



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and City Councilors
FROM: Tony Stimatz, Councilman
Storm Water Advisory Board
Paul Fredette, Director of Public Works
DATE: April 19, 2013
REF: Interim Report –Storm Water Advisory Board

BACKGROUND:

Seventeen months ago in November 2011, the City Council established a Storm Water Advisory Board (SWAB) as a continuum to a Mayor's Storm Water Advisory Task Force established by then Mayor McLean. Per a recommendation in the final report of the Advisory Board, SWAB was created and charged with a number of action items that represented an aggressive first phase approach to addressing some of the storm water issues in the City. This is a report on the work done on each of the action items during the past 17 months as reviewed and discussed by SWAB at their meeting on April 10, 2013.

ANALYSIS:

- ***Complete and submit the City's application for the Phase II NPDES for a small MS 4 municipality and to work with DENR to develop reasonable permit conditions and implementation schedules for Elizabeth City.***

The City submitted the final application for the Phase II NPDES for small MS 4 municipalities on June 6, 2012. Then in November the City received a final NPDES Permit effective December 1, 2012.

- ***Complete the mapping and inventory work on the Storm Water System (SWS) for inclusion in the City GIS data base.***

During the past two years the Public Utilities Department, GIS Office has been working with McDowell & Associates to inventory and then do a conditional assessment of the storm water infrastructure. The work included field observation, mapping and the development of an attribute data base for the storm water systems in Elizabeth City.

- ***Develop and fund an aggressive public education and outreach program to include:***

✓ ***Educating people about the environmental impacts of stormwater, related policies and procedures, and their roles and responsibilities.***

✓ ***Creating project signage to educate and inform affected citizens***

To date The City has not been aggressive in the development of a public outreach program. Staff has attended a seminar recently that was to the point of addressing what the NC Department of environment and Natural Resources was expecting from the communities. The seminar also reviewed the action plans of other communities in the State and was specific as to what the State will be looking at when they do a performance audit on permitted communities.

• **Revise the existing storm water design manual and city ordinances that are part of the Unified Development Ordinance. Prepare revisions for City Council action.**

The City currently has a fairly complete Storm Water Design Manual. There are parts of the manual that will have to be revised as the City revises certain parts of the City Ordinances to address specific requirements of the NPDES permit. This work should start to be addressed in the next fiscal year.

• **Develop / review a policy to address the maintenance responsibilities for the storm water systems to include storm sewer systems, culverts, ditches, swales, retention and detention features and BMP's in the City. The maintenance policies will also address the frequency of maintenance activities, inspections and possible enforcement procedures.**

As we near completion of the inventory and conditional assessment of the storm water infrastructure in the City we are in a position to develop a maintenance plan and schedule along with the assignment of responsibilities. Certainly the City's Public Utilities Department has a lot of work to do in this area and they have to address maintenance problems that have not been addressed in the past. However property owners that have drainage ditches on their property and particularly property owners that have been issued permits for structural drainage improvements on their property have a responsibility to comply with the permit conditions as issued by NC-DENR. Now with the issued NPDES permit the City must take a more responsible and aggressive role to insure compliance with permit conditions.

• **Complete work this fiscal year on the following priority projects:**

✓ ***Old Fairgrounds drainage repairs***

The Fairgrounds Drainage Project is nearing completion. There were some unexpected problems along the way, for example there was an older residential building built partially in a City right of way that had to be purchased by the City and removed, there is a small section of a closed conveyance system that we are looking to remove the pipes and drainage structure, but again there are property issues that must be addressed and finally we are working with a wet lands scientist and the USA Corps of Engineers to address the final stretch of ditch needed to be restored from the Dominion Power Sub-Station behind the Water Treatment Plant to Knobbs Creek. The plan is to finish this project in this calendar year.

✓ ***Water Street/Southern Avenue Intersection Improvement Project***

This project has been completed. Since the intersection was reconstructed the frequency and significance of road flooding issues have been significantly minimized.

✓ ***Roanoke Avenue Engineering Design***

Roanoke Avenue Drainage Phase III will require some redesign. The project was bid near the end of last year and construction bids were 180% of the project budget. The additional cost was in large part due to the planned relocation of a sanitary sewer line in Harrington Road. Since the project was bid NC DOT announced their plans to reconstruct the South Road Street Bridge over Charles Creek. We are presently in discussions with NC DOT and abutting property owners to determine some of the details of a re-design of the Roanoke Avenue Drainage Project before we can put the project out to bid again. We hope to complete this project in fiscal year 2014.

- ***Develop a Storm Water System project prioritization rubric for future budget years.***

No Significant progress has been made on this action item.

- ***Develop a Storm Water System flow obstruction model to identify blockages at an early stage.***

No Significant progress has been made on this action item.

STORM WATER ADVISORY BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS:

This is a status report on accomplishments to date. There is no action requested of the City Council at this time.