

**Malmo Plains Community Consultation on Flood Prevention
held November 9, 2005 at St. Martin School**

Consultation Summary

Attendance: 32

Main presenter: Russell Barth, Senior Engineer & Flood Prevention Project Leader for
Ward 5, Drainage Services, City of Edmonton

Presentation

The consultation began with introductions and an overview of 2005 flood prevention programs and educational activities. Mr. Barth then reviewed drainage engineering findings for the community and presented recommended system improvements. These were:

- Twin the existing sanitary outlet sewer servicing Malmo by building a new sewer along 51 Avenue to the deep trunk sewer on 122 Street. This will increase line capacity and relieve pressure on the local system.
- Build a wetland pond on the University of Alberta farm northwest of 51 Avenue and 115 Street, and divert stormwater to the pond. The pond will capture surface water that would otherwise flow into Malmo and also provide some relief for Malmo's stormwater sewer system.
- Seal sanitary manhole covers to prevent rainwater from entering the sanitary system. (*already completed*)
- Subsidize the installation of backwater valves in all homes in low lying areas. (*already in place*)

The estimated cost of implementing system improvements is \$3.3 million. The implementation plan calls for the sanitary sewer upgrade to be done in one to two years while construction of the wetland pond is expected to be done in three to five years. Implementation timing will depend on funding and the capacity to do the work. Discussions with the University of Alberta regarding the wetland are still in the preliminary stage.

Next Steps

Mr. Barth emphasized that moving ahead with the recommendations and implementation plan is contingent on receiving City Council's approval of a funding package. This package will include recommended improvements for all 43 at risk neighbourhoods and is scheduled to be presented in April, 2006. In the meantime, design work is continuing. A portion of the funding for the package may come from a provincial infrastructure grant.

Input from Residents

People at the meeting were in favour of the recommended improvements but were anxious to know where Malmo fell on the priority list. Mr. Barth explained that neighbourhoods are not ranked in terms of order of importance. Rather, critical needs will be dealt with first. The sewer upgrade in Malmo is considered a significant need and therefore has been identified as one of the first projects to be completed.

Mr. Barth noted that a new condominium development in the northwest corner of Malmo is helpful in moving the sewer upgrade project forward as the developer has agreed to build a portion of the upgraded line. This is to accommodate the development's sewage and synchronize with Drainage Services' plan for neighbourhood flood relief. The cost is borne by the developer and is not part of the Malmo implementation budget.

There was a concern raised by one person that upgrading the sewer line would not help him because his home was too far away from the sewer line. It was explained that increasing the size of the line would relieve system pressure throughout Malmo.

It was suggested some funds should be allocated to the maintenance of existing sewers as it was felt a lack of maintenance may be contributing to flooding. There was a commitment made to communicate additional information about system maintenance to people in attendance at the meeting.

Some participants were worried that implementation of the recommended projects would be hampered by a lack of funding or even a takeover by EPCOR. While City staff would not speculate on the future, it was noted that City Councillors in affected areas have been supportive to date of flood prevention measures. Residents requested they be kept informed of future developments and the date of the funding presentation to City Council.

One person was concerned about mosquito breeding in the wetland pond. Mr. Barth explained insect control techniques and the pond's average water level would minimize the risk of the pond becoming a major mosquito breeding ground.

Some general questions were asked about the backwater valve subsidy program. This information was available in a handout provided at the meeting.

Updates

Information bulletins and updates on Drainage Services' website at www.edmonton.ca/floodprevention will be used to keep residents informed. Additional comments or questions may be forwarded to Mr. Barth at 496-5552 or russell.barth@edmonton.ca