



City of Harrisonburg Stormwater Advisory Committee *Meeting Minutes*

March 3, 2016 5:00 – 6:30 p.m.

Members in attendance: Joanna Mott, Daniel Michael, Dale Chestnut, Eldon Kurtz, Rob Alexander, Ted Byrd

Staff/Others in attendance: Staff: Tom Hartman, Dan Rublee, Erin Yancey, Kelley Junco, Rebecca Stimson; Don Rissmeyer (A. Morton Thomas & Associates, Inc. consultant)

Review and Adopt Minutes

Daniel Michael called for a motion to adopt the March 2017 SWAC meeting minutes. The motion was made, seconded, and passed.

Public Comment

No public comment. Dale Chestnut congratulated the Public Works Department on receiving the Industrial Site Best Urban BMP in the Bay Award for the Public Works site.

Stormwater Utility Fee Update

Kelley Junco reviewed the continuing Roanoke Railroad Case. Norfolk Southern has not yet paid the Stormwater Utility Fee for properties owned in the City. Kelley updated the SWAC on HB1597 Stormwater Fee Waiver, a proposed full stormwater utility fee waiver, which has passed House and Senate after the full waiver language was cut and the bill was amended. Kelley says HB1597, with the amendments, should have little effect on the City's Stormwater Utility Program as it does not grant full stormwater utility fee waivers.

Stormwater Improvement Plan

Don Rissmeyer, consultant with A. Morton Thomas & Associates (AMT), was introduced to the SWAC. Don presented progress-to-date and future work flows of the Stormwater Improvement Plan. Don introduced the SWIP project team. AMT provides program management, system capacity assessments, field reconnaissance and high priority concept plans. Hirschman Water & Environment, LLC, provides program assessment, policy guidance, and public outreach. And lastly, Tetra Tech provides water quality assessments, MS4 compliance plan, and the prioritization & ranking technology tools. Don presented work done on the watershed assessment, beginning with an existing literature review and GIS data review.

Rob Alexander asked about the most recent flooding data the SWIP will use in the literature review. Kelley and Don presented the updated drainage list and map based off of old lists, maintenance crew and staff information, and new caller information.

Don overviewed the MS4 areas and TMDL requirements for Harrisonburg. Tom Hartman explained that MS4 unregulated areas are areas in the city that do not drain into a city outfall. Kelley said that the regulated vs. unregulated information is not included on the public input meeting posters in detail.

Rob asked if the SWIP will prioritize projects in MS4 regulated areas over MS4 unregulated areas. Kelley said that cost will be the main prioritization tool for projects and that there is a different crediting methodology for projects in each area. Because of the crediting methodology, projects in non-regulated areas are given less credit for pollutant reduction than projects in regulated areas.

Dan Rublee asked if there are separate goals for regulated and unregulated areas. Don explained that currently goals are just total phosphorous, nitrogen, and sediment reductions for the city as a whole. Eldon Kurtz asked to clarify that the MS4 program relates to both regulated and unregulated areas there are just different crediting standards for the different types of areas. Don agreed that this is correct.

Don next overviewed the SWIP water quality assessment and the five programmatic BMPs that will be included in the SWIP: street sweeping, catch basin cleaning, septic system to sanitary sewer conversion, urban tree canopy expansion, and homeowner BMPs. Kelley clarified that the catch basin cleaning program only receives credits for nitrogen and phosphorus and credits being received through homeowner BMP program are for residential properties only, although there is a program available for non-residential properties to reduce their fee. Kelley stated the first priority for the septic to sanitary sewer conversion program is to identify which properties have already converted from 2006 onwards, a lower priority is to build an incentive package to encourage homeowners on a septic system to convert to the city's sanitary sewer system.

Don reviewed the water quality assessment, including stream restoration opportunities (12 potential projects with 8.22 potential miles), and structural BMPs opportunities identified in the Public Lands Study, and city owned BMPs that would benefit from retrofits.

Don then reviewed next steps for the SWIP planning process, including a program assessment, BMP siting using technology tools, prioritization of BMPs, program recommendations, high-priority concept plans and the final SWIP plan. The next immediate step is the public input meeting on March 22nd at the Community Activities Center in Classroom #3 from 5pm to 7pm.

Dale asked if the Public Input Meeting will guide the SWIP development from here on, Don said that the comment form will help guide development and there will be stations to take citizen information about drainage issues, which will be valuable input. Dan asked about the format of the meeting, Kelley explained that there will be posters and maps set up around the room and citizens will be free to browse the stations and ask staff questions. There will be no formal presentation.

Rob asked about disseminating meeting information: including sending invites to property owners paying stormwater utility fees, DEQ employees, those who have had past drainage concerns, those who have been involved in the comprehensive plan update process.

Kelley brought up the public comment form for SWAC review; there was discussion about phrasing and about how answers will be used by the SWIP team.

TMDL Action Plan & MS4 Annual Report Approval

Kelley informed the SWAC that the TMDL Action Plan and MS4 Annual Report were both approved. The TMDL Action Plan included Homeowner BMPs, so the methodology and crediting have been approved by the DEQ. Tom mentioned that this program is a very cost effective way for the City to receive credits, and there was a discussion on how to incentivize and improve homeowner participation in this program, including potentially raising the total amount of credit offered, offering credit for referrals, and more targeted outreach.

Kelley overviewed the septic to sanitary sewer connection program and methodology from the DEQ, which includes mainly verification of conversions and existing septic systems at the current time.

Other Project Updates

Kelley updated the SWAC on the East Market Street project, which has been put on hold but will be included for evaluation in the SWIP.

Next Steps

March 22nd - SWIP Public Information Meeting

March 22nd to April 5th - Public Comment Period