

2:00 to 3:30 pm WHA Office

Attendees on August 13, 2018

Lee Lennard  
Al Flores  
Auggie Campbell  
Tim Buscha

Tanya Foster  
Carmen Kumpula  
Scott Saenger  
John Grounds

Alex Kamkar  
Bill Callegari  
David Hightower  
Imani Forrest

Andy Palermo  
Alan Bauer  
Maurice Mullaly

1. **Welcome/Introductions** ..... Lee Lennard

2. **Flood Control Advocacy** ..... Lee Lennard

a. Houston Stronger August 2<sup>nd</sup> Event Recap

i. *Kumpula reported that the August 2<sup>nd</sup> Houston Stronger event was a success. The event brought out closer to 300 people which is less than the May event but attracted a new audience. The committee members who attended reported that the presentation was better than in May. Constable Rosen and Judge Emmett speaking close together also added a great element to the presentation.*

ii. *Campbell provided the group with an overview of how Houston Stronger got started. This committee decided to step up, work with the Executive Committee on a plan and brought a variety of organizations together to push for one cause. Since then Houston Stronger has hosted two events for the public. WHA & Houston Stronger have supported the \$2.5B bond election and Fight Flooding PAC. Campbell reported that there are more voting days than the presidential election and based on polling the bond should pass.*

b. Fight Flooding

i. *Foster reported that the bond issue is starting to come up more within the industry. Kamkar reported that this committee should look at what happens after the bond election to ensure that our efforts succeed. Lennard suggested few main goals that this committee should focus on after August 25<sup>th</sup>:*

1. *Make sure the money is spent quickly. Spending \$1B each year would be a good expectation.*
2. *Focus on State engagement. The region should receive at least \$1B from the state.*
3. *Maintenance. Lennard reported that taking care of the current infrastructure will be important and require proper funding. Campell reported that Judge Emmett is hoping to get a sales tax*

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allocated toward infrastructure to help with maintenance. This would require a constitution amendment.

- ii. Bauer asked how the bond money is supposed to apply. A simple diagram outlining the different money allocations would be very helpful. The committee discussed focusing in on a few specific projects to push. Buscha reported that the first tranch of CDBG funds will likely come in November. This money will be funds allocated for the projects needed after a storm three years ago. Receiving Harvey related funds will take longer.
- iii. Bauer asked if USACE is moving forward with any projects. The committee reported that right now the only project moving forward is the 216 Study.

3. **2018 Committee Work** ..... Lee Lennard

a. West Houston 2060 Plan

- i. Forrest showed the committee the print & website versions of the 2060 Plan. The committee took a moment to review the documents and provide and comments. The committee discussed the issues and goals sections and thought they were not good long-term ideas. Kamkar suggested using bullet points so that legislators & officials are more likely to read the 2060 Plan ideas. The committee discussed the following to include in this section:
  - 1. Convey 12 inches in 24 hours
  - 2. Standard level of protection
  - 3. Stabilized cash flow for maintenance
- ii. The committee discussed that the funding page will need to be updated. The committee also discussed replacing the current map used on the second page of their section. The full page photo of a flooded community was also discussed. The committee decided to change the photo with the Houston Stronger project map. The committee decided to use the map focused on the west side.
- iii. Hightower reported that the Water Development Board deals with water supply. A good idea would be to either broaden their responsibility or create an equivalent group focused on flood control.
- iv. Forrest reported that the committee has 4 pages to use for this section which provides flexibility to add text. Forrest asked that all comments be made by next Monday, August 20<sup>th</sup>.

b. West Houston: Flood Infrastructure Alternatives (flood tunnel, etc.)

- i. Lennard reported that a subgroup of this committee met at the end of June to hear from guest speakers on alternatives ideas for flood control. Campbell reported that the group heard from Brian Gettinger regarding flood tunnels and Mary Anne Piacentini regarding nature based solutions. Campbell reported that he will send the group Piacentini's information via email.
- ii. The committee discussed the flood tunnels as being non-intrusive but very expensive. The region is already having trouble getting money for existing projects and don't see where funding for the flood tunnels will come from. Campbell reported that the tunnels would cost no less than \$70M and no more

than \$100M. The whole project would likely be 17-20 miles but only constructing from the Beltway to 610 would be 5 miles. The width of the tunnel would be 35-40 feet which is based off of the tunnel in Washington D.C. Cost saving measures would be explored such as buying used equipment. The committee discussed that a \$100,000 study has been funded to explore the idea of tunneling. The concern is that our region does not want this project to distract from the other efforts being made.

c. Local & Legislative Issues

- i. The committee discussed Rebuild Houston being on the November ballot. The committee discussed what their official position should be. The consensus of the group is that they would like to see Rebuild pass. Helping pass Rebuild could be the next focus for the Houston Stronger campaign. Chris Lindsay is adding this to the agenda for discussion at the next Houston Stronger meeting. The committee discussed that Rebuild will be tough politically due to the county recently hosting a bond election in August. Campbell reported that the PAC's political consultants believe that Rebuild will pass. Campbell reported that WHA's Board of Directors will discuss this at the September 18<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- ii. Campbell reported that Houston Stronger is planning to do another event in September with a focus on the state and national level.

4. Adjourn

**2018 WHA DRAINAGE & WETLANDS COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE (PROPOSED)**

All Meetings at WHA Offices, 2 pm

~~Monday, February 12~~  
~~Monday, April 9~~  
~~Monday, June 11~~  
~~Tuesday, August 13~~

Monday, October 8  
Monday, December 10