

**Southeast Mill Woods Communities
Flood Prevention Public Consultation
Held May 7, 2013 at South Edmonton Alliance Church**

Attendance: 35 (approximate)

City of Edmonton Presenter: Todd Wyman, Director, Drainage Planning
Councillors Amarjeet Sohi and Kerry Diotte were unable to attend the meeting but both had representatives in attendance.

Presentation

Note: The following is a brief summary of the topics covered in the presentation made by Mr. Wyman. The full presentation is available at www.edmonton.ca/floodprevention (click on Public Consultations)

- The July 2012 storms were severe events that overwhelmed the system.
- Plan of action is find main causes, review upgrades underway, develop additional viable solutions, obtain funding, and engage the community to implement solutions.
- Review of the \$50M in drainage improvement work already done or underway in Mill Woods.
- System upgrade options under consideration:
 - Build a dry pond in Tawa. This would include a Hillview and Weinlos storm water conveyance upgrade
 - A sanitary upgrade in Kameyosek
 - A dry pond in Ekota with a Menisa storm water conveyance upgrade
 - A Sakaw overflow upgrade
 - A 23rd Avenue storm sewer trunk upgrade with a Meyokumin dry pond expansion
- Benefits of the improvements include less pooling of surface water, reduced risk of sanitary backups and basement flooding, less property damage, savings of time, money and inconvenience.
- Next steps include:
 - Refine and prioritize upgrades based on impact/benefit and estimate costs
 - Consult and work with stakeholders on identified land parcels needed for dry ponds
 - Finalize expanded Flood Prevention Program and present to City Council for funding approval
 - Continue consulting/informing communities on design and construction matters.

Comments and Feedback

A major concern voiced by those in attendance was the timeframes proposed for the upgrade process. Many felt that they were still waiting to see the completion of improvements promised after the 2004 flooding event. Attendees also expressed concerns over the effect a slow sewer upgrade process would have on their insurance rates and the resale values of their homes, especially if another flooding event should occur before the project's completion.

A point was raised regarding the accuracy of the presentation materials made available by the City as one attendee noted that her home was not included on the map of flood damaged properties despite being reported and surveyed by the City. Another concern was the potential unreported damaged properties that would not be included in the City's flood calculations. Mr. Wyman reported that while every single flood damaged property may not be represented on the presentation map, the City did have enough data for its computer models to determine the best solutions for their real-world problems.

An attendee questioned the ongoing work in the area of the Satoo dry pond, which the City had assured residents was functioning properly. Mr. Wyman noted the work in question may not be related to Drainage Services but he would follow up to find the exact nature of the work and share that information with the group when it became available.

A resident of the 53 Street and 35 Avenue area stated that her home had experienced two sewer back-ups since the July 2012 flooding and that a plumbing contractor hired to try to fix the problem informed her that there was sewage blockage in her crescent. She requested that the City inspect the sewers in her area to confirm if there is blockage in the lines. City drainage staff met with the resident after the meeting to follow-up and request more information.

Residents wanted to know how the City conducted its surveys and investigations following the 2012 flooding events and why more city workers were not seen on-site, physically inspecting affected areas following the floods. The group was told that the City analyzed the flooding event in three ways. They had a team inspect and record conditions of the affected areas, including the GPS information for accuracy. Then a team conducted a Lidar survey of every street in Mill Woods, which combined with the GPS information, provided the team with a very accurate map of the drainage conditions in the area. This data, computer models and the flooding reports sent in by area residents forms the basis of information for recommended upgrades.

Another resident noted that City personnel inspected his property the day after the flood and confirmed that he had sewage back-up in his basement and then checked the gutters and inspected his yard for damage.

The group wanted to know what the City's plans were for 34 Avenue west of 66 Street and if these plans included the proposed dry pond near the Grey Nuns Hospital. Mr. Wyman explained that drainage in the Mill Woods region begins in the west and moves east, with 34 Avenue being a major conveyor of water. He said one of the options calls for the City to construct a large diameter pipe that will divert much of the storm water flow from 34 Avenue to the Grey Nuns dry pond.

A woman in attendance wanted the City to confirm that homes in the Mill Woods area had been built to the construction standards of the day. She had discovered a report from prior to the development of the area that stated the Mill Woods region contained soil types that were known to degrade concrete and she expressed her belief that this contributed to the occurrence of basement flooding after storms. City drainage received a report from her for consideration.

Other suggestions/comments

- The City needs to be more active in its communication with residents to help them be better informed and aware of construction and upgrading going on in their neighbourhoods.
- Several requests were made for the City to scope/inspect the storm and sanitary sewer systems near attendee's homes. Drainage personnel spoke with these people following the meeting to gather their contact information. More information about the maintenance and monitoring of sewers program will be provided.

Updates

Updates to residents on improvement plans will be provided via direct mail or email for those who attended the meeting and others who are on the stakeholder list. It will also be communicated through the City of Edmonton's website at www.edmonton.ca/floodprevention. Additional comments or questions may be forwarded to Todd Wyman at 495-1948 todd.wyman@edmonton.ca