



September 1, 2021 Meeting

Chairman, Rod Vargo, called the ZOOM meeting to order. Attending the September meeting were Elizabeth Garr, Bryan McMillan, Pat Turner, John Van Naarden, Rod Vargo, Tony Ridley, Anne Marie Smrchek, Irene Walters, Justin Brugger, and Frank Suárez.

Pat Turner moved to approve the minutes from the June meeting, seconded by Bryan McMillan. The minutes were approved.

Construction Report – the group, received the project list in advance.

There were no specific project questions. Chairman Vargo asked if we could include the dollar amounts in the next report.

World River Day, Clean Drains Fort Wayne - Irene Walters presented on the partnership of CU and Friends of the River that will include the Clean Drains Fort Wayne mural painting and the World Rivers Day event. This year artists painted 33 murals throughout the community on all quadrants of the City. The three-year initiative encourages residents to keep chemicals, trash, debris and grass clippings out of our storm drains and ultimately out of our rivers. On September 26, the group would host an event at Promenade Park for World River Day.

Rod Vargo asked about City Utilities' past efforts to collect trash and debris at various points around the City. Anne Marie Smrchek shared information about working on collection points in the system at catch basins and the green infrastructure (center island) initiative along Maysville Road.

John Van Naarden asked about the possibility of trash receptacles along the Wells Street Corridor. There are a few along the Wells Corridor.

Watershed Health: Big Picture and In Your Neighborhood – Anne Marie Smrchek looked at how a watershed impacts our community and flows through our community. She looked at the effect on drinking water, property values, habitat and overall quality of life.

Rod Vargo shared that hydrological reports say half of our drinking water reaches the St. Joe River through underground aquifers and asked about sediment. Anne Marie shared that the St. Joe Watershed Initiative webpage had information about water quality, as does this page <http://wqis.cityoffortwayne.org/WQIS/>

Bryan McMillan asked why we don't hear much about point source pollution from large industrial companies anymore. Anne Marie said we still hear about them, but they are governed by different rules and regulations than stormwater now.

Rod Vargo remarked that he'd noticed amphibious activity, like frogs in his yard.

Allen County Regional Water and Sewer District – Justin Brugger presented about the acquisition of the District. City Utilities was approached by the Allen County Commissioners and the District Board to take over. The move would lower rates for District customers by about \$50 a month.

Other Business/Items – Chairman Vargo asked the group to share topics that they would like to see discussed in the future. John Van Naarden mentioned the recent feature in the Journal Gazette about the private lead line replacement program and asked if we'd seen an uptick in lead Pipe Replacement. Frank shared that we got a little interest – but most of the attention is coming from residents who want the replacement while we are doing a water main replacement in their neighborhood.

John asked what might be beneficial for us with the infrastructure bill being discussed in Congress. Justin Brugger said there was some money for lead line replacement in the proposals.

Frank Suárez shared that the Utility won three state-wide awards in August for Safety Excellence Award, Laboratory Excellence Award, Residuals, and Resource Recovery Biosolids Award.

Tony Ridley moved for adjournment and Pat Turner seconded it.