

DATE:

November 2, 2008

TO:

Planning & Public Works Committee

FROM:

Brian McGownd, PWD\CE

SUBJECT: MSD response to flooding - Hurricane Ike

As directed, we have began the process of obtaining information regarding the flooding that took place in Chesterfield on September 14, 2008, as a result of Hurricane Ike. To date, we are still awaiting to receive a bulk of the information requested from MSD.

We have received a list of projects that MSD has planned within Chesterfield, however, we have not received a map in a format that we can include with this memo. We will have a map available at the committee meeting scheduled for November 6, 2008, and will go over the project list and map in detail, along with any other information we receive between now and the meeting.

Also attached for your information is an article included in the October 28, 2008 edition of the St. Louis Post Dispatch.

If you need additional information or have any questions please advise.

attachments

cc:

Mike Geisel, Director of Planning & Public Works



Morropolitan St. Louis Sewer Disrace Capital Projects in the City of Chesterfield

PHASES OF CREVE COEUR SANITARY RELIEF (SKME-021) 2003063

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(1-52 Pump Station to Olive Blvd)

6600 feet of 72 inch pipe

CREVE COEUR SANITARY RELIEF (SKME021) PHASE II

(Olive Blvd to intersection of Woods Mill and Ladue Road)

5600 feet of 60 inch pipe 4000 feet of 42 inch pipe

CREVE COEUR SANITARY RELIEF (SKME-021) PHASE III

(intersection of Woods Mill and Ladue to Conway Road)

7050 feet of 36 inch pipe

CREVE COEUR SANTIARY RELIEF (SKME021) PHASE IV

(Conway Road to Timberlake Manor)

4050 feet of 30 inch pipe

CREVE COEUR SANITARY RELIEF (SKME021) PHASE V

(Timberlake Manor to Schoettler Road)

3550 feet of 24 inch pipe

CREVE COEUR SANITARY RELIEF (SKME021) PHASE VI

(Schoemler Road to Baxter Road)

7450 feet of 21 inch pipe

Metropolivan St. Louis Sewer District Capital Projects in the City of Chesterfield

PROJECTS COMPLETED

90015 90015A 90012	Project Number
CC-22 Schoettlet/Clayton to HWY 40 Sanitary Replacement PHASE I CC-22 Schoettlet/Clayton to HWY 40 Sanitary Replacement PHASE II CC-18 Smith Creek Branch Sanitary Relief (SKME-028)	Project Name
2003 2006 2006	Year Completed
\$600,000 \$700,000 \$2,400,000	Construction Cost

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Residents, council blast sewer district

By Margaret Gillerman

ST. LOUIS POST-DESPATCH filesday, Oct. 28 2008

UNIVERSITY CITY — Angry residents and elected officials grilled the top executive of the Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District for two hours Monday night and assailed the agency for negligence and "aloofness" in its handling of recent flash flooding and sewer backups.

Jeff Theerman, executive director, told the University City crowd: "We're trying to do our best." He said that the remnants of Hurricane Ike that hit the area last month was a 100-year plus rain and an "extreme event" affecting many hundreds of properties. MSD received almost 8,000 calls after the floods.

Council members took turns firing questions and demanding the agency to take responsibility.

Councilman Byron Price assailed the agency for saying it did not own the River Des Peres and was not responsible for its maintenance and that property owners were. Many residents believe that MSD contributed to the flooding by not keeping the waterway clear.

Council member Lynn Ricci quoted from lawsuits that she said showed the agency had said in the past it was responsible.

Resident Rick Hawkins said that if property owners owned River Des Peres, "We would like to give it back."

"It is hurtful to people (that) you are taking this so nonchalantly," Hawkins said.

Many criticisms centered on the agency's insurance program, which provides up to \$2,400 to property owners who experience sewage backups. MSD officials say the program does not cover overland flooding. Theerman said the agency so far had sent 1,500 to 1,700 denials to residents.

Elnora Robinson, among others, said she should not have received a denial. "We had waste in our basement," she said. "Waste didn't come from the flood. Waste came from MSD."

Several City Council members said MSD should have made clear that residents had only 30 days to notify it of damages in order to become eligible for the backup program. Many residents were unaware of the deadline.

Councilman Byron Price and others asked repeatedly that MSD extend the deadline. Theerman refused, saying the one-month deadline was policy. Ricci said that MSD officials should have told residents and officials of the deadline when they attended a council meeting last month.

"It was an oversight on our part," Theerman replied.

"So they're suffering because of your oversight," Ricci shot back.

Resident Richard Dockett, who also represents the St. Louis Area Concerned Taxpayers group, blamed negligence by MSD for the death of two residents who were swept away by swirling waters.

Theerman later told reporters, "It's a tragedy, but it's certainly not the result of lack of maintenance. Our hearts go out to the families."

Theerman said MSD had been pleading for the Federal Emergency Management Agency to help. He said buyouts of the most endangered properties were the only answer to repeated flooding.

"The problem is where does the money come from?" he said.

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