

Howard County Commercial Stormwater Solutions Work Group

Friday, May 13, 2016

10:00AM - Noon

Attendees:

Mark Charles, Carl Gutschick, Pete Mangione, Leonardo McClarty, Dan Nees, Carl Nelson, Cole Schnorf, Mark Southerland (work group chair)

Staff: Jim Caldwell (OCS), Mark DeLuca (DPW), Gary Smith (Council), Philip Nichols (Co Exec), Lindsay DeMarzo (OCS-staff for the work group), Lewis Taylor (Law)

Introductions

Open Meetings Act and Public Information Act Overview – Lewis Taylor

The Stormwater Challenge – Jim Caldwell

- History of stormwater, overview of stormwater management, Howard County's stormwater situation, regulatory mandates, and nonprofit program (see presentation)
- Howard County must treat approx. 2,000+ acres of impervious surface by 2019 at a cost of at least \$132M; total of \$226M will be needed to meet all TMDLs by 2025
- Montgomery County is negotiating a consent decree with EPA to avoid daily penalties since it did not meet its permit deadline of treating 4,300 acres (though all acres are under design or construction)
- 70% of stormwater management projects identified by Howard County in watershed studies are on private land

Commercial Stormwater Overview – Dan Nees

- Stormwater revenue through taxes is less efficient and less flexible than fees (fees require residents and businesses to pay less over time than do taxes)
- 1,700 SW utilities exist nationwide with about 30 in the Chesapeake Bay region; residents and businesses in Texas pay more than in Maryland
- Chesapeake Bay is the first watershed wide TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) in the nation, but not the last
- 3 reasons why businesses are important to reach stormwater permit goals: (1) access to land for stormwater management (businesses may have as much or more land than all residences), (2) businesses can have greater individual influence on stormwater management because each business controls more impervious surface than each residential property), and (3) businesses can use the market to increase efficiency

- Although there are some cutting-edge commercial strategies and initiatives already in place (e.g., DC has a new innovative trading program), Howard County can be a national model

Philadelphia Tackles Stormwater – Mark Southerland and Shandor Szalay, AKRF

- Philadelphia Water (previously PWD) has committed to extensive stormwater management program to meet its Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) consent decree (see presentation)
- PWD has instituted technical assistance and financial support programs and studied their effectiveness, including
 - Design assistance program created in 2009 for commercial properties, recognizing that stormwater management is not the specialty of commercial property owners
 - SMIP (stormwater management incentive program), including studies of cost thresholds for constructing stormwater management on easy, medium, and difficult sites (currently the program pays up to \$100,000 per acre for treatment)
 - Property owners' use of fee savings to fund maintenance
 - Incorporation of ancillary benefits on property, such as reuse of water and local materials

Wrap Up – Questions for homework were distributed and will be discussed at the following meeting

Closing – Mark Southerland thanked the participants and adjourned the meeting at 12:04pm