



**Stormwater Committee Meeting
January 27, 2020
Human Resources Training Room**

1. Call to Order: *The meeting was called to order at 6:03 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
Bruce Weckworth
Todd Riegler
Eric Martin (PW Director)
Kelly Lackey (Asst City Attorney)
Barbara Brumbaugh (PW Staff)
I.B. Paudel (PW Staff)*

Absent Committee Members

*Alden Cleanthes
Virginia Cook
Watson Lawrence (Ag Dept Director)
Laura Mae (excused)
Matthew Fulford (Alternate)*

Citizens in Attendance:

*Jackie Rizzo, The Preserve on the Elizabeth
Vic Nichols*

3. Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the December 2, 2019 meeting were approved.

4. Citizen Comments

- o Jackie Rizzo who lives on Preservation Reach, explained that she has an erosion pond in her backyard. She wants to know what the pond is for.*

- *Compass was put on the screen and the overview of the neighborhood was shown. Eric is very familiar with this site. He explained how the system is designed to work.*
- *Jackie explained that she wants to build a fence, take out some plants, and re-plant more plants. She requested copies of the plats and plans for the development. She has monitored the water levels for the past year and suggested that maybe the City can dig the pond deeper so it holds more water.*
- *Eric noted that she cannot build anything that will block drainage. Operations will check the area and coordinate with Ms. Rizzo.*

5. Director's Items

- *Eric attended a budget meeting in the City Manager's Office today. The presentation was about stormwater. He explained the ongoing challenges with the stormwater utility and updated the City Manager. Funds from the capital budget will be focused on the backlog of cave-ins and personnel requests such as MEO interns. Due to the number of capital projects that still need to be done, a second Stormwater Project Manager was recommended to help get projects completed.*
- *Capital revenue is dwindling. The Budget Dept says that there is over \$40 million in capital funding, however, most of this funding is committed. It will take 3-4 years to spend the money. It's difficult to request that Council raise the stormwater fee with money still "in the bank". At this point there is \$3 million in leftover funds for a "one time use" which will be appropriated to capital projects. There is also \$3 million in pro-rata drainage funds designated for specific watersheds. This is the result of drainage improvements which have been made using stormwater utility funds. The pro-rata fees are basically reimbursing the Utility fund. This involves a lot of work to account for the funds, but these funds will be appropriated to capital projects.*
- *The Stormwater Utility is OK for several years, and the Budget Committee does not recommend a fee increase at this time. These were the initial discussions with the Budget Committee. There were also additional personnel discussions.*
- *Markiella asked a question about the proposed new Stormwater Project Manager, will this position be devoted only to stormwater if the capital project money pays their salary? Eric noted that Engineering also has general fund employees who work on stormwater.*

6. Operations Update, IB Paudel

- *Report is for the previous month*
- *101 blocked ditch Work Orders (WOs) backlogged*
- *41 backlogged cave-in WO's*
- *1st cycle of street sweeping started, 9 cycles completed in 2019*
- *Street sweeping monitoring is ongoing.*

- Bruce asked who calls in the pipe washing WOs? These are a result of citizen and City requests.

7. Engineering Update

- Interviews will be held soon for the Stormwater Project Manager (vacated by Holly Adams several months ago).
- The Sunray outfall project is complete
- The Sign Pine outfall project has had some change orders. This will provide relief to the Edinburgh area.

6. MS4 Update, Committee Annual Report, Barbara Brumbaugh

- A hard copy of the draft Annual Report was distributed to the Committee. Barbara asked how the Committee wants to present the report, whether they want to send it or hold a work session. Late February was discussed for a possible work session. Roger believes it rises to the level of a work session, especially since most of the Council Members have been here for a while. They want to emphasize to Council that citizens are being heard.
- Eric noted that the report should state the function of the Committee, what has happened during 2019, and recommendations going forward. He will request a 30 minute slot at a work session and there are three work sessions in February. Operating Budget discussions will start in March.
- Barbara will provide the electronic version of the Stormwater Committee Annual Report for comment.
- Eric said that the Recycling Program will be in front of Council on 1/28/20 and that they may be asked to vote on some funding.
- There was a discussion about the last paragraph of the report, and the fact that no fee increase is being recommended. Todd asked about the Consumer Price Index (CPI), and how today's money is not keeping up with inflation. Carol mentioned that a small, incremental increase will keep from falling behind. Roger said that it's hard to ask citizens to pay more when there is so much money in the bank.
- Eric said that the money is obligated, but not spent. There has been a discussion (in the Budget Committee) about expanding staff in order to spend the funds, i.e. Project Manager, Inspector, ROW Agent.
- Roger asked if Council understands that the funding is going to dry up. He also asked how much of the funding is commercial vs. residential.
- There was a discussion about what an investment in the Stormwater Program means. The Committee believes that the Council should want to make the investments needed to retain businesses and citizens such as safe neighborhoods, good roads, and quality of life. The Committee would like to make this point in the report.
- Eric mentioned that Councilwoman Ritter is interested in a program to train people which flood zone they are in. Eric said this would fall under the Natural Event Mitigation Committee and Emergency Management. There has been some discussion of "Know Your Zone" trash can stickers. Does the City need better signage, particularly for Zones A & B?

There is also a regional push to educate the public about flood insurance. Eric also worries about the non-tidal flooding events.

7. Old and New Business

- *Barbara asked about Committee priorities for 2020. Roger stated that getting pertinent information out to citizens is his priority including information about flood zones and taking care of ditches. The use of Clipper articles was mentioned and there could be seasonal messaging during spring clean-up season and hurricane season.*
- *Eric encouraged the Committee members to attend the work session.*
- *Barbara asked the Committee where they would like to go and what types of projects they would like to see on the annual field trip and asked that they think about this. She will poll for field trip dates later.*
- *Barbara and Eric provided an update on the Lakeside Park Microbial Source Tracking project that HRSD is conducting. Public Works is coordinating with Public Utilities to identify potential sources of sanitary sewage.*
- *Bruce discussed the pathogen monitoring at Great Bridge Lock Park after the sanitary sewer spill along Kempsville Rd.*
- *Carol mentioned the Indian River Town Hall meeting and the neighbor who had reported trash at the Border Rd outfall. The Sheriff's Department conducted a cleanup around the Border Rd outfall. Eric provided a memo to Council with an update and photos. The ditch at Plymouth Park was also cleaned and it looks really nice. An aerial view was pulled up on the screen using Compass.*
- *There is a Town Hall meeting next week in Deep Creek.*
- *Vic Nichols (citizen who arrived after the public comment period) stated that if the Committee is considering raising rates they will need lots of justification. She mentioned that state fees and taxes may be increasing. Eric mentioned that these conversations go on internally with any discussion of fee increases.*

The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 pm.

Minutes approved by the Committee	<u>Via virtual committee meeting</u>
Date	<u>8/24/2020</u>