



**Stormwater Committee Meeting
June 24, 2019
Human Resources Training Room**

1. Call to Order: *The meeting was called to order at 6:05 PM*

2. Roll Call: *Roll was called by Barbara Brumbaugh*

Committee Members in Attendance:

*Alden Cleanthes
Bruce Weckworth
Traycie West-Pinkoski
Todd Reigle
Markiella Moore
Laura Mae (Alternate)
Watson Lawrence (Ag Dept Director)
Eric Martin (PW Director)
Kelly Lackey (Asst City Attorney)
Barbara Brumbaugh (PW Staff)
Holly Adams (PW Staff)
I.B. Paudel (PW Staff)*

Absent Committee Members

*Richard Bunton (excused)
Roger Baxter
Carol Warren (excused)
Matthew Fulford (Alternate)
Watson Lawrence (Ag Dept Director)*

Citizens in Attendance:

Brad & Pat Kennedy residents of The Preserve on the Elizabeth

1. Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the April 22, 2019 meeting were approved.

2. Citizen Comments

- *Brad and Pat Kennedy, residents on Tranquility Trace in The Preserve stated that stormwater channels into a wooded area next to their home, and has been flooded since they moved in in February. They noted that someone had come out to the level spreader (along Habitat Crossing) and uncovered parts of it but not all of it.*
- *Their concern is that the wooded area doesn't leave any place for water to go. They would like someone to dredge it.*
- *Eric explained why dredging the area is not an option. There was a lengthy discussion of the approved plans, plats, and design of the system, and a discussion of the elevations in that area. Parts of the as-built drawings and plats were shown on the large screen during the meeting.*
- *Eric suggested that Mosquito Control may be able to treat this area.*
- *The Kennedys asked who has responsibility for tree maintenance and tree removal for trees that are dying and hanging over the sidewalks. Alden also asked the question. There may be some shared responsibility and the City is only responsible for hazardous trees within the right-of-way.*

3. Introduction of Holly Adams, Stormwater Project Manager.

4. Director's Report, Eric Martin

- *Eric was introduced to the new Committee members.*
- *Update on Council Retreat: the Retreat will be focused on long-range planning, and the Council wants to focus on stormwater, CIB, and flood control projects. Stormwater has 3 tiers: water quality; water quantity; and Operations and Maintenance. Eric is working on the outline for the Retreat.*
- *Stormwater Utility Revenue: where is it going? Council wants to know why we aren't spending more on outfall projects in Southern Chesapeake. There is \$1 million/year for future outfall improvements.*
- *The presentation will cover demands, Ops numbers, CSRs, service levels, and backlogs. With heavier rains, how is productivity? How does work get done? Inmates, in-house crews, and contractors are used. How does neighborhood drainage get prioritized?*
- *All completed work will be presented along with challenges. Challenges to outfall ditch clearing include trees, easements, permitting, understaffed procurement office, etc. There has been no Stormwater Utility Fee increase in 10 years. Stormwater revenue growth has been very small. Required costs come first and include Ops and Environmental, neighborhood projects come last, and the capital budget has been cut. There is currently \$6 million in the capital budget, the fund balance has been used to augment the capital budget, but this funding source is gone.*
- *Next year the City may only have \$4 million in the capital budget. May be able to find about \$3 million to get through one more year, but then may no longer be able to fund the Capital Program at the same level. Projects are going to get pushed back. Highest priority work will be done first, and some work won't get done. There may be an abrupt cut in two years.*

- Other cities are in the process of raising fees.
- Alden pointed out that the City does not have an Urban Forester or Urban Forestry Program. Eric noted that the best way to sell it is to show how service will be improved.
- A lot of nuisance flooding could be taken care of with more funding. Need to determine how much funding is needed and what will get done with additional funding.
- Kelly pointed out that the fee had a “ramp-up” period initially. Council ended the automatic fee increases.
- Alden pointed out that there is no Urban Forestry Program.
- Bruce asked what is needed from the Stormwater Committee. Kelly noted that the Committee’s next Annual Report should make a recommendation regarding a fee increase in July 2021. It should address the impacts of raising the fee and how to go about it.
- There is already discussion underway about a Waste Management fee, which could be set up as an Enterprise Fund.
- Markiella asked if there is any consideration of debt financing for Stormwater vs. cash. Eric replied that Stormwater is an Enterprise Fund. Debt service could be a financing option. There is no real end point to Stormwater.
- Traycie asked if the fee is tied to inflation. The answer is no. This is considered with water/sewer rates.
- The workforce issue (hiring and retention) is a national problem. Far fewer people are going into the public service field.
- Markiella mentioned that stormwater design standards may need to be updated. Eric noted that the City is already working on that, based on the Virginia Beach (Dewberry) study on the impacts of more intense storms, greater rainfall amounts, and sea level rise.

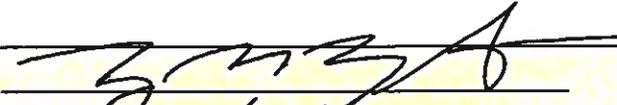
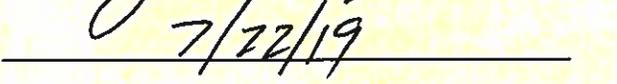
5. Operations Update, Indra Paudel

- Barbara will send out the Operations Report
- Bids have been received for the Northwest River Snag & Drag contract, however, there was a bid protest. Purchasing is trying to work this out.

6. Engineering Update, Holly Adams

- Barbara will send out the link to the Stormwater Project Updates.
- There was a brief update on the Bahama Way BMP project. The BMP has heavy vegetative growth. The project will involve lake treatment and aeration, and has kicked off.
- Barbara provided an update on the City’s Lake Management Program. The City may take a more active role in funding lake treatments, at the City’s discretion.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:47 pm.

Minutes approved by the Committee	 <hr style="border: 0; border-top: 1px solid black;"/>
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