

CITY OF RALEIGH
STORMWATER MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMISSION (SMAC)
Minutes

Raleigh Municipal Building · 222 W. Hargett Street · Conference Room 305
4:00pm · Thursday, December 3, 2015

Commission Members Present: Marc Horstman, Francine Durso, Matthew Starr, David Webb, Vanessa Fleischmann, Chris Bostic and Kevin Yates

Stormwater Staff Present: Blair Hinkle, Suzette Mitchell, Kelly Daniel, Kevin Register, Scott Bryant, Wenju Zhang, Lauren Witherspoon, Dale Hyatt, Giles Bellot, McKenzie Gentry, Sheila Thomas-Ambat, Ben Brown and Kevin Boyer

Members Absent: Michael Birch (e) and JoAnn Burkholder
**Note: (e) denotes that the Commission excused the absence.

Guests: Ken Carper and Mark Senior

Meeting called to order: 4:04 p.m. by Marc Horstman (*chair*)

Motions (Absentees and Minutes)

- Absence: Ms. Durso motioned to excuse Michael Birch from today's meeting, and Mr. Starr seconded. The motion was passed unanimously.
- November Meeting Minutes: Mr. Webb motioned to approve, and Mr. Bostic seconded. The motion was passed unanimously.

The following items were discussed with action taken as shown.

Item 1 – Commission/Stormwater Staff Update on Matters of Importance to the Stormwater Management Advisory Commission

1.1 Stormwater Staff Report: (Blair Hinkle) –

- Staffing Update –
 - CIP Senior Engineering Inspector – *Introduction of Kevin Register*
 - *Vacant positions* –
 - CIP – 2nd position of Senior Engineering Inspector
 - Water Quality – *Stormwater Quality Technician and Project Engineer I*

Item 2 – Proposed FY2017 Budget & Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)

2.1 Blair Hinkle: Part of this year's budget process is that each fund was requested to draft a business plan. This is new to the organization and most of the information is reflected in the SMAC annual report.

2.2 Summary of Presentation

- Program Vision – *Accelerate the transformation of stormwater into a widely recognized asset for the Raleigh community by 2030.*
- Program Mission – *Manage stormwater to preserve and protect life, support healthy natural resources, and complement sustainable growth for the vibrant Raleigh community.*
- Representative accomplishment –
 - Recognition –
 - Development /S&E group – *awarded top local Erosion and Sediment Program by North Carolina Energy, Mineral, and Land Resources (NCDEMLR)*
 - Scott Bryant – *awarded APWA NC Chapter Stormwater Professional Employee of the Year.*

- Strategic Accomplishments –
 - Integrated Stormwater Project Prioritization Model – *Integrate the goals of Strategic Plan with the Comprehensive Plan and allows projectivity and transparency in the prioritization of projects.*
 - GI/LID Work Plan – *Ongoing with the work group and stakeholders involvement.*
 - GIS Impervious Area Scan Utilization – *Incorporating four years of impervious area scans into the billing database to accurately bill customers.*
- Project/Output –
 - Northshore Lake Preservation – *Upgrading the lake, waiting on Dam Safety to issue permit to fill lake.*
 - Drainage Petition Projects – *22 projects completed (\$1.2 million) and 17 in design (\$1.5 million).*
 - Stormwater Quality Cost Share – *4 projects completed (\$50,000+).*
 - FEMA Hazard Mitigation – *Acquired Milner Inn (funded by Federal & State) and Dunkin Donuts on Capital Blvd (funded by City) and working on Capital Inn acquisition.*
- Key Initiatives & Linkage to Strategic Plan –
 - Drainage Assistance Enhancement – *Already worked through some of the process. It was presented to Council at a work session in November on the level of service we provide and the stormwater program. It includes a utility rate increase and funding increase for the drainage program. It will be presented to Council with the budget and the next step will be a revised policy.*
 - Lake Preservation – *Need to look at more in-depth. Is policy leading to effective expenditure of Stormwater funding and how do we deal with 80+ private lakes that are out there?*
 - GI/LID Work Plan – *Continue to work on this. Four months remaining in stakeholder’s process, and then forming a revised code language.*
 - CIP Project Completion – *Backlog of \$30 million. At a sustainable level, we would expect that to be about \$10 million in approved funding carried forward each year. Expect to complete about \$15 million worth of projects in FY17.*
 - Prioritization Model Implementation – *Continue to implement.*
 - Watershed Master Planning – *Devoting more effort, time, and more resources.*
 - FEMA Flood Maps – *Revised by next winter, but dependent on when FEMA starts their mandatory appeal period.*
 - Asset Management Program – *Do not have a system in place to prioritize preventive maintenance and inspections of existing stormwater systems. It will be a comprehensive look at the challenges and opportunities with the stormwater system.*
- Issues & Emerging Trends – *Enhanced Drainage Assistance Services, Aging and Emerging Stormwater Infrastructure and Review of Lake Preservation Program.*
- Possible Rate Increase – *\$1.00/SFEU, generating \$4.3 million (funding will be utilized in Operation and Capital Cost below)*
 - Operation Cost *\$1,300,000 – Adding two construction crews at Transportation Field Services*
 - Capital Costs – *(\$500,000 Increase funding for Drainage Assistance), (\$500,000 Increase funding for Stormwater System Repairs) and (\$2,000,000 – Additional Capital Improvement Plan funding).*
- Operating Budget Highlights FY17 –
 - *Increase of overall revenue from \$17+ million to \$21+ million (due to rate increase), expenditures over \$22 million, to make up the difference we are proposing to pull from the fund balance (9 million currently).*
 - *FY17 – 40% of total expenditures result from a transfer from operation to capital budget (20% - Transportation Field Services) and the rest from Operational cost.*

- CIP Improvement Program Plan FY17-FY21 –
 - Goals for developing Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) this year – *Remove some gaps in the project timeline; pay attention to workload allocation; utilize increase revenue; and utilize the prioritization model.*
 - Lake Preservation –
 - White Oak Lake – *\$3,000,000, coordinating with DOT because of 440 widening close to right of way.*
 - Water Quality Improvement Projects –
 - Wooten Meadows Wetland – *\$100,000*
 - Water Quality Cost Share – *\$250,00*
 - Water Quality –
 - Water Quality Retrofit Projects – *\$200,000*
 - TMDL Stream Water Quality Projects – *\$200,000*
 - Stormwater System Repair – *\$500,000*
 - Drainage Assistance Petition Projects – *\$1,250,000*
 - Watershed Planning/Program Planning – *\$150,000 for basin studies and watershed plans*
 - Neighborhood Drainage System Improvements
 - Beechwood Dr. area Drainage Improvement Phase 1 – *\$3,000,000*
 - Street Drainage System Improvements
 - W. Drewy Lane Culvert Improvements – *\$675,000*
 - Scotland St Culvert Replacement – *\$100,000*

2.3 Feedback

- 2.3.1 **Mr. Yates:** For Lake Preservation water quality projects, is there any interest in dam removal and stream restoration type of water quality benefits associated with that?
- 2.3.2 **Blair Hinkle** – I believe there is. It’s certainly an option that we have explored. We began looking at what is the benefit of maintaining a lake ~vs~ the benefit of restoring a stream. One way to look at the trade-off is through the prioritization model.
- 2.3.3 **Mr. Horstman:** The White Oak Lake Dam is a legacy project that’s waiting on DOT. Is there any talk in freezing the project and using that money later? Say, in FY19-20 and pushing it forward for other legacy CIP projects?
- 2.3.4 **Blair Hinkle** – Certainly we have looked at this. The fear is if we push the money, it’s gone or delayed. If there is a need to coordinate with DOT work, then we won’t have the opportunity to do that.
- 2.3.5 **Mr. Yates:** To confirm, we have \$9 million in reserves and over the next couple of years, the intent to take several million of that to help accelerate some of the projects.
- 2.3.6 **Blair Hinkle** – That is correct. For enterprise funds there are no legal requirements to keep some percentage of annual revenue in fund balance.
- 2.3.7 **Mr. Bostic:** In looking at the overall budget, the net cost line item of \$930,612 – is that the amount out of the \$9 million to be drawn down?
- 2.3.8 **Blair Hinkle** – Yes

2.4 Motion:

- 2.4.1 Mr. Yates made a motion to recommend the business plan, operating budget, and the CIP budget that was presented, and Mr. Webb seconded. The motion was passed unanimously.

2.5 **Mr. Horstman** wanted to take an opportunity to applaud staff for a wonderful year. Stormwater staff and SMAC have put in a lot of hard work and effort during this entire year.

2.5.1 **Blair Hinkle** said he wanted to return the compliment and also to thank SMAC for their leadership, guidance, and their significant time commitment.

Item 3 – Other Business

- Blair Hinkle noted that he had not received any notification of which member will serve on the Environmental Awards. Ms. Vanessa Fleischmann said she would volunteer.
- Mr. Starr made a motion to close the meeting and Mr. Yates second. The motion was approved unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 4:58 p.m.

Suzette Mitchell