

**MINUTES OF STORMWATER TASK FORCE MEETING**

PURPOSE OF MEETING: To document key points of discussion and actionable items for the task force. Detailed notes are attached for reference.

DATE OF MEETING: **01/28/2021**

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](http://www.fallschurchva.gov).

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY: Dave Gustafson AT 6:00 pm (time)

THOSE PRESENT:

<b>[STORMWATER TASK FORCE]:</b> [Member Name]: <u>Dave Gustafson</u> [Member Name]: <u>Rolf Anderson</u> [Member Name]: <u>Hans Miller</u> [Member Name]: <u>Lauren Pinkus</u> [Member Name]: <u>Matt Ries</u> [Member Name]: <u>Ellen Heather</u> [Member Name]: <u>Jeff Jardine</u> [Member Name]: <u>Richard Snyder</u>	<b><u>Staff Present:</u></b> [Name]: <u>Zak Bradley</u> [Name]: <u>Andre Prince</u> [Name]: _____ [Name]: _____ [Name]: _____  Only list relevant/required staff here.
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OTHERS PRESENT: \_\_\_\_\_

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1) TOPICS OF DISCUSSION:

- City Staff presented three potential state and federal funding sources that the City could tap that would supplement existing stormwater funds to pay for green infrastructure improvements. These funding options will be considered in the development of the next generation of priority projects.
- Task force reviewed the Virginia stormwater best management practices and enforcement in the City.
- The task force discussed the City's impervious area and the need to be able to track over time.
- Milestones and a basic roadmap for the Task Force were discussed with an aim to identify watershed management plan project priorities with the goal to present findings to the City Council at the March 22 meeting.
- The discussion on Green Infrastructure was tabled for a future meeting.

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Call 703 248-5350, (TTY 711).

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Reading of Virtual Meeting Notice**
3. **Roll Call**
4. **Receipt of Public Comment**
5. **Staff Update:** Pending Funding Sources—SLAF Fund / Stormwater Resilience Fund | Current Ordinances & Enforcement
6. **Discussion Item:** Virginia BMP Clearing House Approved Practices | Major Milestones for Watershed Management Plan | Key Performance Indicators for the Watershed Program | Green Infrastructure Models
7. **Schedule of future meetings:** Next virtual meeting Thursday, February 11, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 pm.
8. **Task Force Member Reports**
9. **Adjourn**

MEETING ADJOURNED AT: 8:21pm \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE OF RECORDER: Andre Prince \_\_\_\_\_

## Detailed Notes

Stormwater Task Force – Meeting Minutes – 28 Jan 21

Attendee – FCC -Andre and Zak, Stormwater TaskForce and Richard Snyder

### **FUNDING SOURCES**

1) Potential SLAF (Stormwater Local Assistance Fund)

- Currently a legislative proposal. The joint subcommittee shall complete its meetings for the first year by November 30, 2021

2) Community Flood Preparedness Fund

- Increase Flood Resilience

- Aware of social issues and low-income localities – community scale hazard activities

- >25% used in low-income localities

- Rolf - Do any parts of Falls Church that qualify as a low-income community?

- Zak - No defining language for that

3) BRIC -Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities Program – FEMA program

- focus on nature-based solutions

- Incentive building codes – require updates to local

- Application period ends tomorrow for this round – **not applying this cycle**

- BRIC is a recurring program so can apply next year

- 75% federal / 25% non-federal

- Eligibility – must have had a major disaster as defined by the Stafford Act in the past 7 years

- TBD – what is the definition in the Stafford Act, from Google - The **Stafford Act** covers major disasters and emergencies. Major disasters are **defined** as any natural catastrophe or fire, flood, or explosion, regardless of cause, which is of sufficient severity to warrant assistance under the **act** to alleviate the damage, loss, or hardship caused by the event

Ellen – referred to two bills that are potential to use for stormwater funds

- Lauren clarified that one of the bills was focused on localities creating their own funds for private citizens to apply to; worthy idea but where would we find the funds for this?

- Hans input – could we take a small percentage of Stormwater revenue and build up this fund over time?

Zak – expect to focus on SLAF,

**Virginia Stormwater (best management practices) BMP Clearinghouse** - <https://swbmp.vwrrc.vt.edu/>

- Any land clearing activity >2500 sq ft of land disturbance, required to follow BMP quantity and quality requirements – to include regrading yard, typically waived if no change in impervious area

Zak – Quality and Quantity performance

- Quality – encourage healthy habits to survive (focus – remove phosphorous from the water)

- Of the 15 practices, Practice 4: Soil compost amendment is the only we don't allow in the city, just no means to monitor

- Lauren -have these BMPs been enforced for a while? Or is this new, and is there a grandfather clause?

- Since Zak has been with the city, there have been BMPs enforced; previously there were exceptions; commercials have always had BMPs on them (VA was well behind national standard as a state about 20-30 years ago)

- Much stricter approach, don't grant exceptions

- Dave – city hold bonds? Yes for commercial held for 1 year, residential released when occupancy permit is granted, city holds tree bonds for a year

- Dave -this didn't seem to cover homes near streams?

- Zak -restoring streams to natural state is not covered in BMPs, that is a whole different area; Jeff -this is covered by Chesapeake Bay Ordinance; if you're near a flood plain not required to do BMPs. Zak – if you're in a flood plain, if you can show total discharge is less than 1% of total flow then the plan should be approved

**VRRM – Virginia Runoff Reduction Method – determines Phosphorous runoff and required offset**

- Must treat all area as offset for phosphorous

- takes into account soil type

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- city allows purchase of credits against the required offset; still much offset at least 75% of calculated offset
- Matt brought up the term "hydrologic invisibility" which means that post development drainage is the same as pre-development drainage. Development has no (negative) impact on runoff
  - Hans - Does city of Falls Church look at this for each development?
  - Zak – trees do not factor into the assessment (? – is this something to look at) State is working on a calculation to look at stormwater factor for trees, not part of current calculations
    - Hans comment (for future discussion)– how do we look at an aggregate? I.e. depending on how calculations are done I could see a situation where a large house is built in and the calculations show not discharge impact and may in fact show a decrease in discharge because less area is in the calculation, but as an aggregate there is less land area for water to flow through which could focus and increase the velocity of the flow (a key factor in damage during a flood)
      - Hans comment (for future discussion) - Is there consideration of scaled impervious limit? (i.e. vs just over or under a limit is there a scaled stormwater fee associated with impervious changes that get increasingly closer to a limit) - this could serve as an incentive to maintain/control the overall city wide impervious percentage that Dave brought up
        - Comment from Matt - I am not aware of cities that have a city-side impervious area goal (they look at individual parcels like FCC), but that doesn't mean there aren't any. More common is getting at the same issue via tree canopy goals. For example, for DC..."**The Goal: By 2032, cover 40 percent of the District with a healthy tree canopy.**"
          - Does the city track changes in total impervious land – Andre – yes, the city will look at this, we should look at 2015
          - Ellen – is there are way to put together a public awareness campaign to educate the public about impacts to stormwater? Andre – as long as not over 2500' threshold, it is not enforceable by city (2500' is a cumulative amount over 3 year); Zak – this can be changed, but caution about staff load caused by changes in the threshold
          - Matt Comment – Lancaster, PA is a national leader in the implementation of Green Infrastructure. They've calculated their city-wide impervious area, but don't seem to have a city-wide goal as was discussed above. Also, I do not underestimate the cost/level-of effort to hire a firm like Jacobs to do a report/analysis like this (very different scale/effort compared to FCC), so sharing as an FYI. [https://cityoflancasterpa.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/GREENIT\\_LANCASTER\\_FINAL\\_withAppendices\\_022519\\_LowRes.pdf](https://cityoflancasterpa.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/GREENIT_LANCASTER_FINAL_withAppendices_022519_LowRes.pdf)

### **Topic -MILESTONES of the group**

- Is stormwater task force presenting in Mar on project selection and recommendation
  - Yes, plan to present at 22 Mar work session
    - requires consensus at the end of Feb from the group (finalize 11-25 Feb); need final vote by 4 Mar meeting
  - Rolf – next meeting review discuss watershed management plan projects?
  - Zak – plan to use same scoring criteria as before; goal is which of these programs will give us the bang for the buck
  - Use same categories, add a criteria for whether is meets funding (need a simplistic way to do this) – very heavily weighted criteria
    - look at possibly bundling smaller projects into a bigger one especially in terms of green projects

Tabled green infrastructure discussion to next time

**Admin** – Next meeting will start at 6 and is planned for 3 hours

**Other topics --**

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Matt – series of webinars on green infrastructure coming up, Northern VA Regional Commission  
webinar series: <https://www.novaregion.org/1469/Webinar-Series>  
Trammel Branch - final design pipe plans are in review with FCC and NOVA  
Watershed management plan was attached to agenda