

Millbourne Flood Mitigation Task Force
Minutes of Meeting #12 – Final
held September 26, 2017 at Leefield Community Hall

Present:

- Richard Medlock, Michaels Park
- Philip Richardson, Lee Ridge
- Denise Tonowski, Leefield Community League
- Carmen Messer, Tweddle Place
- Leigh Makarewicz, North Millbourne Community League
- Anthony Canada, Richfield
- Todd Wyman, Director, Network Integration, Sustainable Development, City of Edmonton
- Godfrey Huybregts, EPCOR consultant and Task Force Coordinator
- Byron Nicholson, Director, Construction Project Management, Drainage Services, EPCOR
- Gary Fei, Project Manager for Tweddle Place Drainage Improvements, EPCOR
- Darwin Smith, Project Manager for Malcolm Tweddle & Edith Rogers Dry Pond and Sewer Improvements, EPCOR
- Sabra Saleh, Senior Advisor, Communications, Drainage Services, EPCOR
- Laura Carlson, Senior Manager, Communications, Drainage Services, EPCOR
- Andrew Laycock, Specialist, Government Relations, EPCOR
- Jack Middleton, Director, Shared Services, Drainage Services, EPCOR

Regrets:

- Kathy Brower, Tweddle Place
- Wil Tonowski, Leefield Community League
- Karrie Baker, North Millbourne Community League
- Ward 11 Councillor Mike Nickel

1. Introductions

As the first meeting after the transfer of City of Edmonton drainage services to EPCOR, participants introduced themselves and described their roles.

2. Agenda

There were two additions to the agenda:

1. Damage claims information – Anthony Canada
2. Sagging street near private property – Carmen Messer

It was noted that an additional query regarding tree removal along 91st Street berm would be addressed in the Tweddle Place Drainage Improvements update.

3. Update on Projects

Tweddle Place

Mr. Fei reviewed the status of the construction work, noting the overall timing of the project remains on schedule. Sewer construction in the 86th and 88th Street cul-de-sacs has been completed. Sidewalk reconstruction will begin next week with street and alley restoration scheduled for completion by mid-October.

About two-thirds of the earthwork related to the 91st Street pond expansion has been completed. Sewer installation will begin next week. Dry pond project work will stop between mid-December and the end of April with the remainder of the dry pond development scheduled to begin again in May, 2018.

Tree removal along 91st Street will be completed this week. City of Edmonton Forestry Services determined that none of the trees could be relocated. Mr. Fei and Mr. Smith related that Forestry's decision factors include size and condition of the trees, ground slope and other considerations.

Mr. Canada expressed his disappointment that none of the trees were relocated, noting that the timing of removal (height of summer) likely contributed to an inability to save any of the trees. He said the tree removal operation was another example of the project missing timing targets that resulted in poor outcomes.

In response to a question, the Task Force felt it was not necessary to have a pre-construction open house for storm and sanitary upgrades on 42A Avenue between 89th Street and Millbourne Road, scheduled to begin next May, as Mr. Fei will be meeting individually with homeowners along the route prior to construction.

Malcom Tweddle & Edith Rogers Dry Pond and Sewer Improvements

Mr. Smith provided an update on this work. A land agreement between the City of Edmonton and the Edmonton Public School Board is still under negotiation. This has caused a delay in the project. Once the agreement is in place, a tender can be issued, a contractor selected and dry pond excavation begun. It is unknown when the land agreement may occur.

The ATCO gas line within the designated dry pond area has been abandoned and a new line along Millbourne Road is nearly complete. Tree removal has been completed.

Mr. Smith related the City of Edmonton and TransEd, the LRT contractor, have agreed to a change order that will enable construction of the portion of the Epcor open cut drainage work along the east side of 66th Street to be constructed by TransEd with the LRT construction. EPCOR Drainage Services will meet with City LRT representatives and TransEd on Friday, September 29 to discuss this and the possibility of constructing the remainder of the EPCOR open cut drainage work on the west side of 66th Street before the LRT project is completed.

It is hopeful this portion of drainage construction could occur in 2019 once the LRT construction is complete and testing is underway. The remainder of the drainage work required on 66th Street will be trenchless (originating from a main working shaft at 38th Avenue and 66th Street) and therefore can be done with minimal surface disruption after the LRT line is complete.

4. Damage Claims

Mr. Canada requested that a summary of damage claims activity (without disclosing private information) related to Tweddle Place drainage improvements be provided, specifically:

1. The number of properties the engineers looked at.
2. The number of properties the engineers reported damaged during the construction (damaged on the second report but not the first report).
3. The number of claims reported to the City by owners.
4. The number of claims the City has advanced.

He said this information would help determine if complaints from some residents regarding lack of damage claims support from the City of Edmonton is a majority or minority experience. Ms. Tonowski also asked if a damage claims appeal process existed. Mr. Nicholson said he would investigate and try to respond to the two information requests within the next week. Task Force members expressed disappointment that this information was not already available, and reiterated the need for the project team to be more proactive in sharing information of interest to residents with the Task Force and community-at-large.

Task Force members also expressed frustration with the policy and communications regarding the damage claims process, noting that residents were led to believe the City would advocate on their behalf with the contractor if post-assessment damage was deemed to have occurred. Since this advocacy has not occurred, they questioned why pre and post-assessments were offered by the City in the first place.

5. Sagging Street near Private Property

Ms. Messer related that the street in front of her house (8816-42A Avenue) has been sagging since the last flooding episode. While it has been patched, she was concerned it will continue to deteriorate. Mr. Fei suggested this is likely caused by black dirt soil under the surface, which has been encountered elsewhere in the neighbourhood. This will be resolved when drainage improvements along 42A Avenue are done next year since the whole street will have to be excavated to do the work. Porous soil like black dirt will be replaced with more suitable, compacted material and grading improved. This should resolve the problem.

Mr. Fei shared that he will be meeting with each individual homeowner along the route prior to construction to share information and ensure individual needs/concerns like Ms. Messer's are addressed.

6. City of Edmonton Commitment

In response to a question, Mr. Wyman confirmed the City of Edmonton remained committed to addressing residents' concerns and working with the Task Force until project completion.

7. Next Meeting

It was agreed the next Task Force meeting should be held prior to a pre-construction open house for the Malcom Tweddle & Edith Rogers Dry Pond and Sewer Improvements project. Mr. Smith shared that once the land agreement is in place, it would likely be 2-3 months before the open house would take place.