



City of Harrisonburg Stormwater Advisory Committee

Meeting Summary

February 4, 2026, 5:00-7:00 p.m.

Bluestone Room, 320 East Mosby

Members in attendance: Ferwerdin Barzanji, Kurt Schick, Kent O'Donohue,

Staff in attendance: Shayna Carter, Austin Shenk, Matthew Huston

Review and Adopt Minutes

Kent O'Donohue motioned to approve the August 2025 meeting minutes. Ferwerdin Barzanji seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

MS4 Program Updates

Shayna Carter notified the committee that staff had started inspections of City-owned stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs). She noted that these were required annual inspections and there was some minor maintenance items needed. Shayna mentioned to the committee that Public Works was still in the process of taking over maintenance for the BMPs owned by Harrisonburg City Public Schools (HCPS). Shayna noted that as part of the agreement with HCPS, if a feasible BMP opportunity was discovered on school property, Public Works would be allowed to pursue that opportunity, expanding existing BMPs would be included in that agreement as well.

Austin updated the committee on the Saufley Farm Tree Planting project. He noted that staff had selected a contractor and they would begin to plant trees in the spring. Kent asked how the tree species were selected. Austin replied that the trees were all native species and no more than 10% of each species were to be planted to promote a diverse planting.

Shayna informed the committee that the City purchased nutrient credits to help complete the 2028 Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) requirement. Kent asked if there were any additional projects the City planned to complete by 2028 to fulfill the requirement. Shayna replied that the credit purchase and Saufley Tree Planting would be the only projects needed to reach the 2028 pollution reductions, but more projects were to be planned for the Local TMDL requirements.

VESMP Updates

Matthew Huston informed the committee that Community Development had a busy development season. He stated there are 18 projects for site plan review. He informed the committee that his staff were searching for guidance on BMPs in the flood plain. Matthew stated that him and his staff were prepared to create specifications on BMPs in the flood plain, he proposed having site plan applicants evaluate the 10-year inundation area. Matthew relayed that staff were also looking into how to proceed with site plan

applications that propose placing their dumpster pads adjacent to waterways. He stated there were no specific rules against it, however, it could be a potential source of pollution in the future.

Kent added that some localities were requiring site plans to include oil and water separators for dumpster pads. He then noted that he had some experience with BMPs around flood plains but not in them. Kent also noted that he knew of some references from other localities that experienced similar situations and would forward that information to staff.

Matthew mentioned Community Development continued to work on the Design & Construction Standards Manual (DCSM) updates. He noted that these updates were in collaboration with other City departments and included easement language updates. Matthew added that there were Virginia Erosion and Sediment Control updates that needed to be made. Matthew clarified that they pertained to the Virginia Runoff Reduction Method (VRRM). He continued that an updated version of the Virginia Stormwater Handbook had been added to the Department of Environmental Quality's (DEQ) website.

Matthew informed the committee that Community Development were set to start private BMP inspections. Kent explained that staff at his firm were in the process of obtaining Stormwater certifications through DEQ and had received calls from businesses to ask if they could provide the BMPs inspections required by Community Development. Matthew disclosed that DCSM required a Professional Engineer (PE) to sign off on the private BMP inspections however, there had been discussion on whether to allow certified personnel to do the inspections. He noted that for this year they would still need to be signed off by a PE.

Stormwater Programs Updates

HCAP Updates

Shayna informed the committee that there have been no approved practices for HCAP this year but planned to have some by next meeting.

Drainage Improvement Updates

Hill Street to N. Mason Street- Shayna updated the committee that Wetland Studies and Solutions, Inc. (WSSI) presented staff with a few proposed alternatives to alleviate flooding in the neighborhood. She explained that staff would review the alternatives and provide WSSI with some edits. Shayna noted that a public meeting to present the proposed alternatives would be held sometime in late spring or early summer.

Shayna described that another portion of the neighborhood had been added to the study. She explained that a grant obtained by another City Department had additional funds that need to be used by April. Public Works staff were able to acquire these funds to begin phase one of a drainage improvement study for the area adjacent to Hill Street. She identified that the study would evaluate Hill Street to Community Street for potential upgrades to convey stormwater in the neighborhood. She clarified that this portion had been added in response to input from community members that attended the first open house meeting for Hill Street to N. Mason Street.

Charles to Madison St- Shayna reminded the committee that staff applied for Congressional District Spending. She noted that staff had not received any updates.

Waterman Dr-Shayna reminded the committee that staff applied for the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Fund grant to complete a project on the south end of Waterman Drive. She mentioned that staff have not received any update from FEMA and there was no timeline on when to expect an update.

CSPDC Public Survey for Flood and Stormwater Resilience Plan – Shayna informed the committee that the Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission (CSPDC) started an initiative to create a regional Flood and Stormwater Resilience Plan. She noted that this would be the first City-wide Resilience Plan related to flooding. Once completed, the City would be eligible for additional state grant funding. Shayna noted that there was a survey created by the CSPDC to collect input from citizens throughout the Central Shenandoah Region on their flooding experiences.

Stormwater Projects

Blacks Run South Stream Restoration Update

Austin Shenk informed the committee that the project had been completed. He noted that staff still needed the Pollution Reduction Report and Maintenance Plan from the engineer.

Mountain View Drive Stream Restoration Update

Austin updated the committee that the contractor needed to complete a Corrective Action Plan for the project. He noted that they would also need to create an Erosion and Sediment plan and that it would be reviewed by Matthew, the City Engineer. Austin relayed that the work should start early spring.

Water Sampling Updates

Austin updated the committee on his recent water sampling findings. He highlighted that there were only two months of data to be presented due to the snow and the February sampling needed to be rescheduled. He noted the locations with the highest amounts of E. coli in December were Wolfe Street, the spring, and the bike bridge. Austin mentioned that colder temperatures had potential to create lower bacteria counts and that the January sample results reflected that.

Austin informed the committee that United States Geological Survey (USGS) had completed their final sample collection. He noted that staff would receive USGS's final report soon.

Other Topics

Shayna reminded the committee that the Pollinator in Your Yard event would be held on March 21st at the Ice House.

Next Meeting Dates

2026 Dates

- August 5th
- November 18th