

Environment and Energy Conservation Commission
Draft

Summary of June 27, 2016 Meeting
2100 Clarendon Blvd, Azalea Conference Room

Members: John Seymour, Sarah Meservey, Christine Ng, Irwin Kim, Patrick Kenney, Alex Sanders, Kari Klaus, Mike Hanna, Gabriel Thoumi, Scott Dicke

Members Absent: Claire O'Dea,

Guests: None

Staff Present: Chris Somers (DES), Aileen Winquist (DES), Jeff Harn (DES), Mary Strawn (DES)

1. Public comment

There were no public comments.

2. CIP Update

Jeff Harn presented on the CIP as it relates to the Stormwater Management and AIRE programs.

Q: For the Stormwater CIP funds previously approved – how did this build up, was this delayed implementation? A: No, it's a consequence of planning needing to happen first.

Q: What's taking the Ballston pond project so long? A: A water main needed to be moved. Also a bike lane was nearby and one of the easements took a long time to get.

Q: What's the relationship between the Little Pimmit Run task force from 5-7 years ago, and the current flood risk reduction study? A: The risk reduction study is to see if anything can be done to get people out of the floodplain, and then the modeling will need to be updated. None of this work will address the stream restoration part of that past task force.

Q: The funds shown on slide 24, are any out of the general fund? A: No, this is all CIP or dedicated funding.

Q: Are the allocated funds sufficient given the MS4 permit cycle? A: We'll have to see how the projects are doing to reach the requirements. We could also use nutrient credits from the Water Pollution Control Plant (WPCP).

Q: So, maybe you'll need to raise the stormwater rate? A: Possibly, yes. It is more difficult for more built-out urban areas like Arlington.

Q: Why does the budget drop off after FY19 and stay at a similar amount beyond that? A: Staff planned projects for the next 3 years, then the following years aren't project-specific. Also, not clear how much work will need to be done to reach the MS4 requirements.

Q: Has the tree fund been moved into the stormwater budget? A: Yes.

Q: What is the scope of the MS4 permit – all County projects? A: It's for the entire County. Schools has a separate permit.

Q: Is there any thought behind looking at existing development? A: This is somewhat addressed in Zoning, but smaller projects can get through. Jason Papacosma is looking into this, but we are limited as a Dillon's Rule state.

Q: Is a letter of support in order? A: It's not requested, up to E2C2 how to handle. They'll discuss after the CIP presentations.

Q: What about behavioral things like educating building managers? A: This sort of thing doesn't show up in the CIP; it's part of AIRE day-to-day activities (e.g. COEP).

Q: What's the thinking behind the electric vehicle (EV) item on slide 29? A: Looking to help build up charging infrastructure at public-facing facilities.

Q: Any discussion about setting funding aside for Schools? A: No, but we are working on a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) with schools.

Q: Can the County use energy service companies (ESCOs)? A: Yes, we did that with the Detention Center.

Q: Does the PPA option sunset? A: It's being called a "pilot program", but we're not sure about a specific sunset or timeline.

Q: We get the costs side, does this get us to the goals? A: The COEP looks at the County side of things, and John ran both the COEP and the CIP efforts.

Mary Strawn presented on CIP as it relates to the WPCP.

Q: Have you thought of looking into a living machine? A: This part of the plan addresses the solids side. The living machine idea falls under the liquid side, we're set there for a while.

Q: Is the idea of the WPCP's producing fuel onsite anticipated in the energy planning? A: The energy team is plugged into the WPCP process.

There was then discussion around writing a letter in support of the three CIP items just presented. The group approved writing the letter.

3. Stormwater Projects Update

Aileen Winquist presented

Q: Bike detour along Four Mile Run trail - Very difficult, highly travelled trail.

A: Yes, this is true. We tried to do the project initially without closing the trail, but did not receive a workable construction bid. So we had to revise the plans to allow site access from the top of the bank (and close the trail during the construction).

Q: Suggestion to add detour sign up by Jeff Davis Highway and Glebe.

Q: Any plans for dealing with cyclists along Glebe Road? Many will go there.

A: We did consider other options for bike traffic along Glebe, but it has too much traffic to convert one lane to a bike lane or adds sharrows.

Q: Resource Protection Area (RPA) Map update – what about projects in process? A: There is a one-year period between notification and the new map becoming effective to allow time for projects underway to get permits.

4. Legislative Letter

Approve letter as amended. Unanimous.

5. Meeting Summary Review – February 2016

Minutes approved. Unanimous.

6. Old/New Business

Sarah – Master plan update for trails meeting this week? Not sure what meeting but maybe National Park Service (NPS) planning process. Attended NRJAG meeting. Went on tour of magnolia bog.

Alex – Comments on the Blue Ribbon panel. Urban Forestry Commission – thought there was inadequate transparency of the need for the panel, and no representation of environmental community. Comments are due fairly soon. Concern about small group of people having a lot of power for decision making. Maybe approve joint letter with NRJAG? Alex will check with Dean if they have sent the letter. E2C2 does not have time to do its own letter on this topic.

Christine - Pedestrian Advisory Committee had a presentation about the recent community survey on parks, which found that the #1 amenity is mixed use trails. Stratford EA will be ready by July meeting and may include RPA issues.

John Seymour - American Medical Association (AMA) released a report about adverse effects of LED lights. Blue/white lights. Issue that County will need to address with street lights and others. Issue related to Williamsburg lighting discussion.

Scott noted that Community Energy Plan Implementation Review Committee (CEPIRC) participation has not been as good as anticipated. The group is looking into options.