



City of Harrisonburg Stormwater Advisory Committee

Minutes: Meeting No. 04

May 7, 2014 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Members in attendance: Dale Chesnut, Kathy Holm, Jeff Kelble, William Jones, William Latham, Ted Byrd, and J.M. Snell and Eldon Kurtz.

Staff/Other in attendance: Carolyn Howard, Harsit Patel, Tom Hartman, Jennifer Nunez, and Chris Mueller

Members met at Harrisonburg Public Works and boarded a city bus for a field trip to visit different stormwater management practices in the city.

Stormwater Advisory Committee Schedule for June 2014 through July 2015

Month	Forum	Activity
May 2014	SWAC Meeting	Field Trip
June	SWAC Meeting	Revenues, ERUs, Financing
July	SWAC Meeting	Continued
August	SWAC Meeting	Draft Ordinance
	City Manager/ City Attorney	Review Draft Ordinance
September	SWAC Meeting	Make recommendation to City Council on revenue/ financing structure for public comment
	2 nd Council Meeting	Presentation to City Council to begin public comment period
October	Public Comment Period	
	Open House Style Public Meeting/ Public Hearing	
November	SWAC Meeting	Review public comments; Review draft ordinance
December	SWAC Meeting	Make recommendation to City Council on revenue/ financing structure
January/February/March 2014*	City Council Meetings	Council to vote
July 1, 2015		Revenue/ Financing Structure to be effective

*City Budget preparations begin in January/ February and revenue/ financing plan would be in place around this time.

Comparison of Stormwater Utility vs. Property Tax/ General Fund

Stormwater Utility	Property Tax/ General Fund
Fee based on concept that every property contributes to stormwater runoff and should support operation, maintenance, and rehabilitation of stormwater drainage systems in the city.	Tax based on value of real property and goes into the city's general fund.
Dedicated funding source to support stormwater drainage systems in the city; utility fees collected cannot be reallocated to other non-stormwater uses	Not dedicated funding source; taxes can be reallocated to other uses such as transportation, schools, emergency services, etc.
More equitable – property owners are charged a fee based on their contribution to stormwater runoff	Not equitable – property taxes are based on the assessed property value; does not necessarily correlate to the amount of runoff a parcel of land contributes to the overall stormwater problem.
Charged to all properties. Tax-exempt properties that generate runoff must contribute to stormwater utility, just like taxed properties.	Tax-exempt properties (such as churches and nonprofits) do not pay real estate tax. Could possibly develop a separate billing system for tax exempt properties.
Credit system/ Opportunity to reduce utility fee – private property owners can make stormwater improvements on their properties to receive a reduced utility fee. This can help the city with meeting TMDL pollution diets.	No credit system/ No opportunity to reduce utility fee
Fee implementation cost – getting onto bill, collection system, etc.	Minimal fee implementation cost

Last updated: 5/1/2014