

To	Raleigh City Council
Thru	Jemonde Taylor, Chair Wayne Miles, Stormwater Program Manager
From	Stormwater Management Advisory Commission
Department	Engineering Services – Stormwater
Date	October 3, 2023
Subject	Proposed Fiscal Year 2024 Stormwater Management Advisory Commission Work Plan

Introduction

The Stormwater Management Advisory Commission (SMAC) is pleased to present its Annual Work Plan for Fiscal Year 2024 to the Raleigh City Council for review and approval. The Commission welcomes Council’s input related to priorities or particular areas of focus within this work plan.

Below are the Commission’s proposed highest priority work areas for FY24. The complete work plan is also provided for reference.

Priority Areas of SMAC Focus for FY24

1. Operational Equity for Stormwater Services

- SMAC review and feedback on Stormwater’s operational equity work including Stormwater’s ARPA-funded projects and the Raleigh Rainwater Rewards pilot 100% funding program.
- Review program policies and further consider how equity and investments in vulnerable communities may be incorporated into stormwater programs, policies, and services. This work will also be especially helpful in support of the City’s goals for enhanced resiliency and climate action planning and implementation.

- Update CIP priority ranking model to include equity-related factors such as vulnerability of communities and whether communities have been underserved by Stormwater programs in the past.
- SMAC proposes to review and expand efforts in community engagement including proactive involvement from the Commission in planning for equitable engagement and helping ensure that community residents are represented in the conversations.
- In recent years the Commission and Council have significantly enhanced the Drainage Assistance Program for improved equity with priority projects not requiring financial participation from property owners in order to qualify for the program.
- The Rainwater Rewards Program may be further reviewed for similar equity-related enhancements, both for residential and commercial customers.

2. Review of Updated NPDES MS4 Stormwater Permit and Program

- SMAC review and feedback on the City's Stormwater Management Plan associated with the regulatory NPDES MS4 stormwater program and permit. Raleigh Stormwater is renewing the NPDES permit in fall 2023. SMAC will particularly help review the City's revised Stormwater Management Plan which will effectively implement requirements of the permit.

3. Review of Stormwater's Operational and CIP Budget and Levels of Service

- SMAC review and feedback on Stormwater's FY25 Operational and CIP budget including level of service, stormwater utility fee rates, and plans for incorporating an initial level of debt financing to support and accelerate delivery of priority Stormwater projects for the community.
- Annual Stormwater Operating and Capital Improvement Program (CIP) budget review will include staff-proposed Operating and CIP budgets, associated funding and rate impacts, priorities for funding, and corresponding program levels of service. SMAC will provide comments and recommendations to City Council.
- SMAC will provide feedback for innovative financing options to be considered for advancing Stormwater's priority CIP portfolio, such as revenue bonds, state revolving funds, and/or other grants and loan programs as applicable. This will be particularly important to support implementation of identified priority projects that are significant in scope and budget allocation.
- SMAC may assign a sub-committee of members for an even more focused evaluation and input for the proposed debt financing program.

4. Review of Delivery Capacity and Level of Service for Community Drainage Assistance and Stream Stabilization Programs

- Coupled with above priority item 3, SMAC proposes a detailed review and feedback on the project delivery capacity and level of service for the highly visible and important Drainage Assistance and Stream Stabilization programs. Fully funded by the City, the Drainage Assistance and Stream Stabilization programs provide direct benefits for community residents that are dealing with prioritized concerns such as flooding, severe erosion, and failing infrastructure associated with public stormwater runoff.

5. Review of the City's Updated Stormwater Management Design Manual

- SMAC review and feedback on the City's updated Stormwater Management Design Manual as well as proposed updates to the Sediment and Erosion Control regulations to further match the State of North Carolina's model ordinance.

6. Review and Feedback for the City's Floodplain Management Program

- SMAC review and feedback for the City's ongoing efforts to become a Cooperating Technical Partner with FEMA and the State of North Carolina for Raleigh's local floodplain mapping. This would enable the City to have more control over when local floodplain maps are updated and also to have further oversight for project specific map changes (as opposed to FEMA or the State of NC) as well as potentially improving our community rating for floodplain management. An improved community rating for floodplain management would also correspond to lower flood insurance premiums for Raleigh residents.

7. Development of Enhanced Stormwater Utility Fee Crediting Policy and Program

- SMAC review and feedback for an enhanced and more equitable Stormwater Utility Fee Crediting Policy.
- The Commission will specifically consider the revision of the fee credit program to add equitable credits for single-family residential property owners for on-site measures that help reduce stormwater quantity and quality impacts as well as continue consideration of revisions for commercial customers who go above and beyond regulatory requirements in managing their stormwater runoff.
- SMAC may assign a sub-committee of members for an even more focused evaluation and input for an improved fee crediting program.
- Moreover, SMAC envisions incorporating an innovative educational credit for K-12 public and private schools to advance stormwater and environmental understanding and awareness. This may also facilitate

even greater coordination on stormwater management opportunities at schools in Raleigh.

8. Regular Reviews of Drainage Assistance, Stream Stabilization, Raleigh Rainwater Rewards Projects, and Variance Requests

- The Drainage Assistance Program is expanded this year to include the new Stream Stabilization Program. With regards to **Drainage Assistance and Stream Stabilization projects**, review projects proposed for City funding and provide recommendations to City Council. Also, periodically review and recommend policy revisions as appropriate.
- With regards to **Raleigh Rainwater Rewards projects**, for projects whose property owners request \$30,000 or less in City Stormwater funding, the Commission will continue to review and may approve these projects. For projects whose property owners request more than \$30,000 in City Stormwater funding, the Commission will continue to make recommendations to City Council regarding project funding approval. Review and recommend revisions to the Stormwater Quality Cost Share Policy as staff seek to consolidate current program guidance and identify and evaluate potential enhancements to the program, including potential revisions to program metrics, to improve operations and enhance stormwater management benefits.
- With regards to **requests for variances to stormwater control ordinances**, SMAC will review variance requests as may be referred to the Commission by City Council and provide recommendations to City Council.

9. Future Visioning for Stormwater Management and Commission Priorities

- SMAC proposes to perform a detailed visioning and goal setting exercise as its work for FY24 comes together, and this will also help inform and prioritize efforts for FY25 and beyond.
- Program visioning work will include review of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for the Stormwater Management Program.
- As time allows, SMAC proposes to periodically review completed Stormwater projects as case studies to identify themes of success along with areas of challenge or continual improvement.

The Raleigh City Council approved this work plan on _____, 2023

ANNUAL WORK PLAN

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMISSION

FY 2024

ANNUAL WORK PLAN

INTRODUCTION

The **Stormwater Management Advisory Commission (SMAC)** is pleased to present its Annual Work Plan for Fiscal Year 2024 to the Raleigh City Council for review and approval. SMAC welcomes the Council's input related to priorities and/or particular areas of focus within this Work Plan. SMAC's work closely aligns with multiple priorities within the City's Strategic Plan, most notably Growth and Natural Resources.

SMAC MEMBERS



Commission members pictured left to right:

Nicola Hill, David Markwood, Anne Spafford, Josh Dalton, Reverend Jemonde Taylor — Chairperson, Tirrill Moore, Graham Smith — Vice Chair, Lou Ann Phillips, Samantha Krop, Barrett Jenkins (not pictured)

MISSION STATEMENT

Manage stormwater to preserve and protect life, support healthy natural resources, and complement sustainable growth for the community.

VISION STATEMENT

Foster the “Smartest” Stormwater Program possible to economically and equitably achieve our Mission.

EVENTS

SMAC holds regular monthly meetings on the first Thursday of each month from 3 PM to 5 PM. Meetings are held in-person and are open to the public. The public may also view the SMAC meetings on-line, though public comments are limited to in-person and via email.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, EDUCATION, AND OUTREACH

SMAC is continually focused on diverse and equitable engagement for all of the Raleigh community. Stormwater management is important community-wide and must be managed holistically and systematically in order to function safely for the public and for environmental and natural resource protection.

SMAC has encouraged equitable community engagement for watershed studies and outreach (representative photo below), stormwater improvement project identification and prioritization, stormwater and floodplain management policy improvements, the Raleigh Rainwater Rewards program, and daily stormwater services operational delivery.



PRIORITY WORK ITEMS FOR FY 2024

With the FY24 work plan, SMAC proposes to begin identifying the highest priority work items for the year in light of an overall robust workload and a number of items and themes which are multi-year or longer term in scope and schedule.

SMAC’s highest priority work plan items for FY24 are as follows.

1. Operational Equity for Stormwater Services

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COMPREHENSIVE WORK PLAN THEMES FOR SMAC

In addition to the highest priority work items for FY2024, SMAC will continue to review and provide feedback for staff for these comprehensive stormwater management work areas as time and priorities allow.

It should also be noted that the major themes within SMAC's comprehensive work plan are integrated within the high priority work plan items as fitting and applicable.

Sustainable Development and Surface Water Quality

Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI): Work with staff to implement a GSI program as described in the GSI Plan as endorsed by City Council. Continue to evaluate and recommend implementation of GSI practices, with emphasis on City policy for leading by example by routinely and systematically incorporating GSI and other higher- functioning stormwater management practices into the City's development projects, including roadway improvements, park improvements, fire stations, operations and maintenance facilities, and office buildings.

Additional evaluations and recommendations may include ordinance revisions, design guidance, training, and educating the public on the benefits of GSI practices. Evaluate how Raleigh might incorporate volume-based controls into City ordinances and practices for improving water quality, reducing stream erosion, and improving the health of receiving streams and lakes.

Additional incentives for reducing stormwater impacts: Evaluate possibly introducing new incentives such as new City funding participation and further enhancing existing incentives, including Green Raleigh Review and the Raleigh Rainwater Rewards Program. On a related theme, SMAC will focus a high priority upon development of an enhanced stormwater utility fee crediting policy and program as noted earlier. Moreover, further improvements for the Raleigh Rainwater Rewards Program will be evaluated during FY24.

Streambank stabilization and restoration programs: Continue to work with staff to implement the streambank stabilization policy and program aimed at reducing stream erosion, sediment transport, and protecting City infrastructure adjacent to streams. Coordinate this program with other restoration initiatives for streams and lakes. Recommend program priorities, funding levels, and implementation strategies for collaborating with other City departments and initiatives as appropriate.

Stream, wetland, riparian buffer and nutrient banking and offset program: Provide guidance to staff during development of this program through review of study recommendations and input as to program goals and priorities. Provide input as to how any potential revenues from this program may be prioritized for other stormwater program needs.

Watershed Planning and Asset Management

Support watershed planning: Review watershed planning program approach as a means of understanding the condition and performance of the City's stormwater system and identifying project priorities and community needs to improve system performance and mitigate system risks.

Prioritize watershed planning: Review watershed planning priorities so they are implemented in an equitable manner to help drive other aspects of the stormwater program including maintenance practices and capital improvements to improve the system level of service related to flooding, water quality, risk of asset failure, regulatory compliance, and other stormwater priorities identified by the community.

Capital Improvements and Drainage System Policies

Policies for inspecting, maintaining, and constructing stormwater assets: Review and recommend revisions as appropriate. Support staff in the development of updated levels of service for managing and maintaining municipal stormwater system assets. Provide input as needed to asset risk model development to set priorities for asset management infrastructure investments. Review policies for inspection of assets on private property where there is a public interest. This work will advance the stormwater asset management program.

City stormwater drainage policy for drainage improvements on private properties: Review and recommend revisions as appropriate. This review may include revisions to priority setting and project ranking as appropriate.

Policy for public drainage easements for stormwater systems on private properties that will be maintained by the City: Review and recommend revisions as appropriate. The Commission will support staff in reviewing policies for easement dedication based on benefits for both the public and property owner where improvement projects are performed.

Lake Management Evaluation Program reviews: Review candidate lakes deemed as needing capital improvements for consideration under the revised Lake Management Evaluation program to remain as lakes or to be converted to another best use based on policy guidance and project benefits.

Voluntary flood hazard mitigation buy-out program: Provide input to staff on a priority model and policy for implementation of a voluntary flood hazard mitigation buy-out program using City and/or FEMA funding for purchase of flood prone properties. Policy considerations include equitable treatment of residents involved in the program, including those who may be tenants of rental properties in buy-out situations.

Flood Early Warning System (FEWS)

Continue to support staff in the review, development, and implementation of a Flood Early Warning System (FEWS). This pilot project is helping identify the needs, resources, costs, and benefits associated with a potential citywide flood early warning system.

This work will build upon the tools and resources already in use, such as rainfall and stream level monitoring, flood cameras, and flood warning signage. During FY24 the next phase of the citywide flood early warning system will be developed including countywide coverage for the gauge adjusted radar rainfall tool.

Regulatory Programs – Unified Development Ordinance (UDO)

Planning and development ordinances: Identify and evaluate state and federal laws and local ordinances that impact stormwater management, water quality, and budgeting and expenditure of stormwater utility fee revenue. Review and recommend revisions as appropriate as well as respond to City Council requests.

Erosion and sediment control ordinance and other requirements related to land disturbance: Review existing ordinance and recommend revisions as appropriate. This would also include any state mandated revisions needed to this ordinance.

Infill development and redevelopment policies and ordinances: Identify ordinances and policies that relate to infill development. Review and recommend revisions as appropriate, including incorporating changes into the stormwater design manual rewrite as referenced above.

Review Stormwater Control Measure (SCM) Maintenance program: Review current process for annual maintenance tracking and internal inspections due to the increasing volume of devices. This would also include a review of the enforcement ordinances.

Stormwater Education and Outreach Programs

Education programs: Periodically review and recommend revisions as appropriate.

Community outreach and involvement programs: Periodically review and recommend revisions and improvements as appropriate and needed to broaden community engagement in various aspects of stormwater programs. Community outreach programs include consideration of equity and improving communications with vulnerable and underrepresented communities and populations within the city.



Storm Drain Artistry in Nash Square, Downtown Raleigh

