



**Stormwater Committee Meeting
December 2, 2019
Human Resources Training Room**

1. Call to Order: *The meeting was called to order at 6:01 PM*

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

Committee Members in Attendance:

Richard Bunton (Committee Vice Chair)

Roger Baxter (Committee Chair)

Carol Warren

Traycie West-Pinkoski

Markiella Moore

Eric Martin (PW Director)

Kelly Lackey (Asst City Attorney)

Barbara Brumbaugh (PW Staff)

I.B. Paudel (PW Staff)

Absent Committee Members

Alden Cleanthes

Bruce Weckworth

Todd Reigle (excused)

Virginia Cook

Watson Lawrence (Ag Dept Director - excused)

Laura Mae (excused)

Matthew Fulford (Alternate)

Citizens in Attendance:

Susan Jones, Driftwood Meadows

3. Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the October 28, 2019 meeting were approved with two corrections from Markiella.

4. Citizen Comments

- *Susan Jones (Susan) asked who maintains stormwater ponds located on private property.*

- Eric explained the division of responsibility of public impoundment and drainage easements. Kelly explained that most plat language states that the City is responsible for adequate storage and flow. Susan asked about statements she has heard from Pete Burkheimer stating that the City maintains them.
- Susan asked about the Mains Creek neighborhood drainage. Eric pulled up the area on Compass (GIS). He said that the flooding is tidal. Properties are being purchased with FEMA grants. Tide valves have been installed in various locations. A discussion of building requirements for homes in the floodplain followed. Eric explained that Fernwood flooding is tidal flooding. The City has been purchasing properties around Doria and Andrea. Susan said she asked the City about putting a tidal valve on a pipe and was told it wouldn't work. She said water comes up out of the storm drains during rain events. Eric said the City can analyze whether it would work. He says an analysis would need to be done. Susan stated that water needs to be at elevation 6.5 before it floods. Roger noted that his garage floods 24 inches with tides at 8.5. Susan stated that FEMA has programs to help. Eric noted that new guidelines require homes to be at higher elevations.
- Susan asked how rezonings are considered in flood hazard areas. Eric explained requirements for new subdivisions. Stormwater facilities must handle a 5 year storm, and store and release water slowly over time. They must be able to manage a 100 year storm.
- Susan took photos of the Dominion Pines BMPs. She noted that they were full with very little rain. She says water backs up to the pump station at Great Bridge Blvd. She wants to know what happens when the storm systems can't handle the flooding from new development. She pointed out that 13 inch rainfalls are not uncommon. Eric reiterated that intense storms are becoming more frequent. He said that the City can ensure that storm drains are open. Susan noted that one yard floods all the time. There is a roadside ditch along Fernwood Farms on the Fernbridge side that is problematic.
- There was a question about a culvert that Pete Burkheimer keeps talking about. Eric noted that a larger pipe actually lets in more tidal water faster. Susan said she followed the water and it was backed up along people's fences. She said that the City is letting nature take its' course and is not doing anything to help the citizens. Eric said that the focus is on homes that have flooding on their 1st floor (finished floor). Susan doesn't agree that development is not causing more tidal flooding. Eric noted that there have been more significant tidal flooding events over the past 10 years than there were in the previous 100 years.
- Roger gave some history on his property which was built in 1994. He said that Public Works is dealing with problems the best they can.
- Eric discussed changes to City code for new development over time to deal with flooding, such as raising finished floors, and raising road elevations.

- Susan asked why the City isn't building retention ponds on the FEMA properties. Eric replied that if the property is tidal, it's not appropriate. The City is working on a program to re-forest these areas.
- Susan asked about the rezoning at Mapleshore, and the fact that there is no emergency access. She wants to know who signs off on a floodplain part of a rezoning. She's been trying to contact Jay Tate (Development and Permits Dept). Eric gave her Jay and Mark Curry's (Development and Permits Dept) numbers. Roger gave an example of using the City's services to make complaints.
- Carol asked if building is allowed in a floodplain. Eric said that if the finished floor is at least 9.5 feet above sea level, they can build. FEMA doesn't update the maps very often.
- Susan wants to look at the big picture and believes things can be done better. Eric noted that there is a lot happening regionally with flood protection. Susan provided info from the APA website. Eric suggested she contact Mark Curry to find out what has been happening over time to increase protection and find out what the standards are. He noted that the Public Facilities Manual has all the requirements for flood protection.

5. Operations Update, IB Paudel

- Report is for the previous month
- 28 new blocked ditch Work Orders (WOs), 5 remain open.
- 29 new cave-in WO's, 48 remain open
- 15 new CCTV WO's, 3 remain open
- 40 new lead ditch preventive maintenance WO's, 21 remain open
- Total 153 completed WO's, 80 open WO's
- 48 backlog drainage and Contractual Services cave-ins
- The 9th cycle of street sweeping is underway.
- The Northwest River Snag & Drag project is 90% complete. The water levels are down about 1 foot, and dry land is visible on both sides of the river that were under water when the work began. More beaver activity has been noted in the river.

6. MS4 Update, Barbara Brumbaugh

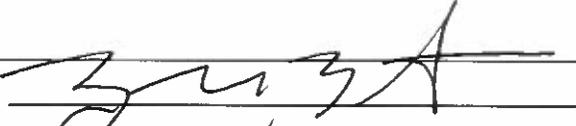
- Barbara gave an update on the Lakeside Park microbial source tracking survey. Low levels of raw sewage were detected during wet weather only, the samples taken during dry weather were negative. More wet weather monitoring will be conducted to narrow down the source of the issue.
- Proposals are being sought to install aeration at Lakeside Park. The City was exploring the use of solar aerators, but due to the cost, will likely go with powered aeration.
- Barbara will provide a draft Stormwater Committee Annual Report for discussion prior to the January 2020 meeting.
- Eric noted that no Stormwater Utility fee increase is proposed for the next Operating Budget until all capital money has been spent. This will happen in the next 2 – 3 years. The Operating/Equipment budget is fully funded.

- There is no new funding for resiliency projects as the focus is on neighborhood projects.*
- *Carol asked if there were comments from the Council on Chesapeake's fee being lower than all the other (Hampton Roads) Cities. Eric said there were no comments about that.*
 - *Eric said that neighborhood projects will drop off (i.e. upgrading drainage systems). In the 5th year of the budget, there will be no money for new projects.*
 - *There was a brief discussion of TMDL credits.*

7. Old and New Business

- *Markiella noted that there are 4 vacancies on the Stormwater Committee. She asked if these are new or if anyone is eligible for reappointment. Staff will follow up on this.*

The meeting was adjourned at 7:53 pm.

Minutes approved by the Committee	
Date	<u>01/27/20</u>