



City of Harrisonburg Stormwater Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
November 5, 2015 5:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Members in attendance: Rob Alexander, Joanna Mott, Dale Chestnut, Eldon Kurtz

Staff/Other in attendance: Thanh Dang, Kelley Junco, Tom Hartman, Harsit Patel, Dan Rublee Nathan Blackwell, John McGhee, (2) JMU Students

Public Comment

No public comment.

Review Appeals Received

None received.

Update on Stormwater Utility Fee Billing

Kelley outlined credit applications received to date. For the 2015 billing cycle (for existing conditions on and credits received by July 1, 2015), there were 164 residential credit applications and 10 non-residential credit applications. For the 2016 billing cycle, there are 33 residential credit applications and no non-residential applications. The 2016 applications are still being accepted since the application deadline is not until July 1, 2016. Kelley updated SWAC on the Non-Residential Maintenance Agreement which will be run with the land and will replace the Provisional Maintenance Agreement used now for the 10 non-residential credit applicants. The new Non-Residential Maintenance Agreement is being reviewed by the City Attorney and will be available before February 2016.

Dale asked about revisions to the tree canopy credits discussed the last SWAC meeting. Eldon suggested that the program include a ratio between impervious and pervious and Rob added that ratio might be helpful between tree canopies and impervious since trees grown over pervious wouldn't provide as much water quality as trees grown over impervious. Overall, SWAC agreed that the proposed tree canopy credit alterations – which accommodates for tree planting on larger residential lots – is better than the existing credit program.. Rob made a move to accept the proposed tree canopy and the motion was seconded. The revision will be presented to Council for approval in 2016.

Update on East Market Street Regenerative Stormwater Conveyance Project

Thanh outlined updates on the East Market Street Regenerative Stormwater Conveyance Project. The project design was awarded to A. Morton Thomas & Associates (AMT) and is scheduled to be completed in October 2016. Rob asked if the price per pound (\$32,000/lb of Phosphorus) was high or low in comparison to other projects the city has seen. Thanh said that the grant only allowed projects at \$50,000/lb or less and therefore this project proved to be a good price per pound. Rob asked about the

process for awarding the design to AMT, and Thanh explained the city's pre-qualified on-call consultant process.

Update on Cost-Share Program

Thanh outlined the questions SWAC and staff need to explore to develop a sound cost-share program for property owners. She also said that Rob's JMU class is going to conduct a literature review to better understand other cost-share programs and what components would be transferable to the city's stormwater utility fee cost-share program. Joanna suggested that the class explore the Soil and Water Conservation District's existing cost-share programs. Topics of discussion (not a comprehensive list), were presented and discussed by SWAC members as follows:

- What is the benefit to the City and what is the benefit to the property owner?
- What are the eligibility requirements?
- What if there are multiple landowners involved in the application – what does the agreement between landowners look like?
- Would the City retroactively reimburse applicants for conceptual design work needed for the application?
- What if funding is awarded to a project applicant but the work never begins or is never completed? Therefore, what are the proposed benchmarks or checks associated with the agreed upon timeline?
- Would the city manage and inspect the project during construction?
- Who would verify that the project was installed correctly?
- Should the program consider properties that are already set aside for conservation?
- Should the focus be the Chesapeake Bay TMDL pollutant reductions?
- Who is responsible for long-term maintenance?
- When should applications be due?
- What does the scoring/evaluation criteria look like?

Thanh handed out a compiled list of questions and notes from an initial brainstorming meeting with staff and asked that SWAC review the material and contact staff with comments and questions. The group will continue discussing at the next SWAC meeting.

Updates on Stormwater Improvement Planning

Thanh explained that the city is preparing to send out a Request for Qualifications to the on-call consultants regarding the Stormwater Improvement Plan and have determined that the plan should be split into phases with desktop analysis as the first phase. Dan asked if this plan is a follow-up to the city's document outlining retrofit opportunities on city land. Thanh said the scope is much bigger on the improvement plan but she hopes it would initially identify a number of recommended projects to achieve optimal pollutant reduction in the city. Tom said the scope is also system-wide and would include quantity improvement and infrastructure improvements as well. The plan would work in conjunction with future planning for bike and pedestrian pathways, road development, etc.

Rob asked if there was potential that a project would be on JMU property. Thanh responded that it would be possible, but significant thought and negotiation would be needed for how the City and JMU would divide the work, costs, long-term maintenance responsibilities, and nutrient credits.

Next Steps/Assignments

Thanh asked that SWAC members prepare ideas about the proposed stormwater utility fee cost share program and send them to her, Kelley, and Rob.

The next SWAC meeting will be held on February 3, 2015.

E Market St. Regenerative Stormwater Conveyance

- \$303,198 Grant from DEQ/ Stormwater Local Assistance Fund. (Plus \$303,198 Local Match)
- Removal of 18.56 lb Total Phosphorus/ year (\$32,672/ lb TP removal)
- Awarded to A. Morton Thomas & Associates



Project Schedule

- Nov 2015 – Surveying & Design Begins
- Jan 2016 – Design Completed
- Feb 2016 – Solicit Construction Bids
- May 2016 – Construction Begins
- October 2016 - Project Completed

