

Flood Control & Storm Drainage Subcommittee

2024 Bond Task Force

Meeting Date: June 13, 2023	Convened: 6:05 P.M.	Adjourned: 7:35 P.M.
-----------------------------	---------------------	----------------------

Committee Members Present:

Committee Members Absent:

Anita Childress, Chair (Virtual)	Gloria Alvarez, District 2
Edward McCullough, District 1	Matt Canto, District 4
Dr. Andrea Hilburn, District 3	Jeremy McConnell, District 7
Larry Brannon, District 5	Susan J. Falvo, District 9
Erica Solis, District 6	
Gregory Franklin, District 8	
Woot Lervisit, District 10	
Macs Reynolds, District 11	
Robert Fischer, District 12	
Laurel Stone, District 13 (Virtual)	
Stephen Tordella, District 14	

Staff Present

Matt Penk, Assistant Director, DWU	
Sarah Standifer, Assistant Director, DWU	
Abidur Khan, Engineering Program Administrator, DWU	
Natalie Wilson, Manager – Water Utility Administration, DWU	
Aerik Santillan, Senior Office Assistant, DWU	

Discussion Items:

Meeting was called to order by Anita Childress, Chair (Virtually), at 6:05 p.m.

A motion was made by Robert Fischer, District 12, to approve the minutes from the May 25, 2023 Flood Protection and Storm Drainage Subcommittee. The motion was seconded by Dr. Andrea Hilburn, District 3. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Anita Childress informed the subcommittee that there will not be a subcommittee meeting on June 20th as first advertised. Instead, the subcommittee will meet on July 20th at the DWU Stormwater Operations Control Center, 2245 Irving Blvd., 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Anita Childress provided an introduction to DWU staff's presentation of the first version of the recommended projects for the 2024 Bond Flood Protection and Storm Drainage Proposition. She mentioned that she met with staff to review the projects. The recommendation has Citywide projects, multi-district projects, and a signature project or two (as requested by the main task force). She explained the point of the presentation is to explain the process by which staff came about the information that is provided. The subcommittee will be provided a sheet (digitally) in the upcoming week or so that will be Council District specific so subcommittee members can share and discuss the information with their communities and their Councilmember if they wish.

Matt Penk provided the presentation – Recommended Projects (Version 1) & Priority Discussion.

Erica Solis, District 6, asked when the subcommittee will know how much money will be allotted.

Sarah Standifer informed the subcommittee that the Bond Program Task Force will take their recommendation to Council around October. Council will review and call for an election sometime in February 2024. Staff will provide a schedule to the Subcommittee.

Steve Tordella, District 14, asked about the Mill Creek Project graphic. The first graphic depicts what happens currently during a 100-year flood event. The second graphic depicts what will happen once the Mill Creek Tunnel is complete and operational. Matt Penk explained that areas north of the tunnel will still have problems even when Mill Creek Tunnel is online. To keep additional neighborhoods from flooding, infrastructure north of the tunnel would need to be constructed to connect to the tunnel.

Gregory Franklin, District 8, asked which Council Districts will be impacted by the Mill Creek Tunnel Project.

Matt Penk responded that the Mill Creek Tunnel Project includes District 2, 7, and 14. DWU will provide a breakdown by district.

Larry Brannon, District 5, asked how development over the last 30, 40, 50 years has impacted water drainage. Are a lot of the drainage issues man-made? Are there any techniques or plans for restoring natural water flow? Is there a maintenance budget for that work? What is it?

Sarah Standifer and Matt Penk confirmed a lot of the drainage issues are man-made. Sarah explained that there are 700 miles of creeks and channels throughout the City of Dallas. City staff maintains those by clearing silt, cleaning creeks, etc. Sarah confirmed DWU has a budget for staff to maintain the creeks, channels, etc. but was not sure right off hand how much the budget is currently, around \$11 to \$14 million. Matt mentioned that in the Mill Creek watershed, restoring previous creeks was not possible because the area has developed over the last 100 years or so over the old creek.

Woot Lervisit, District 10, asked for the amount of the Capital Budget. Sarah Standifer answered the Capital Budget this year is around \$26 million, \$13.7 million remaining Bond money and next year will be \$35 million.

Gregory Franklin, District 8, asked which districts are impacted by Trinity River Channel and White Rock Creek. Matt Penk answered it crosses multiple districts, for the Trinity River Channel project it is Districts 1, 2, 4, and 6 and for White Rock Creek it would be those adjacent to the creek, including- Districts 5, 7, 9, 10, 12, and 13.

Steve Tordella, District 14, asked how the Trinity River channel project impacted the potential development of a Trinity River Park.

Sarah Standifer explained that there has been a lot of community engagement on the Trinity River Channel and White Rock Creek projects. The main function of the Trinity River is flood protection, then the eco restoration and then recreation. The Army Corps of Engineers has allowed joint use trails in the Trinity River which serve both as a trail and as a maintenance road. If we do not take care of the levee system, the Corps takes away our accreditation. Matt added that if the levees are not accredited by the Corps that will adversely affect flood insurance rates for City of Dallas property owners and also that if the river is allowed to erode uncontrolled and unmitigated it could affect the integrity of the levees and impact trails and recreational amenities.

Larry Brannon, District 5, asked if all project engineering for DWU is done in house. Matt Penk explained that DWU contracts out engineering services. Engineering is about 10% of the cost of the project for larger projects and 12-15% of the cost for smaller projects. The costs listed in the exhibits, needs inventory, and recommended project list includes engineering and construction. DWU engineers typically serve as project managers to oversee engineering firms hired by the City to design project improvements. DWU also has engineers in stormwater operations that conduct site assessments for needs inventory consideration, technical scoring, and cost estimates for future improvements and also assist with engineering needs to complete emergency repairs.

Erica Solis, District 6, asked how do you decide who gets the bond money? Is it based on the last bond? Matt explained that staff's recommended list was developed based on technical need and the additional consideration (points) for priority/project overlay and equity. Consideration is given to the needs within each district and an effort is made to align the selected projects with the ration of needs in each district. Ultimately, the bond task force will make a recommendation to council and council will have the final say as to what gets approved.

Gregory Franklin, District 8, commended staff on the information presented and asked if the subcommittee could have access to projects from the last bond program. He stated in looking at signature projects, his district (District 8) is one of the largest districts as far as people impacted, but the amount allotted so far seems relatively low. Can we find out what projects were in the last bond program and what is still pending? Matt Penk said staff will provide a list of those projects. Mr. Franklin mentioned that not all of the needs of his district are included in the Needs Inventory and asked if the districts could add additional projects. Matt explained that the Bond Office is accepting projects and those requests can be emailed to him as well or sent in via 311. To help staff, it is best to provide an address or limits of the need, description of issue or need, contact information for affected property owner or requestor, etc. DWU's engineers will come out and do an assessment so that it can be added to the needs inventory. Projects have to be on the needs inventory to be selected for the Bond Program.

Steve Tordella, District 14, stated his concern that the subcommittee is unlikely to get \$200M, maybe not even \$50M. Sarah Standifer said the subcommittee will prioritize the projects and stack them based on the amount of money we can get for the Bond Program.

Edward McCullough, District 1, asked if there was a preference on how members of the subcommittee communicate information to the public about the Bond Program. Sarah Standifer mentioned all the minutes from the subcommittee meetings and the presentations are out to the public on the Bond Office's website. Check with your Councilmember to get direction on how they want you to communicate with people in your district. You can also refer residents to staff as well.

Anita Childress, Chair, provided closing comments and adjourned the meeting at 7:35 P.M.

Action Items:

- 1) Provide Bond Program Schedule
- 2) Provide list of 2017 Bond Project with Status and Scope (requested by Gregory Franklin)
- 3) Provide the Council District breakdown table (as-is) and then provide a version with the Citywide projects broken into the proportion within the actual Council Districts
- 4) Provide all the highlight sheets for each Council Districts and Citywide Projects
- 5) Update the selected projects spreadsheet at the same size as we provided the Needs Inventory list.
- 6) Provide Council District breakdown for Mill Creek Tunnel Project.

DRAFT