Sand Creek MDP & FHAD
Kick-off Meeting
August 22, 2017 2:30 PM
UDFCD Offices

Meeting Minutes

Attendees:  Curtis Bish, City of Aurora – PROS
Bill McCormick, City of Aurora – Public Works
Craig Perl, City of Aurora – Public Works
Sarah Young, City of Aurora – Water
Jon Villines, City of Aurora – Water
Andrew Pihaly, City of Commerce City
Bruce Uhernik, City of Denver – Public Works
Cincere Eades (by phone), City of Denver – Parks and Rec
Jeremy Hamer, City of Denver – Floodplain
David Morrisey, City of Denver – Floodplain
Morgan Lynch, Urban Drainage and Flood Control District
Shea Thomas, Urban Drainage and Flood Control District
Craig Jacobson, ICON Engineering
Jaclyn Michaelsen, ICON Engineering
Jeremy Deischer, ICON Engineering

Anticipated Schedule

- Morgan and Shea provided an overview on the new approach UDFCD is taking on MDP / FHAD studies. After the hydrology is complete the team will proceed into the FHAD portion of the study. This new approach will allow the team to develop an existing conditions floodplain before developing alternatives. After the FHAD is complete the team will continue with developing alternatives and the conceptual design portion of the study. Colfax Avenue, the upstream limit of the study, was identified as a key concern and may be analyzed for alternatives before the FHAD portion is complete.

- Jeremy Hamer asked about the role of the stakeholders during the FHAD process. Morgan and Shea will provide stakeholders the opportunity to provide any comments within each review period for the FHAD.

- Craig Jacobson indicted the hydrology portion of the study is expected to be completed sooner than the allotted 16 weeks.

- After some discussion, the team decided to hold a public meeting near the end of the FHAD portion of the study. This would allow the floodplain delineation to be completed and be able to properly identify risks and gather input from the public before developing the alternatives.

- Shea described the approach to the conceptual design of the study. The intent is not to produce an exact preliminary design for the proposed improvements but rather provide the intent of the improvements. The design of the proposed improvements will be refined to a level such that an accurate cost estimate can be provided. Craig Jacobson noted this approach was very similar to the Boulder Creek Restoration Master Plan that ICON completed in 2015. ICON will be using the same subconsultant for the geomorphic assessment that was used for Boulder Creek, Ecological Resource Consultants, Inc.
Table Discussion – Key Components of Study to Stakeholders

- The discussion of specific areas of interest to each stakeholder was tabled until later in the project. Instead the team discussed what each stakeholder wanted to get out of this study.
  - City of Aurora:
    - Improve the ecological function of the stream corridor
    - Evaluate the possible aggradation of the soil cement channel
    - Evaluate roadway crossings at Colfax Avenue, Alameda Avenue, and Chambers Road.
    - Evaluate the Zone X with reduced flood risk due to levee near Chambers Road.
    - Evaluate possible spill of Sable Ditch into Sand Creek
  - City of Denver:
    - Reduction in flood risk
    - Create a stable channel that seamlessly integrates with open space and parks to create more of an amenity than strictly a conveyance system.
    - The Stapleton redevelopment area. Jeremy Hamer described the development currently in the area which included moving the existing detention basin to the west across Central Park Boulevard.
  - City of Commerce City:
    - Reduction in flood risk
    - Andrew informed the team of the redesign of the I-270 and Vasquez Boulevard intersection. The ramp of I-270 to I-70 is also in redesign.
  - UDFCD
    - Morgan described the district’s interest in the updated floodplain delineation and trying to improve Sand Creek as it is currently on the State of Colorado’s 303D, impaired waters, list.
- Curtis asked about if any environmental investigation would be done as part of this study. Craig Jacobson stated this study would focus on stream health and the geomorphology of the stream but not site specific environmental assessments.

Hydrology Scope and Approach

- Craig Jacobson overviewed the approach to updating the hydrology for Sand Creek. Existing hydrology models for UDFCD master plans will be used to generate inflow hydrographs for each tributary along Sand Creek. Existing studies will be updated to CUHP version 2.0 and NOAA Atlas 14 rainfall. Additional subwatersheds will be created for areas that are not accounted for in existing UDFCD studies. It was anticipated that around 5 additional subwatersheds would be needed. These areas would be large scale, not delineated down to 130-acre subwatersheds.
- The City of Aurora informed the team that a hydrology study had been completed for the Peoria Street Basin. The City anticipated a project for construction in 2019 that would convey 100-year flows from the Peoria Street Basin into Sand Creek.
- The City of Aurora also has a hydrology study currently ongoing for Old Aurora. It is not anticipated this study would be complete in time for use for this study.
- Jeremy Hamer asked whether the hydrology model would be calibrated to the gage data. Morgan described how the stream gage data is not accurate enough to calibrate a model given the years of record and ditch influences. The team briefly questioned how the South Platte River Hydrology CLOMR incorporated the Sand Creek gage data. The team will look into the Wright Water Engineers report on the South Platte River hydrology and how the gage data was used.
• The team discussed the data to be used for the existing conditions imperviousness. The City of Denver and Aurora had existing conditions imperviousness layers they could provide. Commerce City was unsure if this information was available. Shea described the National Land Cover Dataset with slight modifications was also acceptable to determine existing conditions land use.

**Website & Communication**

• Each stakeholder identified which contact should be listed on the project website.
• The City of Aurora has a new logo they will provide to be used on the website.
• A comment form section will be added to the website to allow the public to easily submit comments on the study.
• The website can be further reviewed at the following link: [http://www.iconeng.com/project/sand-creek/](http://www.iconeng.com/project/sand-creek/)

The next meeting will present the results of the hydrologic analysis before submitting to the hydrology models to stakeholders for review. This meeting will be set up in approximately three (3) to four (4) weeks.

**Action Items:**

City of Aurora will provide:

• Updated logo for project website
• Peoria Street Basin Hydrology Report
• Existing conditions impervious GIS shapefile

City of Denver will provide:

• Existing conditions impervious GIS shapefile

Commerce City will provide:

• Zoning GIS shapefile (if available)
• Existing conditions impervious GIS shapefile (if available)

- END OF MEETING--

To the best of my knowledge, these minutes are a factual account of the business conducted, the discussions that took place, and the decisions that were reached at the subject meeting. Please direct any exceptions to these minutes in writing to the undersigned within ten (10) days of the issue date appearing herein. Failure to do so will constitute acceptance of these minutes as statements of fact in which you concur.

**Minutes prepared by:**

Jeremy Deischer, EI  
ICON Engineering, Inc.

August 25, 2017