



City of Harrisonburg Stormwater Advisory Committee
Meeting Summary
May 11, 2022 5:00-6:40 p.m.
Lucy Simmons Continuing Education Center, 620 Simms Avenue

Members in attendance: Rob Alexander, Dale Chestnut, Daniel Michael, Noel Levan (5:20)

Staff in attendance: Tom Hartman, Keith Thomas, Shayna Carter, Lexie West

Others in attendance: None

Review and Adopt Meeting Summary

Daniel Michael motioned to approve the February 2, 2022, meeting summary. Rob Alexander seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

There were no public comments received via email. There were also no call-ins.

Drainage Improvement Program Update

Woodland Drive- Tom updated the committee about VDOT getting confirmation from DEQ that we will be able to share the credits from the BMP. Once proposal is finished and approved, VDOT will start looking at designs. This will be a full design bid built. Tom noted that work should start this summer and that the city will be responsible for maintenance.

Charles to Madison St- Keith updated the committee that **staff** received proposals from two on-call consultants. Staff selected WSSI and their subcontractors RK&K to conduct our feasibility study. Staff had an initial kickoff meeting in early April and have given the consultants various data sets to help with their study. The consultants started field collection in early May. The study period will last until September/October timeframe and then we plan to conduct some public engagement activities. The study will evaluate potential options to alleviate the current flooding concerns in this neighborhood.

Rob Alexander asked about future projects upstream and how they may affect this area and their water issues. Tom mentioned that the VMRC project doesn't directly flow into the tributary we are evaluating in this neighborhood and that most of the water coming into the neighborhood is coming from the Mt. Clinton Pike/Acorn Drive area.

MS4 Program Updates

Keith introduced Shayna Carter, the new Stormwater Compliance Specialist. Shayna graduated from West Virginia University and brings experience with education and outreach events as well as managing cost share programs.

Keith also introduced Lexie West, the new Outreach and Communications Specialist. He noted that she brought a wealth of information from her role working with public communications in the Air Force.

Keith updated the committee that staff conducted our annual inspection of all cities owned BMPs and that we are working with the schools to get some of their BMPs cleaned up. Keith noted staff will start the Annual Report process in July which will be due in October. He also gave an update that the City of Harrisonburg recently got 10 flood sensors through a grant that Paul Helmuth **received**. These were installed by staff back in March. These flood sensors are pressure activated that have cameras to capture data at 10 different locations along streams throughout the city. These sensors will collect data to measure stream height and rate of rise. JMU is a partner in this program. This project has the goal to assess potential flooding in high-risk areas throughout Harrisonburg.

HCAP Updates

Shayna mentioned that there are no new applications but there is a site visit scheduled. She also mentioned that an application for a Bioretention and Permeable Pavement was canceled due to the owner moving out of state.

Rob asked how much money the HCAP program spends annually. Keith mentioned that the HCAP program does not spend the full \$80,000 allocated for projects. Rob asked about the city's marketing for HCAP. Keith noted that initially staff did not try to market the program while we worked through the new program rules. He also noted COVID and staff shortages also made it hard for staff to conduct outreach at events like the Farmers Market. Keith mentioned that going forward we would want to increase this.

VMRC Project Update

Keith noted that staff still need to meet to discuss our next steps now that we have a clearer outlook on funding. The next SLAF application round is expected to begin at the beginning of June.

Mountain View Drive Stream Restoration Update

Keith noted that the city has selected a contractor and they have mobilized in the area. They hope to have the project done by December. He mentioned that there have been issues with the utilities. Keith mentioned that the residents have been notified and that if any residents have questions that they can contact him. Dale asked how long the stream section was and Keith answered about 1600 linear feet.

Northend Greenway Stream Restoration Update

Keith mentioned that our contractor submitted the flood study to FEMA. Once that gets finalized, the city can finish recording the deeds for an easement on the land.

Blacks Run South Stream Restoration Update

Keith mentioned that we have 100% designs now and that the city council approved the agreement. He also mentioned that the project was approved for SLAF funding. The project is set to start sometime this summer.

Tom mentioned that we are expecting 1000lbs of p to be removed with this project. After completion of this project, we expect to have about 60 percent of our N and about 50 percent of our sediment required reductions. The city will need about another 2000 pounds of nitrogen.

Rob asked to get an update on the current state of our TMDL requirements for the next meeting as well as an outlook of what is needed and what is already planned for the upcoming permit cycle. He also requested that we add the requirements for the new waste load allocations associated with the Blacks Run and Cooks Creek TMDL.

Noel Levan requested that there be graphs provided in the TMDL updates to make the dataset more palatable. Noel also asks the extent of the Blacks Run South Stream Restoration. Tom answered that it starts behind the public works building, and that it will end at the railroad by I-81.

Other Topics

Keith gave an updated about the pollinator plantings starting this week. He mentioned that there is a pollinator walk and a pop-up event during Pollinator Week. The Urban Forestry team are expecting to plant 6,000 plants in the coming weeks. Noel asks if there is an opportunity to table at the pop-up event. Keith noted that staff frequently helped Mike and Jeremy at their events and promoted stormwater topics. Tom mentions that SWAC members are encouraged to participate in educational events.

Rob mentioned the WHSV press release.

Rob asked if there are any field trips to the greenhouse and Tom answered that Mike and Jeremy work closely with city schools and helping them with their greenhouses.

SWAC Member Update

Next Meeting Dates

2022 Dates

- August 3, 2022
- November 2, 2022