

City of Portage  
AdHoc Canal Committee Meeting  
Monday, June 3, 2013, 6:30 p.m.  
Municipal Building, Conference Room One

Members present: Fred Galley, Chairperson; Chris Arnold, Ron Dorn, Marianne Hanson, Doug Klapper, Gil Meisgeier, Bob Redelings, Addie Tamboli, Jesse Spankowski (citizen member), Mayor William Tierney ex-officio (arrived at 6:35 p.m.) and Destine Udelhoven

Members absent: Joel Engelland and Tim Raimer

Invited Guests: Shawn Murphy, Kim Johnson, Mark Aquino, Craig Sauer

Others present: Scott Inman (DNR), Steve Galarneau (DNR) and Bill Welsh

1. Roll Call

A revised agenda was presented by the Chairperson. Motion by Dorn, second by Tamboli to approve the amended agenda. Motion passed 10 to 0 on call of the roll.

2. History of Canal Renovation Committees (Fred Galley)

Chairperson Galley provided an overview of the canal's history with emphasis on the past 50 years. He referenced the Frank & Stein study of the 1960's and it's update in the Starr Report in the 1980's. He also noted the political influence of Knowles, Feingold and Baldwin. The documents he referenced can be accessed at [portagecanal.org/documents](http://portagecanal.org/documents).

3. History of Funds Acquired PCS (Meisgeier)

Gil Meisgeier, president of the Portage Canal Society, reviewed the funding history for canal restoration since 2001(attached).

4. DNR presentation ( Mark Aquino, DNR Regional Director)

Mark Aquino gave an update of DNR's position and reiterated the Department's ownership and responsibility for the environmental clean-up of the contaminated sediments. He indicated the Department currently has \$100,000 of funding to apply toward the project. The DNR appreciates being involved in the canal restoration project from the beginning. The Department also has other interests such as the stormwater issues and need to control invasive species. Additionally, a good team of 6 to 8 staff has been assembled to assist with the project. He introduced Steve Galarneau and Scott Inman as two of the key team members.

Mr. Galarneau indicated that a clear vision of the canal restoration is important so the DNR can understand the steps needed for them to

proceed with the clean-up. He emphasized the need to have communication so the separate projects could work efficiently together.

Scott Inman indicated sampling was performed this past winter between Adams St. and STH 33 to determine future sampling sites. The results were similar to the sampling in 2004 which just included samples along the center of the canal. The concentrations of lead and mercury increase in an easterly/downstream direction. Mercury concentrations ranged up to 38.6 ppm and lead ranged up to 665 ppm.

The additional sampling in segments 2 and 3 is expected to occur later this summer when more resources are available. Sampling in segment 4 is programmed for this fall. Mr. Inman indicated that it would be beneficial for him to obtain the original excavation limits of the canal.

It was mentioned that there is considerable fishing on the canal and it is likely that some fish are consumed. Mr. Aquino noted that even though there haven't been any fish samples taken, all health concerns would be examined.

5. Current Funds Available ( Kim Johnson, Kjohnson Engineers)
  - a. Agreement with city

Kim Johnson reviewed the Draft Project Agreement Funding Table (attached). She also presented the Portage Canal Background and Project Summary (attached). She indicated that her understanding of the items the City of Portage desires to be included in the project are outlined in the last bullet item on page 3. In order for the Project Agreement to be completed DOT needs a description of the City's vision for the project. The Environmental Report approved in 2004, including the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between numerous parties which expired in 2009, will need to be updated. The MOA is the document that addresses the impacts to the canal which is on the National Register of Historic Places, in accordance with Section 106 of Historic Preservation Act.

Motion by Dorn, second by Redelings to recommend Council include the hollow bullet points under the last bullet point as the basis of additional scope items to be included in the Project Agreement with the DOT.

Ms. Udelhoven expressed concern about committing the City to the funding on the Table. Ms. Johnson explained that the City had previously committed to their share when they applied for the projects. Additionally, there is flexibility in that more funds can be sought or the project scope could be altered.

Motion passed 10 to 0 on call of the roll.

The QBS process for selection of a design consultant was explained and because of project size, the first phase was bid thru the DOT. It's expected the City will use the cooperative agreement method again in the second phase, in part, because of the budgeting advantage. Ms. Johnson provided the project schedule (attached) which illustrates that construction wouldn't occur until 2016.

6. History of current canal project Segment 1 (Galley, Meisgeier, Dorn, Engelland)
  - a. Engineering Segment 1 (Galley, Meisgeier, Dorn, Engelland)

Chairperson Galley indicated there's not as much funds available for phase 2, because phase 1 was over budget.

7. Vision of Segment 2 ( Galley)

Chairperson Galley showed a photo of how the restored canal could look.

8. Engineering
  - a. Request for Proposal of Segment 2 Engineering (Everyone)

It was evident from the schedule that it wasn't appropriate to solicit consultants at this point.

9. Meeting Schedule (Everyone)

Because the Agreement approval process would take several weeks, it was concluded that the next meeting would be on Monday, August 5 at 6:30 p.m.

However, because the County Fair is the last week in July, that a FAQ sheet be developed for distribution – to garner support for the canal restoration.

It was suggested that the City Engineer provide copies of the Environmental Document and Conceptual Design Report for any Committee member wanting them.

Mayor Tierney thanked the committee members for their involvement and expressed his desire to see the next phase come to fruition.

10. Adjournment

Motion by Klapper, second by Tamboli to adjourn. Motion carried 10 to 0 on call of the roll.

The meeting concluded at 8:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Robert G. Redelings, P.E.  
Director of Public Works