

Village of Westmont

# *Stormwater Management- Infrastructure Sales Tax Referendum*

Metropolitan Planning Council/  
Calumet Stormwater Collaborative  
Presentation - Nov. 6, 2015



Village of Westmont

***Stormwater Management  
Sales Tax Referendum***



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***Mike Ramsey - Westmont Public Works Director***

***Larry McIntyre - Westmont Communications Director***

# Westmont Stormwater Concerns - Past Decade



*2004-Present - Increase of heavy rainfall incidents resulting in increased area flooding concerns*

*2008 - Devastating flood coinciding with budget concerns - community meeting to discuss problems - hire Christopher Burke Consulting to review problem areas*

*2011 - Christopher Burke Study released with various recommendations coincides with loss of Home Rule*

# Westmont Stormwater Concerns - Recent Timeline



*2011-2013 - No funds available to address costly  
Stormwater Management solutions*

*April 2013 - Historic flooding throughout northern Illinois*

*May 2013 - Within one month of flood, new Mayor calls  
special town hall meeting to discuss the problem and  
hear resident concerns*

# Westmont Stormwater Communication & Community Outreach Solution



*The process to find solutions and include the community was going to be vital to the success of this initiative.*

# Westmont Stormwater Communication & Community Outreach Solution



## *May 2013 - Town Hall Meeting*

- *Hearing feedback from residents regarding April 2013 flood*
- *Engaging the community in a respectful manner, hearing concerns, creating Stormwater Committee*



# Westmont Stormwater Communication & Community Outreach Solution



## *June 2013 - Stormwater Committee*

- *Representation from throughout the community*
- *Changing the tone of the conversation from “them” to “us”*
- *Manage the conversation, but let the residents help drive the direction & be empowered to get involved*
- *Twice-a-month meetings through Oct. 2013*

# Westmont Stormwater Communication & Community Outreach Solution



## *July-Sept. 2013 - Stormwater Committee*

- *Research into funding methodologies*
- *Review and prioritization of problem areas*
- *Review Downers Grove's program*
- *Discuss if this is the issue of a few (those most affected) or a conversation for all (community-wide infrastructure updates)*



# Westmont Stormwater Communication & Community Outreach Solution



## *Oct. 2013 - Stormwater Presentation*

- *Discuss topic comprehensively including funding mechanisms and prioritization of community needs*
- *Discuss “green” stormwater technologies*
- *Make specific recommendations for the Village Board to consider*

# Westmont Stormwater Communication & Community Outreach Solution



## *Nov.-Dec. 2013 - Hire Stormwater Consultant*

- *Expert advice needed for developing a Stormwater Utility*
- *Experience needed for gathering information regarding utility methodology and individual lot size and pervious areas - ERUs*
- *Stakeholders Committee*

# Westmont Stormwater Communication & Community Outreach Solution



## *Spring 2014 - Stakeholders Committee*

- *Similar to Stormwater Committee, but expanded to include business community, NFPs & public agencies*
- *Making decisions based on utility rate as well as discussion regarding incentives*

# Westmont Stormwater Communication & Community Outreach Solution



## *July-August 2014 - Decision Regarding Utility*

- *Presentation to Board from consultant re: utility*
- *Timeline to get on Nov. referendum ballot*
- *Reconsidering the Stormwater Utility methodology*
- *Discuss of a special local sales tax dedicated specifically for Stormwater-Infrastructure*

# Westmont Stormwater Communication & Community Outreach Solution



## *Fall 2014 - Decision Regarding Utility*

- *Board began discussing Sales Tax option*
- *School District issued fall referendum*
- *Board directed more public input regarding utility vs. sales tax options*
- *Focus was dedicated revenue source*

# Westmont Stormwater Communication & Community Outreach Solution



## *Winter 2015 - Sales Tax Referendum Decision*

- *Utility methodology too confusing*
- *Utility option too costly for businesses  
and opposed by NFPs*
- *Village could not advocate for referendum, but was  
clear regarding what a NO vote would mean*



# Westmont Stormwater Communication & Community Outreach Solution



## *Sales Tax Referendum Passes*

- *April 7, Westmont voters passed the referendum*
- *Referendum had a high voter turnout due to School District referendum*
- *Passed by less than 100 votes and less than 50% approval*

# Westmont Stormwater Management Program Moving Forward



## *Sales Tax Implementation*

- *Affected businesses notified in June*
- *Sales tax collection began July 1*
- *Last night, Nov. 5, Village Board began discussing the future of Westmont Stormwater Program in regard to staffing, project priorities, and possible bond issues*

# Westmont Stormwater Management Program

## Moving Forward



### *Recent Stormwater Projects*

- *Mariano's largest underground water storage of its kind in State of Illinois*
- *First pervious concrete road in State of Illinois*

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