CITY OF RALEIGH
STORMWATER MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMISSION (SMAC)
Minutes

Raleigh Municipal Building · 222 W. Hargett Street · Conference Room 305
3:00pm · Thursday, February 4, 2016

Commission Members Present: Ken Carper, Matthew Starr, Marc Horstman, Francine Durso, Chris Bostic, David Webb, Michael Birch, Vanessa Fleishmann and JoAnn Burkholder

Stormwater Staff Present: Blair Hinkle, Suzette Mitchell, Kelly Daniel, Scott Bryant, Veronica High, Ben Brown, Carrie Mitchell, Lauren Witherspoon, Dale Hyatt, Giles Bellot, Kevin Boyer, Wenju Zhang, Lisa Booze, McKenzie Gentry and Chris Stanley

Members Absent: Kevin Yates

Guest: Tony Grubbs and Mark Senior

Meeting called to order: 3:07 pm by Marc Horstman *(chair)*

Motions (Absentees and Minutes)

- Absence: Mr. Birch made a motion to excuse Kevin Yates from today's meeting and Mr. Webb seconded. The motion was approved unanimously
- January's Meeting Minutes: Mr. Birch made a motion to approve and Ms. Durso seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

The following items were discussed with action taken as shown.

Item 1 – Commission/Stormwater Staff Update on Matters of Importance to the Stormwater Management Advisory Commission

1.1 Stormwater Staff Report – *New SMAC member's orientation binders. The goal is to provide baseline information for new members to prepare them to participate in their first commission meeting.*

1.2 FEMA/COR Acquisitions – *2004 /Raleigh passes Stormwater Utility Fee. In 2006/Grant Mitigation matching is budgeted in overall CIP and grant program is moved to Floodplain Administrator's staff. In 2010 City Planning initiated the Capital Blvd Corridor Study. During that time, staff worked on Milner Inn, Capital Inn and other applications. The adjacent bowling alley closed in 2011. The City purchased in 2012.*

- Milner Inn *(Ben Brown) – Demolished. The combination of corridor study, demo of adjacent property and other issues created an environment in which the Milner Inn owners were ready to sell.*
- Capital Inn *(McKenzie Gentry) – Total assessed value of $1.5 million. The city intends to close on the property in March 2016 and all three structures will be demolished. The impervious surface will be removed and re-vegetated with funding 75% Federal/25% State*
- Dunkin Donuts *(Lisa Booze) – City acquired property in October 2015 for $317,000. A portion of the structure overhangs Pigeon House Creek.*
- Possible acquisition – *Site adjacent to city site now up for sale, and the city is working across Departments to help fund acquisition*

1.3 State MS4 Sustainability Initiative – *Committee members consist of NCDEQ, AMECFW, Municipalities from Raleigh (Scott Bryant), Burlington, Greensboro, Winston Salem, Town of Holly Springs and NC League of Municipalities, and they meet to discuss the elements of a sustainable MS4 program. The committee is looking at the results and outcomes from Stormwater programs and working to put in place a framework that will be consistent across the state.*

Item 2 – City of Raleigh Lake Preservation Program (LPP)

2.1 **Blair Hinkle** commented that we made commitments to Council to review our program areas to see how we can increase our efficiency; do our jobs better; and provide better service to our citizens. We have already started with the Drainage Assistance Program where we are preparing to take some policy revisions to Council over the next few months. The Lake Preservation Program is the next program to review.

2.3 **Scott Bryant** added this is an opportunity to look at this program to see how can we make it better, can we refine and clarify it, or do we need to keep as is.

2.4 Summary of Presentation (*Scott Bryant and Veronica High)*

- Commitment to Council
  - *Key Policy Themes – Should the city's stormwater program become more proactive? If so, in what ways? To what extent should stormwater systems be treated as public systems; how much public benefit is sufficient to merit City participation in a stormwater improvement project and to what extent should the City invest in stormwater.*
  - *Action Plan + FY17 Business Plan Highlights – Work with SMAC to develop specific program enhancement recommendations for Council consideration within 12 – 18 months, Develop Integrated Project Prioritization Model ahead of FY 17 budget as first phase and provide budgetary and resource information.*
- Historical Development of the City's LPP –
  - *Pre-1900 through 1980s – No natural lakes in Raleigh, continued development and growth of Raleigh into the 1900s included a number of ponds/lakes/dams.*
  - *1974 – City Erosion & Sediment Control Program*
  - *1978 – City Floodplain Program*
  - *1985 – City's Stormwater Division started.*
  - *1993 – Perry Creek Watershed Study*
  - *1994 – Original Lake Preservation Program adopted by City of Raleigh.*
  - *2004 – City's first LPP project completed (Beamon Lake)*
  - *Feb. 4, 2016 – Kickoff Review of the LPP*
- Highlights of Lake Preservation Program (LPP) – *LPP represents "an approach to assure preservation of existing lakes based on mutual benefits and agreements between the lake owners and the City", Up to 102 facilities are on the City's current LPP listing, ranking and listing and focuses on lake preservation for existing (or proposed) facilities with a few cases of wetlands listing includes public facilities, however majority are privately owned and LPP incorporated within the Stormwater CIP.*
- Lake Preservation Program in relation to overall CIP – *23%*
- Lake Preservation Projects Case Study *(Veronica High)*
  - <u>Completed Lake Projects</u>
    - Beamon Lake & Dam *(project completion 2004-2005)*
    - Carolina Pines Avenue Dam *(project completion 2011)*
    - Northshore Lake and Dam *(project completion 2016)*
    - Upper Longview Lake /Stream
  - <u>Projects Under Design</u>
    - Brockton Lake and Dam *(Phase 1, 2017), (Phase 2, 2018)*
    - White Oak Lake Dam *(anticipated completion 2018-2019)*
      - *Ms. Durso noted just for disclosure that she lives across the street from that lake it will not influence her discussion or decisions on anything.*
    - Laurel Hills Road Dam *(anticipated completion 2017)*
    - Lower Longview Lake Dam *(anticipated completion 2017)*
    - Brentwood Today Wetland
  - <u>Collaborative Lake Projects</u>

    - Greystone Lake Dam
    - Fletcher Park Wetland
    - Lower Durant Lake Dam
- Challenges and Opportunities for the LPP - *Cost and cost-benefit, affordability of program implementation, program maintenance and sustainability, updated watershed master planning, review of any/all options for retrofits/ improvements and citywide stormwater project prioritizations and not a common practice across NC municipalities.*
- Tentative Schedule – *March 3rd (Bring back SMAC feedback)*

2.5 SMAC Comments

- *Converting existing lakes dams to treatment wetlands*
- *Permitting challenges for existing and proposed*
- *Look at options, what benefits are derived from options*
- *Look at cost benefit*
- *Basis for currently programed projects*
- *Watershed, Master Planning view*
- *Prioritize by basins*
- *Community expectations*
- *Potential for public outreach, awareness needed*
- *Ongoing maintenance and city responsibility*
- *City process to evaluate potential option for lakes*
- *Evaluate changing policy /program name (Lake evaluation)*
- *Water quality/sediment benefits impoundments*
- *Water quality flood attenuation benefit*
- *Look at alternative mitigation opportunities from program*
- *Look at from community and city perspectives*
- *Opportunity to review information*
- *Breakpoint following failure*
- *GI/LID benefits*
- *Value in Greenspace evaluation parks lakes*
- *Willingness to pay varies with public perception of project*
- *Public Education of the program*
- *Demonstrate public benefit from public rates payers*
- *Public Safety critical a different level*
- *Look at options for current list of 102 lakes (city owned, private etc.)*

2.6 Public Comment

- **Mark Senior** commented that anyone would support a lake preservation program or a stormwater program where it's easier to demonstrate the public benefit, especially if it's a cost benefit. A lot of times the lakes provide a lot of flood control and water quality for a large area. When it comes to spending money on something where there's no demonstrated public benefit, or an isolated lake the city does not have, or have public access too, then as a stormwater utility fee payer he feels he's not getting anything for the money that he's paying into.

Item 3 – Other Business

- Mr. Horstman informed the Commission that next month is officer elections for the Commission.

Mr. Horstman made a motion to adjourn and Mr. Starr seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 5:18 p.m.
Suzette Mitchell