



TOWNSHIP OF FERGUSON

Ferguson Township – Stormwater Advisory Committee (SAC) Meeting #5 February 21, 2018 (@ 12pm)

Attendees

Ferguson Township: Dave Modricker, Ron Seybert, Lance King, Kevin Bloom

Amec Foster Wheeler / Gannett Fleming Team: Elizabeth Treadway, P. Eric Mains, Virginia Thornton

Stormwater Advisory Committee: As listed on attached Sign-In Sheet

The following minutes/notes are intended to be an overview of the presentation and discussion that occurred at the above referenced meeting. There are provided to document the general content of those discussions such that they can be used as a tool with future meetings and stormwater program discussions. They are not intended to be a transcript of the meeting. However, any noted differences, exclusions, or variations from personal notes of the meeting should be brought to the attention of the Township so that they can be considered for the final record.

The following minutes were captured;

Introductions – Dave

-) Next two meetings: March 21 & April 18, 2018
-) This presentation, for the most part, was presented to the Board of Supervisors (BOS) earlier in February, with the addition of the first cost evaluation (not fee/cost recommendations but a variety of approaches). This will be developed into a formal write up for review and discussion at the March 21 meeting.
-) There will be a couple of community opportunities for public feedback.
-) Overall study findings will be presented to the BOS in May.
-) The discussion will begin moving to a platform for the details and individual viewpoints be handled.
-) The concern right now, the purpose of this study, is to determine if a fee would be feasible for the community, operationally, etc. The SAC has been available to provide insight on different program points. A majority of the details will be ironed out if the BOS determines to move forward with a fee – this is the ‘second part’ of this process. It is possible that this will determine that a user fee will not be recommended. The second phase of the work would be to work through the policies and details. This first part is to look at the issues and the feasibility of the different things that could bridge the ‘gaps’.
-) The Township requested this stormwater fee feasibility study. The community needed to provide the Township with feedback on how the current program is lacking and what it should look like. The Township would like to hear all of the community concerns before deciding whether or not this process needs to be moved to Phase II which is the detailed analysis of what this will look like while Phase I was what would a stormwater program/funding source might look like (i.e. Litmus Test). This effort was partially to determine where the program is coming from and where the program wants to go, while the next phase determines how to get there/the logistics of it.
-) The Phase II process would take an additional 8 months to work out the details.



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Program Gaps and Strategies – Eric (refer to slide presentation)

-) Working towards bridging the gaps to the strategies to achieve the goals.
-) Review of Combined Poll Results
-) Developed a Priority Analysis – Gaps, Priority/Goals, Strategy
-) BMPs
 - o Systemwide assessment – would develop an inventory of the BMPs – the ‘intern’ part of this is to review the older plans so that they are already ‘located’
-) Pipes
 - o Contracting inspections ensures that it happens within a time frame with an efficient and effective time. With a contracted group, a system wide assessment could happen in a year (mobilize once and finish out). This will be further expanded upon in the costs section. Assuming 53 days (would also require front end work of cleaning pipes). Additional pipes (private carrying public water) would also be evaluated for a total of 42 miles of pipe (33 miles of public pipes).
 - o What is required with the private pipes with public water? Generally, there is an easement to allow for this inspection, with prior notification.
-) Drainage Inlets
 - o Rapid Assessment rather than Intensive Assessment
-) Channels
-) Equipment
 - o Is there a decision tree for repairing pipe regarding equipment? If new equipment is required, there tends to be a lease/renting practice to ensure that the equipment will work for the job and the team.
 - o The Township will need to fully develop / invest in the Assessment Critical/Non- Critical assessment tree. It is guaranteed that during the assessment there will be required actions as a result, at various levels of criticality. This is a goal for each infrastructure piece.
 - o Anticipating 5 new positions and increasing one from PT to FT.
-) Green Infrastructure
 - o Fund Shade Tree Program – shift some of the funding from SWM Fee for Shade Tree Program rather than General Fund Funding
 - o Consider Street Tree & GI Programs being combined for more efficiency. Currently Shade Tree Commission only has authority on public trees – expanding to have a coordination with new trees/new development could be very helpful.
-) Conclusions
 - o Note that strategies will need to evolve over time with the stormwater program as the needs of the Township evolve

Program Financials – Elizabeth

-) Programs in a 5 year start up v. 10 year start up
-) 1.9 million dollars for FY18 in current stormwater program costs
-) The cost information discussed today is a benchmark on ‘where we are’ in this effort as it is still a work in progress



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-] This is not about how things are funded or the end cost, this is about putting the strategies on a timeline
-] Capital will 'ebb and flow' year to year based on the specific projects that will happen in that year. Some of these for the first five years are 'assumed' projects and not based on the condition assessments since they haven't been done yet
-] Completing a quick assessment will allow for more stable budgeting and coordination with other programs, such as roadway programs as replacing pipes continues with this
-] Year 1: 2 Interns and PT to FT Inspector Year 2: Adding Superintendent, Year 3: adding additional crew members (dedicated) – once the prioritization plan has begun developing (it's possible that only 2 would be required, it's also possible that more than 3 would be required). The assessment is the most important part of determining the rest of the program elements
-] Reminder that additional staff would be required because staff doing stormwater projects would take personnel off of other projects
-] Disclaimer: This is beneficial for developing planning, the rates will be determined based off a more descriptive model
-] Personnel – would include balancing in house (maintenance, cleaning, minor repairs, some inspections) and contracting work (contracting is covered in capital)
-] Assessment Numbers were based on contracting out (1 year) with inlets being inspected by interns.
-] Equipment Purchasing is in year 4 – would need to be evaluated in that year
-] The Tree program is 100% funded in this 5-year plan, the 10-year plan covers a 50% funding program
-] These numbers will be detailed in March for the description of the costs/strategies they are associated with
-] Overall goal: Change the program from reactive to proactive over time
-] Reminder that the funding method has not been established - these costs could be covered by general fund, increase in taxes, or a fee
-] Concern that year 1 and 2 being focused on "assessment" might not be 'quick enough' to address enough 'issues' in the Township (i.e. the Public saying hey I'm paying for this fix this thing)
-] There is materials/supplies accounted for in Year 1 and 2 to ensure that there can be repairs/replacements that happen in the first 2 years
-] There is a buffer for immediate action on critical repairs/replacements

West End Services - Elizabeth

-] West End: West College Ave (not including Pine Ridge(?) Village)
-] Township Responsibility for Protecting Streams in this area
-] USDA: Riparian Buffer dollars
-] Still needs to be evaluated (the funds might come from somewhere else) but is there a Township responsibility?
-] Yes – with streambank restoration for PRP potential projects (future PRPs)
-] If you go to a fee, there's a different LOS provided here – this could imply different rates
-] Current Township effort in this area: 10% max
-] Part of the assessment is to look at the cross pipes in this area
-] All other strategies have been focused for the Urbanized Areas
-] Maintenance Wise: 2 weeks for ditches (personnel)



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-] Capital: Lined a culvert under Tadpole Road, around \$200,000 on Martin Street but \$40,000 on Tadpole Road
-] Ag should be 'paid' not assessed; the benefit to WQ is so low compared to the negative from the Urban Area
-] General concern that Ag causes worst WQ than UA
-] NTM determined for the PRP that the Ag portion is providing a larger loading than UA
-] If Ag was evaluated on the % impervious of the total plot, it could be a lower cost fee
-] Over time, the conversation has shifted from Quantity to include Quality and at a larger watershed level
-] Is stormwater generally contained in Farm Land to Farm Land rather than the storm system? Generally accurate
-] Ditch vs. Vegetated Swale Conversation
-] Farms are already required to have a nutrient management plan
-] Farm Service Agency offers riparian buffer funds with restrictions and O&M plans but the owner is required to maintain it
-] Those that haven't done it yet for a variety reasons, but unsure if the involvement of the local government would convince folks to implement this
-] There are some other Townships that partner with Federal Programs for funding of local stormwater programs
-] E&S Control Plans are required regardless of animals on a farm
-] Not many dairy farms left in Ferguson Township
-] Nutrient Management Planning ensures that fertilizers are not applied excessively
-] Low – No Till has cut down on erosion from farmers, and they are liable under the E&S plans
-] Are there resources needed – e.g. York County is looking for additional funding sources for the Conservation Districts to ensure that inspections etc. are covered
-] Maybe not? There are usually dollars available for the projects that need to be done; however, there might be more general resistance from the involvement
-] Any regulatory burden through the Chesapeake Bay Program – at one time, there was a conservation reserve spending requirement with Educational Efforts

Next Steps: Expect a background paper regarding costs, timeline, level of investment, and what can be accomplished for various levels of investment over time. The goal of the coming conversations is to determine what is important to accomplish with the revenue that could be established with dedicated stormwater revenue.