



City of Harrisonburg Stormwater Advisory Committee

Minutes: Meeting No. 11

December 3, 2014 5:00 – 6:35 p.m.

Members in attendance: Dale Chestnut, William Jones, Daniel Michael, J.M. Snell, Eldon Kurtz, William Latham

Staff/Other in attendance: Thanh Dang, Carolyn Howard, Kelley Junco, Harsit Patel, Tom Hartman, Dan Rublee, John Eckman.

Review and Adopt Minutes

Bill Jones called for a motion to adopt the December 2014 SWAC meeting minutes. The motion was made, seconded, and passed.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Recap Stormwater Utility Public Input Meetings

SWAC and staff reviewed verbal comments received at the open house meeting held on December 2nd. It was agreed that having the credit manuals available helped to relieve much of the public frustration. Others, including businesses, threatened to move to the county. In response, SWAC and staff explained the benefits of running a business in the City. There was a general consensus amongst SWAC that there is a continued misunderstanding from the public about the utility fee as a "tax". A citizen brought up the money made available through selling the steam plant and the money recently made available through HEC. Tom Hartman said the money has already been allocated to other projects. Dan Rublee mentioned that he received the comment: "What happened if the City does not comply with Chesapeake Bay regulations?" Others had also received this question and Dale Chestnut said that there could potentially be a significant daily fine to the municipality.

Tom introduced the potential Stormwater Utility Fee Administrator position to manage questions, applications, site visits, etc.

DRAFT Credit Manual

Carolyn Howard walked through the draft credit manuals, starting with the residential manual.

Residential:

Dan commented that the residential practices did not have specific slope and length requirements. Tom explained that many of the residential practices are not intended for the City to receive pollutant

reduction credits. Dan asked about regional BMPs in a residential, multi-family complex. A multi-family complex would follow the non-residential manual. Tom said all parties have to submit verification that they take part in maintenance responsibilities. The Tall Grass and Weeds Ordinance was brought up as a potential conflict with the conservation landscaping and other recommended best management practices; Thanh will set up a meeting with appropriate city planning department staff to discuss further. John Eckmen discussed the nutrient management plan and suggested that managed fertilizer use be taken off the list due to difficulty in policing the Agreements. Daniel Michael agreed that the fee reduction will not be worth the effort for residents.

Thanh suggested that Residential/Non-Residential be defined clearly in the beginning of the document.

Non-Residential:

Carolyn began with clarification that the non-residential manual includes multi-family residential. Eldon Kurtz discussed particular BMPs at EMU and discussed the category they would fall into since they were built through a master planning effort and not through any requirements. Dan said if we are going to be fair we need to include offsite nutrient credit properties and said four (4) were purchased just this past year. Discussion continued on this topic with varied opinions – eventually most agreed. Dan briefly explained nutrient offsets to the group to ensure all understood the conversation. Dan and Daniel Michael made formatting suggestions. John Eckmen suggested that example calculations be sent in the mailer for clarification of how the final bills were established.

Utility Fee Approval Schedule

Thanh reviewed upcoming dates. No additional comments were made.

- **December 20, 2014** – Public Comment Period ends
- **January 7, 2015** – SWAC Meeting – Review summary of public comments
- **January 28, 2015** – Email SWAC agenda and all revised/ draft documents for next SWAC meeting
- **February 4, 2015** – SWAC Meeting – SWAC vote to recommend proposal and associated documents to City Council
- **February 10, 2015** – Council Meeting – presentation, first reading, and consideration of stormwater utility fee and associated documents
- **February 24, 2015** – Council Meeting – second reading, adoption
- **March 2015** - City to have impervious area layers posted on City web-GIS for public review, City to send out information to public about new billing, fee credits, etc.
- **July 1, 2015**- Citizen Stormwater Utility Fee Credit applications due
- **July 1 (of each year)** – “Snapshot in time” of imperviousness on all parcels. Stormwater practice must also be installed and operational by July 1 to be considered for credits by the following year.
- **October 1, 2015** – First bills go out.
- **April 1, 2016** – Second bills go out.

General Questions/Discussion

Thanh asked that the SWAC members think about the possibility of having the SWAC continue after the proposed utility is passed by City Council. Members generally agreed that a sort of commissioning body was needed to assist in reviewing policy, reviewing particular cases, and setting utility fee precedence for the City.

The next SWAC meeting will be held on January 7, 2015.