

**OSSEO CITY COUNCIL
WORK SESSION MINUTES
May 22, 2023**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Duane Poppe called the work session of the Osseo City Council to order at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, May 22, 2023.

2. ROLL CALL

Members present: Councilmembers Juliana Hultstrom, Mark Schulz, Alicia Vickerman, and Mayor Duane Poppe.

Members absent: None.

Staff present: City Administrator Riley Grams.

Others present: John Roach, Osseo Watershed District Appointee; Diane Spector, Stantec.

3. AGENDA

Council agreed to discuss the work session items.

4. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. WEST MISSISSIPPI AND SHINGLE CREEK WATERSHED

Grams stated that Staff invited Diane Spector and John Roach to provide an overview of the goals and responsibilities of both the West Mississippi Watershed District and the Shingle Creek Watershed District. They will also touch on how both watersheds impact the City and what we need to be planning for in the future.

John Roach, Osseo Watershed District Appointee, thanked the Council for allowing him to come in and share information about the watershed districts.

Diane Spector, Stantec, commented on the history of the watershed districts noting they were joint power associations that have been in place since 1984. The purpose of the watershed districts was to prevent flooding and to improve water quality. This was done by setting goals and policies with common principles, to monitor progress, to do research and special studies, provide technical review and assistance and to provide CIP, cost share funding and pursue grants.

Mr. Roach described how storm water flows through the City of Osseo to Brooklyn Park.

Ms. Spector discussed notable highlights and reported the watershed districts has 13 lakes that have been delisted from the impaired waters list. In addition, the watershed district was working to reduce the nutrients and sediment in Shingle Creek. She

commented on how small improvements lead to large improvements long term. She described the great work being done by Women In Mining WA to educate schools on the importance of water quality. She discussed how the watershed district worked to improve lakes while addressing the internal management of waterways by harvesting carp. She explained best management practices were assisting with improving water quality while also improving erosion control. She commented on a groundwater project that was underway at Becker Park and noted project funding options that were available to the City. Educational and outreach opportunities were reviewed.

Mr. Roach commented on the structure of the West Mississippi and Shingle Creek Watershed Districts noting which cities had full time engineers on staff. He discussed the opportunities available to the City which included a sub-watershed assessment.

Vickerman requested further information regarding the benefits of the water quality improvements being made. Mr. Roach discussed the trickle down effects of improving the overall water quality within the watershed district. Ms. Spector explained improved water quality assists with enhanced fishing and swimming areas in the metro area.

Schulz questioned how winter run off from streets can be treated to remove the salt. Ms. Spector reported it was very difficult to remove salt from waterways. She indicated it was better to not use salt than to try and remove it from waterways later. Mr. Roach discussed how some cities have opted to apply brine during the winter months instead of salt.

Schulz asked how the watershed organizations were funded. Ms. Spector explained most cities opt to fund the watershed district through their storm sewer fund. She reported both the West Mississippi and the Shingle Creek Watershed Districts were very cost effective organizations.

Schulz indicated he supported the West Mississippi and Shingle Creek Watershed Districts merging given how well the two organizations work together. Ms. Spector commented on the differences between the two organizations noting this was the reason they continued to be two separate entities.

Grams inquired if grant opportunities could be applied for from private developers. Ms. Spector stated this could be done through the City.

5. ADJOURNMENT

The Work Session adjourned at 6:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Guenther
Minute Maker Secretarial