

**THE SUMMARY OF THE MEETING OF THE
REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE
November 5, 2015**

1. Summary of the October 1, 2015 meeting of the Hampton Roads Regional Environmental Committee.

The summary of the October 1, 2015 meeting of the Hampton Roads Regional Environmental Committee was approved as distributed.

2. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

3. Isle of Wight BMP Projects

Ms. Melissa Lindgren, Isle of Wight County Stormwater Engineer, presented a summary of two recent stormwater retrofit projects that were funded through the SLAF program, a retention pond at Carrsville Elementary School and bioretention practices at Nike Park.

The Carrsville Elementary School project involved the construction of a new retention pond in the Blackwater River watershed. DEQ showed significant interest in the project because it was one of the first SLAF projects to be constructed. The project took about a month to complete. The new pond treats 2.5 acres of impervious area and removes 2.9 pounds of TP annually. The total construction costs were \$92,420.

The Nike Park project, which is within the Chesapeake Bay watershed, added 5 bioretention cells at a construction cost of \$208,570. The new bioretention practices treat 3.2 acres of impervious area and remove 6.4 pounds of TP per year.

Ms. Lindgren concluded the presentation by sharing some lessons learned by the County with regard to the SLAF program:

- Anticipate a lag between start of construction and grant agreement issuance
- Be prepared to front the total project costs
- Make sure construction estimates reflect current market costs
- DEQ will allow up to 25% above original committed funds (Construction bids for these projects exceeded original estimates by 25-45%)
- DEQ will consider additional cost for unforeseen changes
- DEQ site visits during and after construction

Ms. Barbara Brumbaugh asked if the projects were already designed when the County applied for SLAF. Ms. Lindgren said that these were not, but she knew that DEQ is most interested in funding construction costs.

Ms. June Whitehurst asked the cost per pound of TP. Ms. Lindgren said the County originally estimated it would be \$28-30,000 per pound. However, it increased to \$42-45,000 per pound once the onsite conditions were accounted for and the design complete.

Ms. Erin Rountree asked if the inspectors were from DEQ Central Office or from TRO. Ms. Lindgren replied that inspectors from both offices came to these sites.

Ms. Jill Sunderland asked if DEQ has been able to keep pace and inspect other SLAF project sites with as much interest as they demonstrated for the first couple of projects. Chesapeake responded that their projects have been inspected, and Hampton fully expected to see them at their sites also.

4. Dutch Dialogues/National Disaster Resilience Competition

Ms. Katerina Oskarsson, Management Analyst III with the City of Norfolk, kindly filled in for Mr. Scott Smith who was unable to attend the meeting.

Ms. Oskarsson discussed Norfolk's proposed projects for the NDRC, which are in the Newton's Creek and Ohio Creek watersheds. The City has been chosen as one of three finalists for the grant. The proposal builds on the water management ideas discussed at the Dutch Dialogues Workshop in June. The Dutch engineers emphasized the importance of studying the past to identify where the water wants to go. Today's flooding maps align closely with historical shoreline maps. Norfolk's proposal outlines stormwater solutions including, connect green spaces and hold, filter, channel, slow, and clean water, and also shoreline improvements, including vegetative berms.

For Newton's Creek, the proposal is to daylight a large section of the Creek and add a green vegetated berm and permeable pavement bike paths. The surrounding property values will increase and will provide more public access to the waterways. Eventually, the City will use zoning tools to promote mixed use development and connect the area to downtown. They are focused on street level solutions and parcel by parcel water management. The proposal is highly conceptualized at this stage, and the City needs the grant funding to proceed with design.

The Ohio Creek watershed is completely built out and consists mostly of the Chesterfield Heights neighborhood. City planners are envisioning bioswales, marshes, and reconnecting the community with downtown.

Mr. Brian Swets asked what will happen to the residents who live in the apartments in the Newton's Creek watershed. Ms. Oskarsson indicated that only public housing would be impacted and new affordable housing in the area will be provided by a developer who is already involved. The added green spaces will increase the amenities in the area, which makes it more attractive for investors.

Mr. Swets asked whether the City intends to require residents to retain stormwater on their property through zoning ordinances or will they encourage retention strictly

through outreach and education. Ms. Oskarsson replied that the City may add specific requirements to the zoning ordinance for this area. The grant funds would also be used to incentivize parcel by parcel retention.

5. Regional GIS Proposal

HRPDC staff and Old Dominion University have been working with local government staff representatives on a grant proposal for a regional GIS project. Ms. Sara Kidd updated the Committee on the status of the proposal. Ms. Kidd explained that Mr. Joe Bouchard of the Blue Moon Fund approached ODU and HRPDC about the project.

The idea is to create a centralized access point for integrated local and regional GIS data. This would have many benefits, including improved efficiencies for those who are seeking data and those who produce the data. ODU and HRPDC staff has met with local GIS managers and staff, presented the concept to the CAOs, and met with Esri to discuss the design sprint process. The process will help to develop the framework for the project – goals, needs, constraints, etc. These partners are discussing the big picture of how the project should be set up.

Mr. Bouchard will present the proposal, which should be finalized in February, to the Blue Moon Fund in March.

There will be a meeting scheduled to seek input from locality engineers and planners, as well as other stakeholders.

Ms. Mary Carson Saunders Stiff asked how the regional GIS would be different than a data dump. Ms. Kidd replied that they are aiming to make it iterative so that it can be regularly updated. Ms. Stiff added that VIMS had some funding to do a similar project and there may be some duplication.

6. ENVISION Hampton Roads Update

Envision Hampton Roads is an effort led by the HRPDC to develop the region's first community-based regional strategic plan. Ms. Jai McBride provided an update to the Committee.

The goal of Envision Hampton Roads is to create a blueprint for the region's future that leads to HR being an even greater place to live, work, play, learn, and visit. Interviews, social media, surveys, and other means will continue to be used to seek input from the region's residents.

The planning process has included the following steps:

- Identifying shared community values
- Defining the shared community vision
- Formulating regional strategies to move towards the vision

- Creating detailed Action Plans
- Identifying and aligning needed funding
- Plan implementation

The next steps will be to collaborate with other regional efforts, including GO Virginia, Reinvent Hampton Roads, and the FUTURE of Hampton Roads, complete the Envision Hampton Roads video, and develop the vision based on what they've heard.

7. Coastal Resources Technical Assistance Final Report

HRPDC staff has completed the final report for the FY14-15 Coastal Resources TA Program. Ms. Kidd asked the Committee members to send all comments to Mr. Ben McFarlane by November 11, 2015. The report will be submitted to the VA Coastal Zone Management Program by November 15, 2015.

8. Other Matters

- A. VB – Mr. Bill Johnston asked who the VB POC is for the regional GIS work. Ms. Kidd replied that she was working with several folks including Dave Palmer.
- B. HA – Installation is complete on the new tide gauge at New Market Creek. Hampton has also begun construction on their SLAF projects.
- C. Windsor – The town recently passed their development ordinance and would like to thank Ms. McBride and Ms. Kidd for their technical assistance.
- D. YK – The County will likely have to return \$450,000 in SLAF funds because of problems concerning easements. HA asked how we could incentivize private property owners allowing SLAF projects on their property. NN said that they had also had trouble.
- E. SU – They are likely returning some SLAF funds because of the difference in credit for a pond retrofit from the draft and the final Action Plan guidance. The reduced treatment efficiency makes the project no longer financially viable.
- F. PO – Mr. Swets said that Portsmouth issued a RFP to update their Comp Plan. He will present their recent sea level rise survey results at next month's meeting.
- G. VB – Mr. Bernick said VB will release their draft Comp Plan in December. They will be seeking public input after the holidays. There will be some reorganization in VB, and they are in the process of hiring a new City Manager. The Green Sea Blueway plan is moving towards implementation.
- H. VDOT – Mr. Scott said the new local MS4 Coordinator will be onboard in early December.
- I. Timmons Group – Ms. Scheessele announced that VWEA is hosting a lunch & learn on the new living shorelines permits on November 12 at the Virginia Zoo.
- J. CBF – Mr. Moore announced an open sea level rise fellowship position with CBF in the VB office. He also mentioned that he is sitting on the Oyster Expert Panel.

The next meeting of the Regional Environmental Committee is scheduled for December 3, 2015 at the Regional Building in Chesapeake, VA. Materials will be sent in advance for review.