



City of Harrisonburg Stormwater Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

May 2, 2018 5:00 – 6:30 p.m.

Members in attendance: Daniel Michael, Dale Chestnut, Eldon Kurtz, Rob Alexander, Ted Byrd (ex-officio), Greg Sachs

Staff/Others in attendance: Staff: Kelley Junco, Tom Hartman, Rebecca Stimson, Dan Rublee

Review and Adopt Minutes

Dale Chestnut called for a motion to adopt the February 2018 SWAC meeting minutes. The motion was made, seconded, and passed.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Stormwater Improvement Plan (SWIP) Updates; Potential Projects

VMRC

Kelley Junco reminded the SWAC that this project was discussed at the last SWAC meeting. Kelley and Jim Baker met with the VMRC Board in March, who stated they were creating a task force to consider the project. Tom Hartman stated that staff has not yet heard a definitive answer from them.

EMU

Kelley said that city staff met with EMU staff, and EMU will be having an internal meeting to see if they would like to take the proposal to the EMU Cabinet. The proposal includes the retrofit of two existing facilities at EMU, where EMU would donate the land easement and the City would take over maintenance of the facilities in perpetuity and provide a Stormwater Utility Fee Credit. There was discussion about the footprint and location of the projects – Kelley stated that an engineering feasibility study would take place as part of project development.

Waterman Drive

Kelley described a potential partnership project along Waterman Drive – a property owner was interested in donating some easements to reduce the property's fee and put in some bioretention facilities in. The property owner reached out to staff and it just so happened that this property was identified in the Stormwater Improvement Plan. Rob Alexander suggested that this project be written up as a case study if it were to happen.

SWIP Updates; Projects-in-Progress

Mountain View Drive Stream Restoration

Ecosystem Services, LLC was chosen as the engineering design firm for this project. They are a small firm based out of Charlottesville who designed the JMU Arboretum stream restoration and is

designing the North End Greenway stream restoration. They will complete the design for the project and work with the City during the bidding process. Kelley reminded SWAC that this will be the first stream restoration in many years and one of the first projects using Stormwater Utility Fee funds and as such, staff and Ecosystem Services, LLC had discussed having a public meeting for the project at the project site. Rob asked where this project and the Thomas Harrison Middle School projects fell on the SWIP ranking. Kelley stated they were both in the 15 high priority projects. Eldon Kurtz asked if all of the property owners adjacent to the project donated easements for the project – Kelley stated that all property owners had signed a letter of intent to donate the temporary construction and permanent easements needed for project construction and long-term maintenance.

Thomas Harrison Middle School BMPs

Staff has been working with Draper Aden on the two BMP retrofits at Thomas Harrison Middle School. Based on the preliminary cost estimates and the wetland delineation, staff decided to move forward on the back retrofit but not to retrofit the front BMP. Dan Rublee asked if there was a way to get a second opinion on the wetland delineation. Kelley explained she is working with the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers on that topic. Ted Byrd asked about the maintenance status of the school BMPs. Kelley explained that multiple school BMPs have not been maintained.

Temporary Credit Opportunities

HRRSA Contract (In progress)

Tom stated that he and Kelley met with Sharon Foley, the executive director of Harrisonburg Rockingham Regional Sewer Authority (HRRSA), to talk about the Bridgewater agreement and HRRSA's ability to enter into a contract with the City. Tom explained that HRRSA operates on a 5-year planning cycle and, ideally, a credit purchasing contract would fit in this 5-year planning cycle. Ted asked that staff consider this contract as an "insurance policy" where staff asks for the maximum amount of credits needed to meet permit requirements so they could be set aside for the City if necessary. Kelley clarified that we do not need to meet permit requirements until the last year of the permit cycle. For example: for the permit cycle 2018-2023, the city does not need to meet the pollution reduction requirements until 2023. Therefore, the HRRSA contract would not need to start until 2023. Tom stated that as projects are completed, the city could reduce the amount of credits purchased from HRRSA, even if the maximum amount were written into the contract.

Kelley stated that the current goal is to set the number of credits that will be purchased in 2023 and then propose in the contract to buy either the same amount or less for the following years. Rob asked if HRRSA is the only place the City can purchase annual/temporary credits. Kelley said she would clarify about purchasing Class A or B credits from other treatment facilities on the market.

Permanent Credit Opportunities

Request for Proposals Drafted

There was discussion about the North End Greenway pollution reduction credits. Staff is still waiting on the comprehensive agreement for an amount and price of credits. Tom stated that the City is projected to purchase all the credits generated by this project. Kelley said that a request for proposals for permanent credits has also been drafted and staff is working with procurement to

come up with a purchasing process. Rob asked about funding sources for the credit purchases. Tom clarified that there is not a separate line item for credit purchases in the current budget and that credits would be purchased as funding is available.

Other Topics

Sanitary Sewer Ordinance

Kelley stated that there have been no changes and that the ordinance language is currently waiting on approval from the Public Utilities Director and the City Attorney. Staff continues to compile septic to sanitary sewer conversions to submit for pollution reduction credits. Kelley mentioned she would like SWAC to be involved with the septic to sanitary sewer conversion incentive program. Eldon asked if the existing septic systems are within reasonable distance to sanitary sewer lines. Kelley clarified that the majority are within reasonable distances. Rob suggested staff should provide incentive program information to realtors and home inspectors to share with homeowners during real estate transactions. Kelley reminded the SWAC that the draft proposed ordinance language includes a monthly fee charged to property owners with a septic system, an inspection and pump-out requirement, and an incentive program for connections.

Revised Credit Methodology/Credit Manual to Council

Rebecca informed the SWAC that staff is submitting the Draft Chesapeake Bay TMDL Action Plan before June 1. The draft TMDL Action Plan includes what the City has done so far to meet the 2013 – 2018 pollution reduction requirements (street sweeping using the old methodology as well as homeowner BMP credits) as well as what the City plans to do to meet the 2018-2023 pollution reduction requirements. The 2018-2023 requirement is 40% of the total requirement. Rebecca stated that the calculation methodology for pollution reduction has changed slightly but the total reduction numbers required have not changed. The City will be submitting the old street sweeping methodology, the Thomas Harrison Middle School BMP retrofit, the Mountain View Drive stream restoration, and the North End Greenway credit purchases as the projects and programs which will be used to meet pollution reduction requirements in the second permit cycle. Using the old street sweeping methodology means the 40% pollution reduction requirement will be met and exceeded. If guidance is received that the new street sweeping methodology must be used, the pollution reduction requirements will not be met without temporary and permanent nutrient credit purchases or additional projects.

Tree Policy

The tree policy continues to be revised by staff. Tree plantings will be submitted in the TMDL Action Plan for pollution reduction credits.

Next Steps

Kelley asked the SWAC to consider how staff can engage the public in the stormwater program and projects. Rob suggested setting goals for public outreach and basing outreach around existing events and possibly hold events at the project sites.

The next meeting will be August 15, 2018.