

BSI Canal Committee

3/18/24

Reviewing my records, I see I haven't posted since late August last year. Since that time, there hasn't been a lot to report, other than the ongoing (lan) seawall repairs progressing through our development. If you are interested, the city keeps a spreadsheet of the repairs progress on their site which is revised monthly. Per their current iteration, all repairs will be completed by mid-June. This has been adjusted since last fall, when they were predicting an April finish. – The usual cavaotes---weather, materials, schedules, etc. apply to this schedule adjustment, but all in all, I'm pretty happy with the progress of the overall effort.

Of course, the bigger question on everyone's mind is the lock widening project. This was discussed extensively during our monthly meeting, this past Tuesday. So, without boring you with too many details, here are my "cliff notes" of this discussion ----

Cathy Miller, Public Works Supervisor was the point person, responsible for moving the lock widening project forward.

She issued a request for lock widening last spring, with bids received early last summer. These bids were found to be well above budget and were subsequently rejected. In review of the bids, it was determined that the project scope and specifications were too loose and therefore quantities and work limits were out of line with actual scopes of work. Cathy, realized that the bid documents needed re-writing, tightening up scope definitions, specifications, quantities of work, etc. and then re-bid this job.

I don't know why ---but it seems that every job out there is required to have a "monkey wrench thrown into the works" and here is ours—Cathy had been working on re-writing bid documents, when she decided to retire last fall. Her position has yet to be filled, although I have been informed that a replacement has been hired and is being vetted through Human Resources with an anticipated on-board date of early April.

At the time of her retirement, I was told her job duties had been split between several members of the canal maintenance organization—I "assuming" all her job duties and responsibilities were divided and would be adequately managed. Or course, this was not the case—and one of the items that was left "out in the cold" was --- wait for it----our lock widening project! Imagine that!

This came as a shock to me on Tuesday--- that nothing had progressed since last fall! This led to our lengthy and somewhat (sometimes) testy discussion on what can be done and when can it be done --- to start moving this job forward again. The city members present say without someone in the supervisors' position, they need help through this process. Several avenues of help were discussed and they have promised to review and develop a plan moving forward. I expect to hear from them in the next week or so—I'll keep you informed as I am updated.

On a personal note—I had been under the assumption my term on the canal committee would expire this April—and was ready to step down and hand the reigns over to the next BSI resident looking forward to the exciting and challenging seat on our committee. But it was pointed out that my term lasts until November of 2025. So you get to put up with me for the next year and half (I know you are excited-----) Anyway FYI, I have again accepted to position of Chairman of this committee and will serve until this time next year when the next elections are held.

For Now---calm seas, warm breezes, and plenty two-handed fish--

Rick Daugherty, Chairman, BSI Canal Committee