

Department of Public Works
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January 22, 2018

Chesapeake Citizen Stormwater Committee – Annual Report to Council

Dear Honorable Mayor West and Distinguished Members of the City Council,

The appointed members of the Chesapeake Citizen Stormwater Committee meet, along with City staff, on the 4th Monday of each month with the exception of May and December. The duties of the Committee include:

- Reviewing rates and providing utility rate recommendations to the City Manager.
- Preparing drainage and stormwater utility-related recommendations for the City Manager
- Serving as a "sounding board" for citizens concerned about drainage in neighborhoods and subdivisions
- Reviewing recommendations from Public Works to improve drainage and maintenance operations.
- Providing recommendations on changes to the Stormwater Utility Fee, Capital Improvement Projects, and Levels of Service.
- Reviewing the status of City-wide drainage projects, study areas, maintenance operations, and issues of wetlands permitting.

Due to the severe rain events Tropical Storm Julia and Hurricane Matthew during the second half of 2016, flooding and Levels of Service issues dominated the work of the Committee during Calendar Year 2017. A summary of 2017 Committee actions and activities follows, and detailed meeting minutes are available upon request.

2018 Stormwater Committee Highlights:

Flooding

- Three residents from the Grassfield/Shillelagh Rd area presented concerns about flooding to the Committee, particularly concerns about how new development in this area is impacting existing development. As a follow up, there was additional coordination between these residents and the Department of Development and Permits to address these concerns. The City is also investing about \$2 million into drainage improvements in this area.

"The City of Chesapeake adheres to the principles of equal employment opportunity.
This policy extends to all programs and services supported by the City."



- The Committee assisted City staff with a written response to a group of residents of the Cornland Rd area who had attended meetings in late 2016. The group of residents expressed concerns regarding storm system maintenance in that area. Public Works has plans to clean and clear ditches and complete “snag and drag” projects on lead ditches in this area.
- Two residents from the Forest Lakes Subdivision, including the Chairman of the Forest Lakes Homeowners' Association, presented concerns about worsening flooding in that subdivision. The Committee and residents were briefed by City staff about a funded project to widen Herring Ditch (the outfall ditch) and create an additional outfall on Waters Road to improve drainage.
- The Committee was briefed on a community meeting for the Edinburgh Community, which experienced significant flooding in the fall of 2016 due to Tropical Storm Julia and Hurricane Matthew.
- The Committee was briefed on the Deep Creek Community Meeting which was requested by the residents of Culpeper Landing and Elmwood Landing. City staff have coordinated with the Army Corps of Engineers and Dismal Swamp Refuge staff on how the new water control structures in the Refuge might be able to offer some flood control. Additionally, the City has been working with the Developer of Culpeper Landing on some possible improvements to alleviate flooding. Three grant applications (\$1.25M) have been submitted for Deep Creek area drainage improvements.
- The Greenbrier area also experienced significant flooding after the fall 2016 storms. The Committee was briefed on a City Underwater Interconnected Lake Inspection Project to ensure that pipes and culverts which connect lake systems are clear. About 9 – 13 locations have been inspected and repair and maintenance plans are being developed. A major blockage has been cleared under Greenbrier Parkway, at Eden Way.
- Two residents from the Fernwood Farms subdivision presented information about flooding in that area. They believe that a lack of City maintenance of ditches is causing flooding in their neighborhood. They are also concerned about proposed rezoning in the area and how that might impact flooding (subsequently denied by City Council). A representative from Public Works Operations later met with one of the residents about her concerns. There is a capital project funded to re-grade and enlarge the Fernwood Farms outfall ditch to improve drainage.
- Two residents from the Kemp Woods subdivision gave a presentation about worsening neighborhood flooding and nuisance aquatic vegetation in their neighborhood lakes. They requested that the City manage the alligator weed in the lakes which is an invasive species and difficult to control. Public Works staff and the Committee had previously discussed a possible Lake Management Program and putting a contract in place for control of algae and other nuisance vegetation in lakes. Public Works is going to pursue this approach, and plans to create a residential cost share program for treating neighborhood lakes.
- The Committee was briefed on a \$1.3 million FEMA grant awarded to the City to purchase five flood-prone residential properties, as well as other City FEMA grant applications.
- Some of the Committee members participated in an annual field trip in October. Public Works staff accompanied them to visit two active neighborhood drainage projects, one at Chesapeake Drive and the other at Prince Edward Drive, and a City-owned lake (stormwater best management practice) at Lakeside Park. The lake was treated for algae in July 2017.
- City staff have been reviewing Public Facility Manual standards pertaining to road elevations as well as coordinating with the City of Virginia Beach to possibly update design standards due to the increasing frequency and intensity of storm events. The Committee was briefed on these efforts.

Stormwater Operations and Maintenance

- The Committee received monthly Stormwater Operations briefings, including reports of work orders created, completed, and backlogged. The Committee encouraged an emphasis on communication with customers regarding work orders.
- There was significant discussion about levels of service for ditch and outfall maintenance. The City conducted a lot of analyses after the 2016 storm events in order to determine where long term drainage and outfall solutions are needed. Priorities and projects have been developed. Funding is being requested in the FY2019 Capital Improvement Plan.
- The Committee learned which maintenance work can be completed in-house and where there are limitations due to equipment or staff. Scheduled preventive maintenance, where possible, and good communication with residents is encouraged by the Committee.
- Public Works staff kept the Committee updated on the status of active and planned drainage and outfall projects around the City.

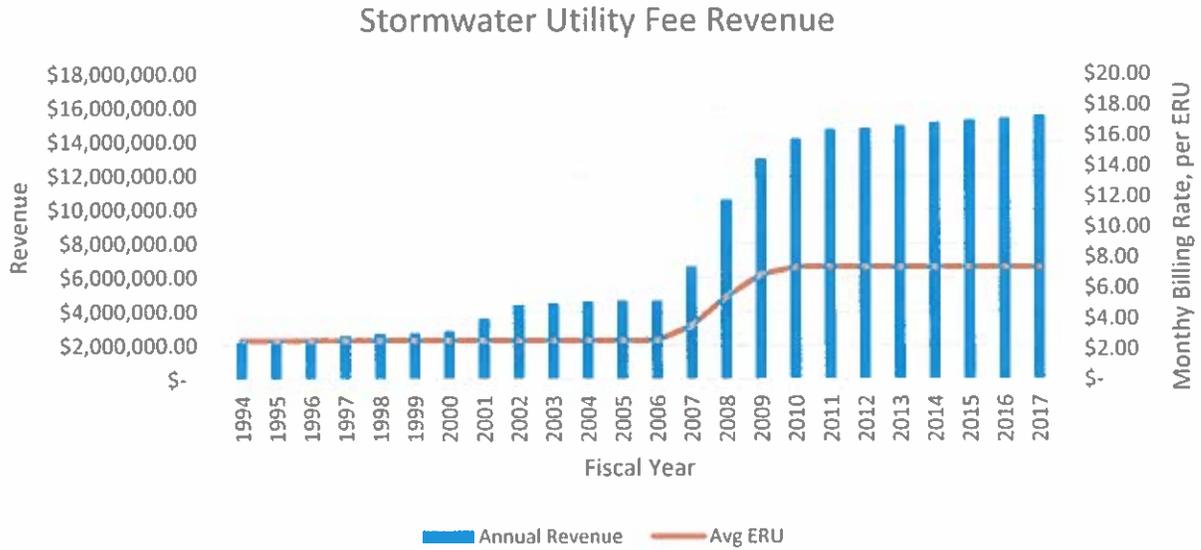
Water Quality

- Public Works staff routinely briefed the Committee on compliance with the City's MS4 Permit. These briefings included: permit compliance activities; consultant task orders; Customer Service Requests (CSRs); water quality monitoring, and regional coordination.
- The Committee was briefed on the Hampton Roads Sanitation District SWIFT (Sustainable Water Initiative for Tomorrow) project and the City's Agreement with HRSD to participate and receive pollution reduction credits which will be used to meet Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) pollutant reduction requirements.
- It was noted that demand for services related to the City's aging lakes and other stormwater management facilities is increasing, and City staff will be pursuing a new Lake Management Program to address these concerns.
- The Committee received updates on Stormwater Local Assistance Fund (SLAF) water quality projects. The City was awarded \$1.7 million in funding for 2 projects in fiscal year 2017. Updates were provided on the status of projects funded in previous fiscal years.

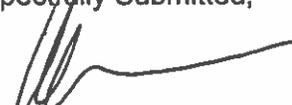
Committee Recommendations and Conclusions

- The Committee supports City efforts to pursue all available grant funding for projects to address flooding and water quality.
- With the City's agreement to participate in the Hampton Roads Sanitation District Sustainable Water Initiative for Tomorrow (SWIFT) project, the Committee supports the shift of stormwater funds from Best Management Practice construction to resiliency and reliability (flooding) and system maintenance.
- The Committee supports the City's ongoing efforts to address stormwater customer service which included: hiring a part-time Customer Service Clerk to contact customers about work orders; and utilizing additional inmate crews and staff overtime to reduce the work order backlog.
- The Committee is very supportive of and encourages additional efforts to educate and inform the residents of Chesapeake about stormwater issues through stormwater fee bill inserts, social media, mailings, and meeting with residents.

- The Committee encourages and supports the creation of a Lake Management Program to address nuisance aquatic vegetation in neighborhood lakes.
- The Committee is not recommending a stormwater utility fee increase at this time, but notes that stormwater personnel pay increases and benefit adjustments are not being covered by the annual growth in stormwater fee revenues.



Respectfully Submitted,



Wayne Jones
Committee Chair

Committee Members:

- Wayne Jones – Chair
- Richard Bunton – Vice Chair
- Alden Cleanthes
- Russell Barbour
- Roger Baxter
- Traycie West-Pinkoski
- Bruce Weckworth
- Carol Warren
- Thomas Jones
- Matt Fulford (Alternate)
- Andrew Harmond (Alternate)