz Smith to take a picture of how the creek behaves between Casa Del Rey and the 196th bridge during a rain event.	Roz Smith

Welcome/Introductions

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the framework of the Advisory Committee including the Committee's purpose, protocols, communication methods, and plan for the upcoming months, as well as describe the stream study corridor, the problem, assessment tools, and how the Advisory Committee will fit into the overall Study.

Attendees

Advisory Committee	Project Team
Nick Aldrich, Parks Board	**Robert Victor,** City of Lynnwood Project Manager
Josh Brower, Representing Great Floors Owner	**Jared Bond,** City of Lynnwood
Myran Che, Eunia Plaza	**Jeff Elekes,** City of Lynnwood
Nora Chin, Citizen	**Mark Ewbank,** Herrera
Dave Gilbertson, Parks Board	**Mike Giseburt,** Leidos
Brian Harding, Edmonds School District	**Cynthia Carlstad,** Triangle
Larry Ingraham, Citizen	**Shanese Crosby,** Triangle
Chris Nyhus, Park View Plaza Business Owner	
David Plodwick, Citizen	
Roz Smith, Casa Del Rey	
Eric Whitehead, Casa Del Rey	

Opening

Cynthia Carlstad (Triangle Associates) opened the meeting and reviewed the agenda. The Advisory Committee then introduced themselves and briefly discussed what they expected from their participation on the Committee (outlined below).

Expectations

- See what can be done to reduce flooding
- Reduce flooding
- Look for opportunities to work with Parks
- Learn about the issue and help where possible
- Find solutions – drainage control
- Listen and learn
- Solve the problem and contribute to the solution
- Listen and help
- Get rid of flooding

Cynthia then reviewed the Committee's purpose, workplan, and the operating protocols. The Phase 1 workplan calls for the committee to learn and provide input about the flooding issues in the study corridor, and consider the types of actions and solutions that could be evaluated in Phase 2 of the project. The Committee's goal is to develop a memo to be presented to City Council that describes the Committee's preferences for what solutions will be evaluated. This memo can include differing perspectives from individuals in the committee. Cynthia asked the group to review the operating protocols by the next meeting and send any suggested revisions to Shanese Crosby.

Questions

City/Project Team answers are designated in italics.

- There seems to be two problems in this corridor – a stormwater problem and a sanitary sewer issue. Is this effort only looking at the stormwater problem?
    - *Yes.*

- Is it possible for the City of Lynnwood (City) to provide the Committee with some background on how they are addressing the sanitary sewer issue?
    - *Yes. The City is currently under contract to build Lift Station 16, which will be located near Great Floors on 56th. The City expects to complete the Lift Station in the next one to two years. The sanitary sewer issue is tied to capacity concerns, so the City is limited in the options it can pursue. The sewer utility rate increase in January was specifically to help pay for Lift Station 16 and a few other lift stations in the City.*

- Could the City provide the Advisory Committee with an overview of the area the Lift Station is designed to serve and the construction schedule?
    - *Yes, this will be done at the April meeting.*

- Is the City looking at how downstream water levels in Scriber Lake may affect flooding in the study corridor?
    - *From the Team's understanding, there is no backwater coming from Scriber Lake that is contributing to the flooding problems. The study corridor does purposely extend to Scriber Lake so that lake outlet control can be considered.*

Comments

- If the City was able to control the outlet of Scriber Lake, it could really help the problem. When the City knows an event is coming, it could drain the Lake.

- The Committee and Project Team should remember that Scriber Creek is a jewel for Lynnwood. As the Committee discusses solutions, it should keep in mind that this is an opportunity to better the City, not just stop the flood problem.

Technical Presentation

Mark Ewbank (Herrera) gave an overview of the study corridor and discussed the causes of Scriber Creek flooding. Highlights from the presentation include:

- Flooding is a natural occurrence. In this corridor, development has increased the frequency and severity of the flooding.

- The creek channel has been confined by development and is not quite big enough in some areas to adequately carry the amount of water required during storm events. This is also true of some culverts.

- The channel is at a reverse grade as it approaches the 196th crossing and does not have efficient conveyance to allow the water to flow through this area.

- Storm drainage conveyance systems in this study area and throughout the city are typically sized for peak flows in a 25-year storm event. It would be difficult to build capacity for a higher storm event (e.g. 50 or 100-year event) as it requires a significant monetary investment and much larger structures.

- Once street catch basins are full, the water will flow down the path of least resistance, which sometimes means it flows through private properties.

- In the late 1990s, the City installed a regional stormwater detention pond in line with Scriber Creek that holds 50 acre feet of water on the NW corner behind the Walmart parking lot. Right now, the City can hold back a greater amount of water in this facility for eight months out of the year, but it is required to lower the facility outlet for the months of March to June coinciding with the early to mid-growing season for natural vegetation in the facility. The lowered outlet reduces its storage capacity in those months.

Questions

- What buffer zone is required for development along Scriber Creek?
    - *It varies from 70 to 110 feet, with an additional 15 feet required for buildings. The buffer zone is ideally planted with native vegetation.*

- Near 189th Pl SW, there is a headgate on a storm pipe. Can this be monitored or controlled?
    - *The City is unaware of the purpose of this gate and would like to take a look at it.*

- Are culverts required to be fish passable?
    - *Yes, and this will be discussed at a later meeting.*

- Can we explore the option of increasing storage in the retention pond near Walmart?
    - *Yes. It is important to keep in mind the permitting requirements that come with a project like this. We have to consider impacts to wetlands, fish habitat, and other factors.*
    - *The wetland just upstream from 188th could be a candidate for improvements if mitigation is needed for a solution such as enlarging a detention pond.*
    - *The culvert under 188th has capacity restrictions that help back the water into that wetland.*

- Who owns the area near the wetland (north of 188th)?
    - *Primarily the City, but some of the land is owned in partnership with Parks.*
    - *In this area, flooding is limited mostly to City property on the east and west sides of the Creek, but there is some flooding of private property to the north.*

Comments

- There is a lot of sediment going into the creek. On the Casa Del Rey property, we have a tremendous amount of sediment that is taking away the creek's capacity to keep the water in the channel. The sediment has just built up and up.
    - *Sediment accumulation is a typical problem when the natural flood plains are built up.*

- The Delridge neighborhood in West Seattle built terracing to help with flooding. They did this through volunteers.

- When it rains and/or snows, a significant amount of water drains down from the street into the creek at the bottom of the hill (189th St SW and 55th Ave SW). Over the years, erosion has occurred in this area. Depending on how much rain, the duration of the storm event, and the force of water flows downstream, the water will move dirt, rocks, and grass into the creek. When dirt and sediment build up in the creek, then during rain events, the water rises higher than normal.

- When it snows, and then rains, the area sees tremendous flooding (e.g. December 2007).

- Other countries have water collection systems, such as rain barrels. Could this be required when new developments are built? Residents could use the water for their gardens or other activities.

Photos of the Corridor

Mark shared photos of the corridor taken recently by City staff, allowing the Committee to go on a virtual tour of the study corridor. Highlights include:

- There are some manmade features (such as a concrete block walls) that border the creek. Removing these structures and building the slope in a way to increase flood storage and flow conveyance capacity could be a low-cost solution.

- There are two large culverts under the driveway of Eunia Plaza, along with a "birdcage" debris rack. The cage is protecting one of the two culverts from blockages.

- Any solutions that affect the wetlands near 188th or the 196th bridge would require a number of environmental permits and wetland improvements (mitigation) somewhere else in the study area.

- As the creek moves downstream of 188th, the channel gets smaller.

- North of the School District property, the City did some habitat restoration work last summer, which included adding woody debris for fish habitat. Some of the sediment will fall out behind these logs.

- At 189th SW looking downstream, there is an inefficient culvert crossing. The flow is bouncing off the wall until it finds its way into the culvert. There is also a sewer manhole right next to the culvert entrance, which would need to be moved if we decide to give the stream more space in this area. This is an issue likely to arise in many locations in the creek corridor: the presence of water, sewer, and other utilities could be a constraint or an added cost to relocate them.

- There is a water main under the bridge on the north (upstream) side of 196th, which will have to be moved if we decided to straighten out the creek between 196th and Scriber Lake. This would be expensive.

- Right before Scriber Lake there are two culverts conveying the creek under 196th. When water enters this area, it is sent through an oil-water separator. When there is a rain event, the water bypasses this system because of lack of capacity.

Questions

- Can you still use round corrugate metal pipes as culverts?
    - *Yes.*

Comments

- Just northwest of photo point 1, there is a significant source of the sediment. There are some box culverts that seem to be heavily silted near the vicinity of Hertz, where it intersects with Highway 99.

- Historically, the last week of November is the wettest week of the year.

- The inlet of the storm pipes start to creep up near Walmart and the data center, but this may be a site specific problem.

- In a storm event, the 190th culvert turns into a lake.

- There is erosion near 189th St SW on the west side of the downstream side.

- When there are heavy rains, the water leaves the channel on the School District's land and flows to the left of the chain link fence. There is a stormwater pipe that discharges toward the creek just upstream from the School District's detention pond. Water from the pipe doesn't make it to the creek, and flows overland instead.

- All the vegetation growing in the creek on Casa Del Rey's property was not there a couple of years ago – it is growing in recent sediment deposits.

- Casa Del Rey has seen water back up to the top of their fence. The bottom of the fence is pressure built plywood that is slowly failing.

- During a rain event, the creek makes its own channel between Casa Del Rey and the 196th bridge.

Closing

The Committee agreed to hold the third Monday of each month as their standard meeting time. The next meeting will be April 21st, 2014 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.