



City of Harrisonburg Stormwater Advisory Committee

Meeting Summary

May 14, 2025, 5:00-7:00 p.m.

Bluestone Room, 320 East Mosby

Members in attendance: Dany Fleming, Ferwerdin Barzanji, Kurt Schick, Chelsea Thomas, Kent O'Donohue

Staff in attendance: Keith Thomas, Tom Hartman, Shayna Carter, Austin Shenk, Matthew Huston

Virtual attendance: Mark Sievers

Review and Adopt Minutes

Dany Fleming motioned to approve the August 2024 meeting minutes. Ferwerdin Barzanji seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

MS4 Program Updates

Keith Thomas introduced Mark Sievers with Tetra Tech to the committee. Tetra Tech was the consultant that recently completed the update to the Stormwater Improvement Plan (SWIP) for The City. Mark presented the results of the update to the committee. He explained why the plan update was needed and outlined how The City will meet the 2028 pollution reduction requirements.

Kent O'Donohue asked if any Best Management Practices (BMP) locations outside of the City boundaries were evaluated. Keith noted BMPs inside City limits were prioritized since Rockingham County and James Madison University both have their own MS4 permits, and the City did not want to take BMP opportunities away from those permit holders. Kent then asked if the plan evaluated upsizing any BMPs that already exist. Keith explained that two of the highest ranked potential BMPs were upsizing current City-owned BMPs. He indicated that Tetra Tech has begun 30 percent designs to upsize the BMP adjacent to Thomas Harrison Middle School.

Tom Hartman and Keith then presented a potential update to the Stormwater Utility Fee to the committee. The presentation highlighted an increase in the Stormwater Utility Fee from \$6.00 per 500 square feet to \$8.00 per 500 square feet. Tom mentioned that the fee has never increased since it was created in 2016. Staff presented that Harrisonburg had one of the lowest Utility Fees in the state and the increase would still leave Harrisonburg at one of the lowest fees. Keith mentioned that for R-1 zoned property owners, they would see a median increase of \$14 a year with the new fee. Staff indicated that the fee increase would go into effect on July 1 of this year.

Shayna Carter then discussed that staff have completed the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) inspections for the Spring and noted that there were 14 City owned facilities that currently have SWPPPs. She highlighted that these inspections were to confirm no pollution was occurring at these facilities. She then explained that she and Austin also completed High Priority Facility Inspections. Shayna provided that these inspections are to determine that no other City facility needs to be upgraded to need

a SWPPP. She mentioned that they inspected 10 facilities this year and plan to make one of those a SWPPP in the fall.

VESMP Updates

Matthew Huston reported to the committee that Community Development has hired new staff recently. He mentioned that Community Development hired a full-time inspector and planned to transition from Public Works doing inspections on private development to Community Development now doing those inspections. Matthew noted that they also hired a new engineer and hope to have them on board soon. He also explained that with the new hires coming in, Community Development had made some administrative updates such as updating Standard Operating Procedure documents.

Stormwater Programs Updates

HCAP Updates

Shayna updated the committee that the Shenandoah Valley Soil and Water District continue to have staffing shortages. She noted that they do not intend to slow the program promotion down at this time.

Drainage Improvement Updates

Hill Street to N. Mason Street- Keith updated the committee that the study began earlier this year. He noted that the consultant completed the survey work. Keith mentioned that the consultant group has begun work on the existing conditions model to understand how flooding occurs in the existing stormwater conveyance system throughout the neighborhood. He noted that the findings from the existing conditions model will be presented at a public meeting on June 2nd. The feedback from this meeting will be given to the consultant group to incorporate into their proposed solutions report. Keith noted that the consultant is expected to begin evaluating alternatives in the next fiscal year, pending budget approval.

Charles to Madison St- Keith updated the committee that staff were going to apply for Congressional District Spending again this year. He noted that Senator Mark Warner's office contacted the City this year encouraging staff to apply for the funding and hoped that increased our odds in receiving funding.

Stormwater Projects

Blacks Run South Stream Restoration Update

Austin updated the committee that the project was nearly 95% complete. He noted that the contractor came to replant trees that failed last year and was in the process of planting additional herbaceous plugs. He also noted that there are some ongoing quality concern issues with the tree plantings

Mountain View Drive Stream Restoration Update

Austin updated the committee that staff have selected an on-call maintenance contractor, RES. Staff will work with RES to have the issues at Mountain View corrected. He noted that letters will be sent once a timeline of work is established.

VMRC Project Update

Tom updated the committee that Matthew and his team created an internal cost estimate for the VMRC Wet Pond and found that the estimate greatly exceeded what staff had allocated for the project. With the

updated cost estimate, the project is no longer cost feasible for the City to pursue and will look for other projects. Tom noted that due to the agreement with VMRC, the City will need to still complete ditch improvements on the property.

Water Sampling Updates

Austin updated the committee on his recent water sampling findings. He noted that several of the sampling sites were over the Virginia water quality for recreational uses threshold for E. coli. He accounted waterfowl and animal waste as some of the larger contributors to this.

Other Topics

Shayna updated the committee that the City will celebrate Pollinator Month again this June. She noted that there are several events scheduled throughout the month. Shayna mentioned more information could be found on the City's website as well as the Public Works Facebook and Instagram accounts.

Next Meeting Dates

2025 Dates

- August 6th
- November 19th