



City of Harrisonburg Stormwater Advisory Committee

Minutes: Meeting No. 13

March 5 2015 5:00 – 5:45 p.m.

Members in attendance: Kathy Holm, Eldon Kurtz, Dale Chestnut, J.M. Snell, Ted Byrd

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

Review and Adopt Minutes

Kathy Holm called for a motion to adopt the February 2015 SWAC meeting minutes. The motion was made, seconded, and passed.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Update and Discussion of February 24 Public Hearing at City Council

Public comments from the February 24th City Council meeting were discussed. Two citizens requested that the BMP credit reduction be increased to 100% instead of the 50% standard set by the credit manuals. Thanh and Tom explained that at this time the city does not have a means to determine the amount of pollutant removal from a homeowner BMPs that will be credited towards meeting the City's Chesapeake Bay TMDL goals. Tom explained continued revenue may be more necessary to reach TMDL pollution reduction goals and that the staff and SWAC will revisit the idea once more information is available.

Ted approached the question of what the cost of buying nutrient credits offsite costs and foresees the question of offsite nutrient credits will come up again as citizens monitor how the city spends revenue from the stormwater utility fee. Ted asked which option is cheaper: on-site (within city limits) projects or nutrient credits and said that the city is 70% developed at this time. Tom explained that on-site projects will have ancillary results including improving/upgrading infrastructure and may address local drainage issues. Eldon offered that on-site projects may be cheaper on private properties.

Ted asked if there is a rain barrel workshop planned for homeowners. John Eckman explained that he needs local storage space and can provide the rain barrels and accessory kits for around \$45. Harsit confirmed that city storage space can be provided. Thanh said that the rain barrel workshops will be a good opportunity for outreach. Ted asked if there would be involvement of SWAC at Blacks Run Clean Up Day and Thanh asked SWAC to volunteer to man an informational booth for outreach purposes. Dale and Kathy agreed to be in attendance.

Update and Discussion of Nutrient Trading

Thanh said that the issue of allowing credit reductions for current developers who purchased nutrient credits is still being reviewed by the City Attorney and will be taken up by the next SWAC. She also elaborated on Ted's earlier question and said that per VSMP requirements, developers can only purchase credits for water quality treatment and that water quantity treatment has to be managed on-site. The current credit manuals establish that developers will receive a 15% credit from their water quantity BMPs but will forfeit the additional 5% for water quality BMPs (a total of 20%) if they purchase offsite credits. Ted asked what other municipalities do and Carolyn responded that they don't include offsite crediting as a utility fee credit but many haven't addressed it due to it being a new program. J.M. asked if developers have purchased offsite credits and SWAC confirmed that they have. Ted asked what JMU has done and Dale responded that JMU has only purchased phosphorus credits on one VSMP project and that was done due to timing for site plan approval and meeting the deadline for upcoming statutory/regulatory changes.

Next Steps

Thanh encouraged existing SWAC members to reapply for the new advisory committee and explained that it would be six members rather than eight members and that the meetings would be less frequent than the current SWAC. City staff anticipates that the first meeting may take place in May.