

MINUTES OF STORMWATER TASK FORCE MEETING

PURPOSE OF MEETING: The discussion of draft memo on Stormwater Task Force recommendations, and presentation of rate studies by Falls Church staff.

DATE OF MEETING: **03-25-2021**

PLACE OF MEETING: **Meeting held via Microsoft Teams**

NOTICE: This virtual meeting of the Stormwater Task Force was held pursuant to and in compliance with the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, Section 2.2-3708.2 and state and local legislation adopted to allow for continued government operation during the COVID-19 declared emergency. All participating members of the Stormwater Task Force were present at this meeting through electronic means. All members of the public may view this video of this meeting on the City’s website at www.fallschurchva.gov.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY: Rolf Anderson AT 6:00 pm (time)

THOSE PRESENT:

[BOARD OR COMMISSION NAME]: [Member Name]: <u>Rolf Anderson</u> [Member Name]: <u>Hans Miller</u> [Member Name]: <u>Matthew Ries</u> [Member Name]: <u>Ellen Heather</u> [Member Name]: <u>Dave Gustafson</u> [Member Name]: <u>Jeff Jardine</u> [Member Name]: <u>Lauren Pinkus</u>	<u>Staff Present:</u> [Name]: <u>Andre Prince</u> [Name]: <u>Zak Bradley</u> [Name]: <u>Wyatt Shields</u> [Name]: _____ [Name]: _____ Only list relevant/required staff here.
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OTHERS PRESENT: _____

TOPICS OF DISCUSSION: _____

1. Review draft memo on Stormwater Task Force recommendations;
2. Presentation of rate studies by Falls Church staff

MEETING ADJOURNED AT: 9:00 pm

SIGNATURE OF RECORDER: _____

Detailed Meeting Minutes Notes:

Meeting Minutes -25 Mar 2021

Attendees: Task Force (Rolf Anderson, Hans Miller, Lauren Pinkus, Dave Gustafson, Jeff Jardine, Matt Ries, Ellen Heather); City Gov't (Zak Bradley, Andre Prince, Wyatt Shields)

Meeting purpose: review draft memo on Stormwater Task Force recommendations, presentation of rate studies by Falls Church staff

Task force Memo review:

- Rolf did overall review to hit the highlights of the memo and rationale of the task force for many of the items in the memo
 - Policy recommendation – look at city building practices and codes and see if that is contributing to challenges with impervious surfaces
 - There was a discussion of Lincoln Ave project and which watershed and conclusion was that it fed both the Four Mile Run and Tripps Run watershed (more to Four Mile Run)
 - Hans made the comment that as the city considers green infrastructure it is important to keep in mind potential safety hazards. As an example the Lincoln Ave proposal that was shown to the Task Force
- Ellen recommended we look at the heat map from the July flood showing where most of the damage occurred. She recommended we look at tax assessment to look at areas that are relatively more affordable; the more affordable homes in the city get flooded. Dave echoed this that the city strive to support a baseline standard of living to support. Lauren, we should look at a city goal supporting a single family or other structure where they don't suffer impact from a given threshold (e.g. 10 year storm). Hans mentioned that long term the solution may include buy back and establishment of easements for locations that continually flood based on location and there is not a reasonable improvement that can be done to mitigate flooding.
 - Rolf made the decision to edit language to reflect input to look at a goal of a reasonable standard for flood protection but not language to call out specific economic groups
- Lauren wondered if there would be public pushback to recommendation on update project on city Hall
 - Rolf - It's new work that will have an impact to downstream residences and it will be a good demonstration project
 - Matt – He stated he said he saw issues for this and visually saw a need for this, but could change his mind if there was input from city staff that most of the impactful work has been done
 - Group saw value in the discussion but decision was made to leave report as it based on previous points and scoring – Lauren agreed
- Recommendation Review
 - Dave discussed whether some of the categories the committee highlighted should be rolled up since they align with the recommended projects
 - Lauren mentioned that we should leave the goals in place because they hit the points of the things that the task force considered with the projects were selected

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- Andre mentioned the importance of water quality and pollution and task force agree to add “water quality” to the language
- There was significant discussion on the recommendation on a future task force or citizen led group – consensus that was reached was that the task force was not ready to make a specific recommendation about a public utilities commission and that there was just a general recommendation that there should be a periodic review of city’s storm
- Once revisions to the report were completed, the Task Force unanimously approved the report for submission to the City Council. Andre discussed next steps to finalize the staff report and have the memo reviewed by City staff.
- The Chair and Vice Chair will attend the City Council meeting on April 5, and make a presentation on the Task Force recommendations.

Stormwater Fee Review

- Dave asked about how we might get to a point where there is the ability to actually fund future projects
- Zak -before stormwater fee was created any maintenance dollars for stormwater came out of the general fund. Previously the program was not as extensive as it is now.
 - Rate study created to do two things: fund storm sewer crew at property yard, and some projects and engineering support; understood at its inception that it was limited
 - Issue is that stormwater fund has not increased for inflation and effective purchasing power of stormwater fund decreased to the point that the stormwater fund is largely just sustaining the system
 - We should be in a better position if we adjust for inflation and build a plan that understands out years
 - There may be a time in the future where there is a regular crew on hand to do this work vs contracting the work
 - We need to periodically revisit rate study as assumptions and drivers can change over a few years (Zak used timeframe of 5 year rate study)
- Rolf – can general fund be used to support stormwater efforts?
 - Zak – yes, that has happened already (\$400K transferred from Stormwater to cover cost)
- Lauren – if there is a projected 2% raise, have we looked at 3% or 4%? Given the known cost growth and need, are we looked at the right rate needed
 - Zak – 2% came from the calculation of a shortfall in just the maintenance needs that was calculated based on this year; next year the maintenance cost could fluctuate more
 - Dave – there is a growing deficit with each year based on fixed rate and rising costs; concerned with the scenario of a catastrophic repair need
 - Zak – there is some money that goes to a “rainy day” fund, not a lot but something for things like a retaining wall failure

Based on time the task force decided to bump the briefing from Zak on the rate study to the next meeting

- Rolf – action to Zak and Andre to provide task force the original resolution creating the stormwater fee and what it was intended to be used for