

# Flood Control and Storm Drainage Subcommittee

## 2024 Bond Task Force

Meeting Date: July 20, 2023	Convened: 6:23 P.M.	Adjourned: 7:47 P.M.
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**Committee Members Present:**

**Committee Members Absent:**

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

**Staff Present**

Sarah Standifer, Interim Director, DWU	David Phan, DWU
Eduardo Valerio, Assistant Director, DWU	
Abidur Khan, DWU	
Mark Williams, DWU	
Natalie Wilson, DWU	
Ivan Hernandez, DWU	
Marie Marroquin, DWU	

**Discussion Items:**

Jeremy McConnell, District 7, made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 13, 2023, Flood Protection and Storm Drainage Subcommittee meeting. The motion was seconded by Gregory Franklin, District 8. The minutes for the June 13, 2023, Flood Protection and Storm Drainage Subcommittee were approved unanimously.

Anita Childress, Chair, explained that tonight's presentation provides staff's first version of projects for the 2024 Bond Program Flood Protection and Storm Drainage. Tonight's meeting will include a presentation and a "round table" discussion by subcommittee members. There will be two follow up meetings in August, August 15<sup>th</sup> and August 22<sup>nd</sup> to finalize the committee's submittal for the Bond Program. We don't have any meetings scheduled in September, but if needed, we may add an additional meeting. Council is set to meet on the Bond Program in September.

Woot Lervisit, District 10, asked how subcommittee members can forward additional projects/needs. Sarah Standifer, Interim Director, Dallas Water Utilities, instructed subcommittee members to email staff (Matt Penk, Sarah Standifer, Natalie Wilson) and Chair, Anita Childress. City staff will create a service request for each item emailed.

Susan Falvo, District 9, asked if the Trammell Drive project would come to this committee.

Sarah Standifer, Interim DWU Director, informed her that the Public Works Department has already included Trammell Drive in their Needs Inventory.

Jeremy McDonnell, District 7, said he is aware of a handful of projects that were noted from bond town hall meetings. Can subcommittee members get a list of the projects that were added from the town hall meetings from the Bond Office?

Sarah Standifer will get with the Bond Office to see if they can provide a list of the projects.

Susan Falvo, District 9, stated that District 9 is light on flood protection and storm drainage projects and suggested she would like to get a list of those projects submitted as well to add what is needed to the district.

Anita Childress suggested that subcommittee members coordinate with their councilmember and/or his/her assistant to get lists. The councilmembers should be sending communication to the subcommittee members.

Gregory Franklin, District 8, expressed the challenge that he has in Council District 8 is that the Needs Inventory is understated and will likely continue to be. Gregory stated that, in the past four to six weeks, he has personally driven about 56 square miles that make up the district. He feels that if there are problems in the area, the first inclination of the residents is not to call the City to report drainage issues. Some may not have internet or perhaps do not know the process to report a problem to the City. Many residents have learned to just accept things as they currently are. The issues they have are not reflected in the Needs Inventory. He was uncertain the best way to figure out where the projects are. Many areas are underdeveloped.

Anita Childress encouraged subcommittee members to get out in the community and/or with the councilmember regarding areas that may be underdeveloped and may not be included in the Needs Inventory.

Sarah Standifer mentioned that the City studied the underserved areas of Dallas for water and wastewater. The Unserved Areas report provided a list of areas that were unserved. The City may use ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds to cover some of those unserved areas where there are occupied residents. This program is not part of the Bond Program. Tell staff where you saw a potential need. Staff will look at studies in the area, service requests, etc. and will work with you to get as many of those items added.

Anita Childress stated that if the subcommittee feels they need more time to continue researching in their districts, etc., we can adjust the schedule.

Jeremy McConnell, District 7, stated he felt the subcommittee would need additional time to look at items presented from the residents in the community to the Bond Office.

Steven Tordello, District 14, asked of the \$33M proposed for the Mill Creek Tunnel project, what portion of the project is the biggest chunk of the money?

Sarah Standifer explained the proposed project amount would be for design and engineering. Construction would come later. She would not suggest putting the entire design and construction in one bond program due to timing needed for design, right of way needs and construction. It is more appropriate to scale it to design/engineering with the \$33.9M and then phase in construction as funds are available.

Jeremy McConnell, District 7, asked what happens to money that is left over should a project be built under budget.

Sarah Standifer explained that the money is reallocated. She also provided an example that if a project is approved, but for some reason will not work, the money goes back to the councilmember to reprogram to another project in his/her district. This usually happens at the very end of a bond program to determine where it would best be reallocated.

When looking at the numbers, Gregory Franklin, District 8, said historically, District 8 has been at the bottom of the list and not included in any City-wide projects. He feels it has been inequitably funded. He stated the district does have real needs.

Anita Childress agreed there were several other districts in the same situation. Sarah Standifer stated that pump stations are considered City-wide projects although they may be in a particular district because they impact the entire City.

Laurel Stone, District 13, asked where a community meeting schedule can be found for each district.

Anita Childress stated she has seen two community meetings scheduled for September. Sarah Standifer explained that councilmembers will host Budget Townhall meetings in August.

Laurel Stone asked if each community has had the opportunity to provide a list of projects prior to the August 1<sup>st</sup> cut off. Sarah Standifer mentioned that as far as the Bond Program meetings, each councilmember hosted one Bond Program meeting to let residents know about the program and how it works. She understands that the Bond Program Task Force and Subcommittee information will be presented in September after the Subcommittee work has been completed.

Edward McCullough, District 1, asked what the \$4M for erosion control in D3 was for in the 2017 Bond Program. Sarah Standifer will provide that information.

Laurel Stone, District 13, provided feed-back asking why are we spending so much money on one single house for erosion control. She remembered Matt Penk stating law or obligation for the City to do this erosion control on private property. Is that the case? Can we just have no erosion control projects in the district and put that money elsewhere?

Sarah stated that Council passed a resolution in 1985 that said the City could do erosion control on private property. We could do cost shares, etc. When staff goes to the Council for a bond program, we always ask if we want to do erosion control on private property. However, nothing prohibits us from saying that our recommendation is to not fund erosion control on private property. Erosion control is expensive and sometimes greater than the value of the house and most people cannot bear the cost on their own.

Anita Childress stated not to feel obligated to include erosion control in your district. If it is not what your district needs, it's ok not to include it.

Larry Branon, District 5, inquired about how district 5 was created.

Sarah Standifer explained redistricting has been done at different times. In relation to the Bond Program, it is difficult to account for where certain projects were before the redistricting. The projects listed are based on where the project is located at the time of the bond election.

Jeremy McConnel, District 7, said he feels the precedence has been set that erosion control on private property has been part of past bond programs. We must be careful determining there will be no erosion control at all. There may be some needs in other districts.

Larry Brannon, District 5, stated he feels District 5 is like District 8. He feels the community is apathetic towards what the City is going to do with the bond program. The Needs Inventory list does not appear to be an accurate reflection of what is needed in the district. For instance, when a report of drainage is made and City staff comes to look at it, the situation may have cleared up once the rain event is over. He feels the Needs Inventory may not be capturing what the community really needs.

Sarah Standifer mentioned in cases where you feel there may be a missing piece, give staff that information to look at again.

Anita Childress stated our next meeting will be August 15<sup>th</sup>. Be sure to copy Anita and DWU staff on items that you need in each district. If you need more time, if you need more information/data, let us know.

Susan Falvo, District 9, asked how the Needs Inventory was gathered. Where did the information for the Needs Inventory come from?

Sarah Standifer explained that the Needs Inventory information comes from 3-1-1 inquiries, community meetings (staff or councilmember), service requests, flood and drainage studies and other departments.

Anita Childress introduced DWU Interim Program Manager, Floodplain Management, David Phan, as the contact for the Needs Inventory.

Susan Falvo, District 9, asked if White Rock Lake could be a City-wide project and not a District 9 project.

Sarah Standifer stated it could be a City-wide project and is included in the Park Needs Inventory.

**Action Items:**

- List of projects that were submitted at townhall meetings from the Bond Office.
- DWU will provide information on the Unserved Area Program.
- Subcommittee members will continue to work with their councilmember and residents to review the list of needs, will submit requests for any additional needs by August 1, and will be prepared to discuss the proposed reduction in Bond Program allocations at the next meeting.
- Staff will provide list of Budget Townhall meetings when finalized.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:47 p.m.