



TOWNSHIP OF FERGUSON

Ferguson Township – Stormwater Advisory Committee (SAC) Meeting #1 September 27, 2017 (@ 12pm)

Attendees

Ferguson Township: David Modricker and Ron Seybert

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;

- Meeting convened and David introduced the Township's project and then introduced Elizabeth and Eric (with brief bio offered for each)
- Elizabeth's Opening Remarks and Introductions (refer to PowerPoint presentation for additional content)
 - Project Roadmap: Process that the study team follows to help communities find their solution for stormwater funding.
 - SAC Role: Develop the goals for Ferguson's Stormwater System, develop strategies to reach these goals, and represent the community's perspective.
 - Typical Policy Issues: Development of explicit goals and levels of service.
 - Review Process: The Township has a website that will be set up as a hub for resources and information regarding the SAC.
 - Effective SW: Financial strategies are successful when they are appropriate for the goals they've been developed for.
- No preliminary questions from SAC
- Eric presented Existing Level of Service (refer to PowerPoint presentation for additional content)
 - Clarifying "BMP" – refers to Best Management Practice which can be physical infrastructure or a management practice such as public education.
 - What is driving the timing of this effort?
 - The NPDES permit, MS4, "budget season", recognizing mandates and with new methods of funding that are available the timing is right for a proactive discussion and review of the Township's stormwater program.



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- In response to a question, Elizabeth clarified that this is the first meeting of the SAC in Ferguson Township and that there will be four additional meetings to address key policies and goals.
- “What happens when the state comes in and messes things up”?
 - The state has an MS4 program structure, which is often applied differently in different communities.
 - David noted that on N. Atherton Street there have been sinkholes and collapsing drainage pipes and those infrastructure issues need to be addressed.
 - It was noted that another consultant is preparing the Pollutant Reduction Plan (PRP) but that it will parse state roads out of the plan, because Ferguson Township is not responsible for those lands under their MS4 permit.
 - Piney Ridge – It was noted that a recent state road project has resulted in flooding, leaving Ferguson to find a solution.
 - There was a request for a map with PennDOT roads.
- Is the GIS database of Storm sewer pipes attributed with pipe age and characteristics?
 - Not 100%, just material as age is unknown in some areas, and the Township is planning to update with available records. It was mentioned that ‘tagging’ photos onto GIS as a ‘level of service’ indicator provides staff with more details.
- Does GIS consider the carrying capacity of the system?
 - There is not currently a Township wide hydraulic model.
 - Ron noted that all new developments must provide a hydraulic model with up/downstream system areas included as appropriate.
 - Areas known to have issues have been modeled.
- Options to Pay
 - Presentation switched back to Elizabeth
- Elizabeth’s “wrap up” (refer to PowerPoint presentation for additional content)
 - Any improvements made by the Township for asset improvements or as a result of a PRP mandate, anticipate that there will be costs associated with it in perpetuity. The system for drainage always needs to be maintained and that has an associated annual cost.
 - Ron mentioned the 10% reduction requirement of the PRP for the first five-year cycle with a 40% reduction requirement over 20 years. These reductions focus on sediment as the indicator of meeting reduction requirements.
 - Discussion focused on parallels between other utilities and stormwater – including funding, requirements, and commitment.
 - The first utility for stormwater was set up in Bellevue Washington and the issue for the community was the loss of salmon spawning in local streams. Two concerns were



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addressed with new funding - lights for salmon passage in culverts – most effective and efficient method of protecting local salmon and elevated stream temperatures addressed through re-greening of streambanks and establishment of riparian buffers.

- “How do we pay for it”
 - Should we change the financing strategy, example fee based on % impervious or keep it in the CIP from the general fund; or continue to use the Transportation Improvement Fund (TIF) to address capital infrastructure within roadway rights-of-way?
- Discussed Township’s desire to have funding for better tools to fully inspect, maintain and replace stormwater infrastructure
- Cost sharing between private and public BMPs (where private BMP’s are not currently being maintained).
- User fees related to stormwater are becoming the ‘norm’ to fund stormwater projects and programs.
- Next 2 Meetings Scheduled: Wed Nov 1 and Wed Dec 6, both set at 12pm – 2pm
- The PRP (developed by NTM) is available Friday September 29 with a Public Meeting for comments scheduled for October 25.
- The next Background Report will be distributed the Friday prior to the next meeting (October 27 for the November 1 meeting, December 1 for the December 6 meeting).
- Dave is the point of contact for the SAC.
- The 5 year CIP will be distributed to the SAC to review at their convenience.
 - Relining pipes in older neighborhoods was explained by Ron as an innovative technology that is cost effective and will be expanded upon in future projects.
- It was clarified that the Township stormwater system is a separate Sewer system (not a combined with sanitary sewers like in Pittsburgh or Lancaster).
- Request of a map with the BMPs locations, ownership (Private/Public), and zoning (as a surrogate for areas where proposed development could occur). Ron will present a GIS demonstration at the next SAC meeting.

IMMEDIATE ACTION ITEMS

- *Township staff will work to post to the website the various SAC requested documents*
- *AMECFW/GF Team will begin to draft policy paper for program objectives and priorities for next SAC meeting (November)*
- *AMECFW/GF Team will circulate minutes of SAC meeting for review / acceptance*
- *Township will prepare a brief GIS presentation for the next SAC meeting (November)*