



City of Harrisonburg, Virginia

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
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Building Inspections
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MEMO

To: Members of City Council
From: Dan Rublee; City Engineer
Date: February 24, 2015
Re: Revisions to Stormwater Management Ordinance

Attached for your approval are proposed revisions to certain sections of Title 10, Chapter 7, "Stormwater Management" of the City Code of Ordinances. The Stormwater Management (SWM) ordinance establishes requirements for land development projects in regard to stormwater discharge impacts. This ordinance was originally adopted in May 2014 as a necessary part of our Virginia Stormwater Management Program (Program). As you know, this Program is a mandated condition of the City's Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit issued and enforced by VADEQ (DEQ).

The City worked with DEQ in 2014 to develop our current SWM ordinance. However, DEQ was not in a position to review our final draft prior to our mandated deadline for adoption. In the time between DEQ's "final" review and our ordinance adoption the 2014 VA General Assembly enacted certain changes to the VA Stormwater Management Act and accompanying Regulations. City Staff incorporated those changes into our SWM Ordinance, as we deemed appropriate, prior to City Council's May 2014 adoption. However, our adopted version was not reviewed for final Program approval by DEQ until Fall 2014.

The revisions presented herein are those requested by DEQ in this final review. Many of the revisions are simply corrections to code references, either to other sections of the ordinance or to state code and regulation sections. Other revisions are minor in nature, and represent little or no change to the requirements placed upon development projects. You will note that the section on grandfathering [10-7-9(b)] appears to have been rewritten in its entirety. Closer examination reveals that there is little change in the specific provisions of this section, only the rearrangement of sentences and clauses to mimic the way the grandfathering section is written in the state regulations. These revisions to our ordinance were dictated by DEQ.

DEQ has reviewed this revised draft and has confirmed it meets their expectations. Adoption of these ordinance revisions is the last step in securing final DEQ approval of our overall Program.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.