

(The following is a synopsis of the minutes of the West Branch City Council meeting. The full text of the minutes is available for inspection at the City Clerk's office. The minutes are not approved until the next regularly scheduled City Council meeting.)

**West Branch, Iowa
Council Chambers**

City Council Work Session

**October 6, 2014
8:19 p.m.**

Mayor Worrell opened the West Branch City Council work session at 8:19 p.m. by welcoming the audience and the following City staff: City Administrator Matt Muckler, Administrative Assistant Shanelle Peden, Deputy City Clerk Dawn Brandt, Public Works Director Matt Goodale, Zoning Administrator Paul Stagg, Library Director Nick Shimmin, City Engineer Dave Schechinger, and City Attorney Kevin Olson. Council members: Jordan Ellyson, Colton Miller, Mary Beth Stevenson, Brian Pierce and Tim Shields.

Pat Sauer, Director of the Iowa Stormwater Education Program, spoke to the group regarding her role in stormwater education. Sauer noted that the development of vegetative species and their respective evolutions have led to a change in the flow of stormwater. Sauer added that changes in hydrology can contribute to a more natural flow of water. Sauer explained how modifications to pavement also changes the hydrology of soil, compacting it and causing less water to be infiltrated. Sauer noted that this process has an impact on aquatic life and other vegetation, as it causes a disturbance to their natural environments.

Sauer went to on to discuss water quality volume and what best practices are available. Sauer mentioned concepts such as green roofs, rainwater harvesting, soil quality restoration, native landscaping, permeable pavement, and bioswales. Councilperson Stevenson asked if there was a maximum grade for the installation of a bioswale.

Sauer recommended that the City revisit its nuisance ordinance in regards to grass and vegetation levels to incorporate different plant sizes. Sauer also added that during construction, soils around permeable pavement must be stabilized to ensure better flow. Sauer also recommended that the City incorporate its own properties as test projects for stormwater best practices.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Miller to adjourn the work session, second by Ellyson. Motion carried on a voice vote. City Council work session adjourned at 9:16 p.m.

Mark Worrell, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Matt Muckler, City Administrator/Clerk