CALL TO ORDER: 6:00 p.m.

JOINT MEETING OF THE AMES CITY COUNCIL AND AMES HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

1. Discussion regarding the purpose and activities of the Ames Human Relations Commission

COMMISSION/COUNCIL COMMENTS:

ADJOURNMENT:

SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING*
*The Special City Council Meeting will immediately follow the Joint Meeting of the Ames City Council and Ames Human Relations Commission.

1. Workshop on Watershed Management

DISPOSITION OF COMMUNICATIONS TO COUNCIL:

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

CLOSED SESSION:
2. Motion to hold Closed Session as provided by Section 20.17(3), Code of Iowa, to discuss collective bargaining strategy

ADJOURNMENT:
To: Mayor and City Council
From: Brian Phillips, Assistant City Manager
Date: August 21, 2018
Subject: Joint Meeting with Ames Human Relations Commission

On May 8, 2018, the City Council met in joint session with the Ames Human Relations Commission. The Commission delivered its annual report, and a discussion ensued regarding the Commission’s activities. In the interest of having a dedicated time to speak with the Commission, the Council resolved to hold this joint workshop with the Commission. The Council further directed that representatives from the Ames Community School District and ISU be invited to attend the workshop. Those invitations have been sent.

The specific objective of this workshop is to discuss the Commission’s purpose and topics to pursue. The Commission’s currently adopted strategic plan includes four main areas of focus, which are defined below:

- **Watchdog** – Undertake activities to discover conduct or circumstances that may lead to prohibited discrimination so the community can be warned and assisted in preventing it.

- **Information and Analysis** – Study the existence, character, causes and extent of discriminatory practices in the community.

- **Public Awareness and Effective Communication** – Work to improve the Commission’s profile and effectiveness in communicating with the general public.

- **Management Excellence** – Strive to keep the strategic plan at the forefront of all its decisions and activities.

The Council may provide specific direction regarding the types of issues to address, educational activities to undertake, or other areas of focus for the Commission.

**One aspect of the Commission’s current work that may benefit from more specific direction from the City Council is in regards to discrimination investigations.** The ordinance establishing the Commission outlines unlawful discrimination activities that mirror the protections in state law. However, no investigations have been conducted locally in several years and there are no current investigators or hearing officers who have experience conducting these investigations. Staff’s experience with investigations of this nature is limited,
and so there is minimal ability to advise the investigators and the parties involved in an investigation regarding the process. Additionally, investigations that might originate as a local investigation have occasionally turned out to have occurred in another jurisdiction (e.g., rural Story County or Boone). This has been frustrating to complainants when they learn their complaint cannot be investigated locally by our office.

The City has an agreement with the Iowa Civil Rights Commission (ICRC), which is renewed annually. Through this agreement, the City agrees to act as an intake office for discrimination complaints, which are then forwarded to ICRC for investigation and resolution by its professional staff. There are several communities in Iowa which follow this model for handling discrimination complaints, rather than investigating the complaints using local resources. ICRC will pay the City for its participation in this process. **In the opinion of staff, this ICRC arrangement has been a more efficient and effective method to address these complaints compared to investigating them locally.**

The City is required by state law to have a human relations commission, but is not required to conduct investigations. Therefore, it is possible for the City to forego local investigations in order to focus on educational and training efforts. A trade-off to this approach is that ICRC will only investigate alleged discrimination under state law, not our local ordinances. Therefore, if the City ever adopted local discrimination protections greater than state law, there would need to be some local mechanism to enforce them. **If the City Council believes investigations are an important aspect of the Commission’s work that should be retained locally, an effort would need to be made to appoint volunteer investigators and hearing officers, and then invest resources in training them to handle investigations.**
Watersheds

- City of Ames was a founding member of the 28E Agreement that established the Squaw Creek Watershed Management Authority in 2012
  - Reduce Riverine Flooding
  - Improve Water Quality
  - Educate Residents

Above: Brookside Park
Right: Stadium View Apartments
Left: S Duff Avenue Area
Watersheds

  - 41 miles of perennial stream
    - Expanding with additional areas of annexation
  - Establishment of stream conditions, 2006
  - Post-floods updated stream conditions, 2011
  - Aids in prioritizing erosion hazards into CIP
  - Streambank erosion (sediment loads in Iowa stream)
  - Degraded streams reflect
    - diminished habitat
    - increased nutrients
Watersheds

- Riverine Flooding and Water Quality
  - Nutrients coming into Ames
  - Similar approaches to improve
    - Stabilize streambanks
    - Reduce nutrient loads
      - Nitrogen attaches to water
      - Phosphorus attaches to soil
  - Results in improved stream health
    - Stabilized conveyance
    - Habitat
WATERSHEDS & WATERWAYS PROGRAM
Watersheds Leading to Ames

HUC-8 watersheds in Iowa
History of Work

- 20-year management plan developed by the Watershed Management Authority (28E agreement)
  - Ames a key partner in developing and implementing plan
- Water Quality Initiative Project from Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship
- Prairie Rivers of Iowa implementing plan and continually bringing partners in and maintaining WMA while moving focus area down South Skunk River Watershed
- Appointed ‘Watershed Management Agent’ by Story County Supervisors in spring of 2018
Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy

- Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, and Iowa State University
- Following call-to-action from EPA on hypoxic zone in the Gulf of Mexico (Mississippi River Watershed)
- Science-based goals in Iowa
  - 41% reduction in Nitrogen
  - 29% reduction in Phosphorus
Work that has been done

Squaw Creek Watershed

Cover crops
2,061 acres 2016-2017
1,289 acres current for 2018

No-till/Strip-till
1,381 acres 2016-2017
1,563 acres current for 2018

Denitrifying Bioreactors
1 unit installed fall 2017
2 units in progress for 2018

Example: Lundys Creek and Worrell Creek (2 HUC-12 subwatersheds)
7,340 acres of cover crops, 2,560 acres of no-till/strip-till, and 38 denitrifying bioreactors
## Water Quality Monitoring

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sample Date</th>
<th>Nitrate (mg/L) Standard: 3.3 mg/L</th>
<th>Total Phosphorus (mg/L) Standard: 0.12 mg/L</th>
<th>E.coli (organisms/100 mL) Standard: 126 organisms/100 mL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4/25/2018</td>
<td>7.4</td>
<td>&lt;0.1</td>
<td>98</td>
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<tr>
<td>6/13/2018</td>
<td>13.0</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>11,199</td>
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<tr>
<td>6/14/2018</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>14,120</td>
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<tr>
<td>6/27/2018</td>
<td>9.9</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>3,700</td>
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<td>7/11/2018</td>
<td>6.2</td>
<td>0.31</td>
<td>2,755</td>
</tr>
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</table>
Work that has been done

- Education and Outreach Campaign focused on watershed awareness, water quality, and soil health
  - Publications, videos, social media, mailings, and events
  - In 2017 alone, Prairie Rivers of Iowa reached over 600 adults and 400 students through outreach events
What’s Next?

- Continue implementing practices and educating in Squaw Creek Watershed
- Work directly with subgroups of landowners (i.e. urban fringe, livestock owners)
- Management plan for Headwaters of South Skunk River Watershed
- Utilizing recently published Story County watershed assessment
- Continue to bring strong local and national partners to our work in the South Skunk River Watershed
Takeaways

- Strong local, statewide, and national partners working on this issue – Ames important piece of the puzzle
- Expand citizen education and implementation of practices in order to reduce nitrogen and phosphorus loading to Gulf of Mexico
- Be the first watershed in the state to prove Iowans can reduce nutrient loading in our waterways!
Nutrient Reduction Feasibility Study

Purpose: To determine the most appropriate, cost-effective means of meeting the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy’s goals for Point Sources

45% reduction in the total number of pounds of Nitrogen and Phosphorus exiting the state in rivers and streams
Iowa DNR’s Point Source Requirements

- **Approach:** Implement a “technology-based standard” based on “biological nutrient removal”
  - Remove **66% of the Total Nitrogen (TN)** that enters a facility
  - Remove **75% of the Total Phosphorus (TP)** that enters a facility
Performance of the Ames WPCF

- Already removes:
  - 36% of the incoming TN (684 lbs./day removed)
  - 19% of the incoming TP (47 lbs./day removed)

- To meet the Nutrient Reduction Strategy, need to remove an additional:
  - 541 lbs./day of Total Nitrogen
  - 136 lbs./day of Total Phosphorus
## Putting Pounds into Context

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Total Nitrogen lbs./year (% of total)</th>
<th>Total Phosphorus lbs./year (% of total)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ames Water Pollution Control Facility</td>
<td>457,400 (4.8%)</td>
<td>73,338 (20.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Watershed Load*</td>
<td>9,447,648</td>
<td>357,490</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- *Watershed load is based on USGS’s SPARROW model for the watershed area immediately upstream of the Ames WPCF*
Adaptability of Existing WPCF

- Ames currently: Two-stage trickling filter/solids contact treatment scheme
  - Cannot be easily retrofitted to the “Biological Nutrient Removal” technology that the Nutrient Reduction Strategy was built around
Nutrient Reduction Feasibility Study

- Focus: Develop alternatives that demonstrate commitment and intent to ultimately achieve the goals of the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy
  - Identify opportunities to optimize the nutrient removal performance of the existing facility
  - Seek watershed-based options as a means to demonstrate our commitment, but only where they “make sense” by providing some other ancillary benefit in addition to nutrient removal
  - Defer major construction of an alternative nutrient removal technology until a future plant expansion is required
Watershed-based Opportunities

- Working with Prairie Rivers of Iowa to identify potential locations for agricultural Best Management Practices
  - Perennial groundcover in the presence of crops
  - Cover crops
  - Water and sediment control basins
  - Constructed wetlands
  - Denitrification bioreactors
  - Riparian buffers
  - Grassed waterways
  - **Opportunities within the City limits**

- Not practical as a means to completely eliminate the need for infrastructure improvements inside the WPCF
Nutrient Reduction Exchange

- Developed by Iowa League of Cities
- Inventory of BMP’s installed by utilities after the Nutrient Reduction Strategy was adopted in Jan. 2013
- Can include projects done for other purposes, but that provide nutrient reduction as well.
- Potential value as an “offset” towards future growth
Schedule / Timeline for Study

- Continued workshops through the fall
- Stakeholder open house planned for October
- Council workshop in November
- Outcome will be reflected in CIP presented in January
Public Works Department

- Capital Improvements Plan
  - Teagarden Drainage Improvements
  - Storm Water System Analysis
  - Storm Water Quality Improvements
  - Storm Water Facility Rehabilitation Program
  - Low Point Drainage Improvements
  - Storm Water Erosion Control Program
  - Storm Water Improvements Program
  - Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation Program

Stream Restoration and Stabilization
Public Works Department

City Hall Parking Lot Project
Public Works Department

Storm Water Erosion Control Program – S Skunk River
Public Works Department

- NPDES MS4 Permit (2014-2019)
  - Public Education and Outreach
  - Public Involvement and Participation
  - Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination
  - Construction Site Storm Water Runoff Control
  - Post-Construction Storm Water Management
  - Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping
Public Works Department

Cost Share Programs
- Rain Gardens
- Rain Barrels
- Native Landscape
- Soil Quality Restoration
- Composters
- Trees Forever – Iowa Event

SMART WATERSHEDS
FOR CLEAN RIVERS AND STREAMS
Next Steps

- Reconfirming City Council’s support for Watershed activities
  - Are there any additions that City Council would like to see as part of the Watershed activities?
Next Steps

- Informing City Council about Watershed activities
  - These updates (either written or oral presentations) will occur periodically as progress occurs or decision points are needed
Next Steps

- Currently, City staff serves on the Board of both Watershed Management Authorities to provide technical assistance.
  - In addition to City staff, does City Council want to have one Council member on each of the Watershed Management Authority Boards?
    - Estimated 6 to 12 meetings a year