

MINUTES OF STORMWATER TASK FORCE MEETING

PURPOSE OF MEETING: The discussion of green infrastructure project prioritization, key recommendations, utility fees and public utility commission.

DATE OF MEETING: **03-11-2021**

PLACE OF MEETING: **Meeting held via Microsoft Teams**

NOTICE: This virtual meeting of the Stormwater Task Force was held pursuant to and in compliance with the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, Section 2.2-3708.2 and state and local legislation adopted to allow for continued government operation during the COVID-19 declared emergency. All participating members of the Stormwater Task Force were present at this meeting through electronic means. All members of the public may view this video of this meeting on the City’s website at www.fallschurchva.gov.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY: Rolf Anderson AT 6:00 pm (time)

THOSE PRESENT:

[BOARD OR COMMISSION NAME]: [Member Name]: <u>Rolf Anderson</u> [Member Name]: <u>Hans Miller</u> [Member Name]: <u>Matthew Ries</u> [Member Name]: <u>Ellen Heather</u> [Member Name]: <u>Dave Gustafson</u> [Member Name]: <u>Jeff Jardine</u> [Member Name]: <u>Lauren Pinkus</u>	<u>Staff Present:</u> [Name]: <u>Andre Prince</u> [Name]: <u>Zak Bradley</u> [Name]: _____ [Name]: _____ [Name]: _____ Only list relevant/required staff here.
--	---

OTHERS PRESENT: _____

TOPICS OF DISCUSSION: _____

1. Review green infrastructure project prioritization
2. Review draft key recommendations for green infrastructure
3. Next steps on stormwater fee and public utility commission

MEETING ADJOURNED AT: 9:00 pm

SIGNATURE OF RECORDER: _____

Detailed Meeting Minutes Notes:

Meeting Minutes -11 Mar 2021

Attendees: Task Force (Rolf Anderson, Hans Miller, Lauren Pinkus, Dave Gustafson, Jeff Jardine, Matt Ries, Ellen Heather); City Gov't (Zak Bradley, Andre Prince)

Meeting Objectives:

1. Review green infrastructure project prioritization
2. Review draft key recommendations for green infrastructure
3. Next steps on stormwater fee and public utility commission

Staff Update:

Requesting 2% fee increase. This will result in approximately \$40,000-\$50,000 per year in additional funds. Funds will be used to implement Trammel Branch project and to pay for staff pay increases.

Current stormwater fee only supports - Poplar, Ridge (?) and maintenance. None of the other projects being reviewed will be funded unless external funding or change in rate structure

Need a list of recommended projects to submit for the March 22 city council meeting. Requesting participation of the Chair or Vice Chair to present at the meeting.

At next meeting, Staff will provide an update on how funds from the Stormwater fee are utilized by the city. The task force will review current rate structure and proposal to move forward

Prioritization Discussion:

Strategic plan – Strategic objectives and goals desired paths forward supplemented by a map of watershed

- Hans will build out a slide with objectives
- Andre will discuss with contractor (GIS) to see if it is possible to build out impervious areas
- Other – (Hans add) – flooding rates over time, i.e. if standard is for a 10 year flood how often are we seeing more than that level? from NOAA

Overall support by task force members for a broader, objectives-based approach – not just projects, but also policy; way forward structure to help guide effort, but does not get in the way

- Dave – dozens of existing homes in flood plain underserved by city infrastructure; need to look at storm protection balanced with affordable housing (some homes may need

Project Review

The task force discussed the top tier of priority projects to reassess that they merited inclusion, or if there were other factors that we had missed in our original discussion.

FMR 5A – agreed top tier; additional considerations – public engagement aspect, top of water shed

The City of Falls Church is committed to the letter and spirit of the Americans with Disabilities Act. This document will be made available in alternate format upon request.

Call 703 248-5350, (TTY 711).

TR-3 – specific project is complete, but desired to make sure we address projects that help flooding for this area of Tripps Run. This is likely a collection of yet to be defined grey infrastructure (inlets), green infrastructure projects. TR-11 is part of top level based partially on grouping with Tripps Run Watershed.

TR-11 – Agreed as top tier

TR-8 – Helps reduce water to Tripps Run, but more complex and costly with lower ROI (left out of top tier for now)

The task force took a formal vote and unanimously approved bringing the following four projects to the city council – FMR-5A, TR-5, TR-11, Lincoln Ave proposal

Jeff commented that the criteria should capture the number of people impacted and the density, which may affect project selection. It was discussed that this aspect was considered within the Severity criteria.

Hans emphasized that we need a basis or a framework to consider projects within a conceptual framework of stormwater as part of a system. There was consensus that projects not only stand alone, but should be considered and designed within a broader goal of stormwater management within this system. There was extensive discussion of what this guiding strategy looked like. The framework that was outlined with three overarching goals: 1) Increase green infrastructure and reduce potential impervious surfaces, 2) Improve downstream drainage (with a goal of no flooding within a ten year standard, and 3) Reduce stormwater flow and volume near main watersheds.

Task Force Reviewed the Draft Proposed Memo on Green Infrastructure

Matt and Hans made overall comment that the memo contained good recommendations and should be the basis for a memo to city council as a later deliverable (expected in the June timeframe); strong on the green infrastructure

Matt commented that there are broader challenges that should also be captured in the memo where “green” alone will not get us there; there are places where there are physical constraints; Andre commented that he captured that message to the council

- Overall, historically the lens was likely grey infrastructure first and there is a good direction to look at solutions with a green infrastructure lens, but it is not a magical solution; we need to be careful that that expectations are properly set on where the bounds or constraints on the benefits and applications of green infrastructure are

- Codes and ordinances – Matt recommended that we need to look for specific recommendations that could have “teeth”; example, tangible/specific building code updates

- Jeff pointed out many new development projects (>2018) have several stormwater measures built in; he noted a bigger impact from existing homeowners doing additional development on their property (e.g. adding a tennis court, additional driveway)

- The committee discussed stormwater fee and ways it might be able to be adjusted to incentivize reductions in impact to stormwater drainage; Dave mentioned a neighbor who is a developer who offered to share ideas for stormwater fee and revenue options

- Dave mentioned Falls Church vision 2040 document and that it captured some Stormwater project goals

The City of Falls Church is committed to the letter and spirit of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

This document will be made available in alternate format upon request.

Call 703 248-5350, (TTY 711).

- Matt brought up importance of tail that green infrastructure has with it (i.e. there is an expected recurring maintenance cost with most green infrastructure)

Trammel Branch Update

- Waiting for subcontractor to provide cost estimates

Next Meeting Agenda Items

- Stormwater Fees

- Code Updates

- Recap City Council Meeting

- Incentive Programs