



Raleigh

MEMO

TO: Raleigh City Council

FROM: Stormwater Management Advisory Commission

CC: Jemonde Taylor, Chair
Wayne Miles, Stormwater Program Manger

DEPARTMENT: Engineering Services

DATE: October 6, 2022

SUBJECT: Proposed Fiscal Year 2023 Stormwater Management
Advisory Commission Work Plan

Introduction

The Stormwater Management Advisory Commission is pleased to present its annual work plan for Fiscal Year 2023 to the Raleigh City Council for your review and approval. The Commission welcomes the City Council's input related to priorities or particular areas of focus within this work plan.

Issue

- I. Sustainable Development and Water Quality of Streams and Lakes
 - A. 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 recommending a 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 the City might incorporate volume-based controls into City ordinances and practices for improving water quality, reducing stream erosion, and improving the health of streams and lakes.
 - B. Additional incentives for reducing stormwater impacts: Evaluate possibly introducing new incentives, such as stormwater utility fee credits, City funding participation, and enhancing existing incentives, including Green Raleigh Review and the Raleigh Rainwater Rewards Program.
 - C. Streambank stabilization and restoration programs: Work with staff to develop and implement a 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.

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- D. Stormwater utility credit and adjustment manual: Continue to periodically review the fee crediting policy and manual for potential revisions as initiated by staff, the Commission, and as requested by the City Council or other advisory bodies. The Commission may consider the revision of the fee credit program to add 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 as part of the new stormwater design manual.
- E. 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.

II. Watershed Planning and Asset Management

- A. 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.
- B. Prioritize watershed planning: Review watershed planning priorities so they are implemented in an equitable manner to 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.

III. Capital Improvements and Drainage System Policies

- A. Policies for maintaining, inspecting, and constructing private and public drainage facilities: 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. This work will advance the stormwater asset management program.
- B. 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.
- C. 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.
- D. 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.
- E. Equity considerations in stormwater policies: Review program policies and further consider how equity and investments in vulnerable communities may be incorporated

into stormwater programs and policies. 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. 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 reviewed for similar equity-related enhancements.

- F. 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.

IV. Regulatory Programs – Unified Development Ordinance (UDO)

- A. 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. This evaluation may include the ongoing update of the City’s Stormwater Design Manual.
- B. Cooperating technical partner program: Provide guidance to staff during application and development of a Cooperating Technical Partner program implementation with FEMA as a means of the City taking ownership of floodplain modeling and mapping updates.
- C. Soil erosion control ordinance and other requirements related to soil erosion: Review and recommend revisions as appropriate.
- D. 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.

V. Stormwater Education and Outreach Programs

- A. Education programs: Periodically review and recommend revisions as appropriate.
- B. 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 may include consideration of equity and improving communications with vulnerable and underrepresented communities and populations within the city. Suggest program changes to incorporate virtual outreach as possible during and after the COVID-19 pandemic.
- C. Flood Early Warning Systems: Support staff in the review, development, and implementation of a flood early warning system. 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 FY22 the next phase of the flood early warning system will be developed citywide.

- VI. Work Requiring Review for Recommendations to Council
- A. Requests for Drainage Assistance projects: Review projects proposed by property owners for City funding and provide recommendations to City Council. Periodically review and recommend policy revisions as appropriate.
 - B. Requests for 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. Periodically review and recommend revisions to the Stormwater Quality Cost Share Policy as appropriate.
 - C. Requests for variances to stormwater control ordinances: Review variance requests as referred to the Commission by City Council and provide recommendations to City Council.
 - D. Annual Stormwater Operating and Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Budgets: Review drafts of staff's proposed Operating and CIP budgets, associated funding and rate impacts, priorities for funding, program levels of service, and provide comments and recommendations to City Council. Provide input as to any preferences for financing options to be considered for stormwater programs, including CIP programs, such as bonds, state revolving funds, or other grants and loan programs as applicable.

The Raleigh City Council approved this work plan on November 1, 2022.