

Docket Item # 4  
MASTER PLAN AMENDMENT #2000-0007  
WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT SUPPLEMENT

Planning Commission Meeting  
January 2, 2001

**ISSUE:** Consideration of a request for an amendment to the 1992 Master Plan to add a Water Quality Management Supplement.

**APPLICANT:** City of Alexandria  
Department of Transportation and Environmental Services

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**CITY COUNCIL ACTION, JANUARY 13, 2001:** The City Council approved the Planning Commission recommendation.

**PLANNING COMMISSION ACTION, JANUARY 2, 2001:** On a motion by Eric Wagner, seconded by Larry Robinson, the Planning Commission voted to approve the amendment of the 1992 Master Plan, by adding a Water Quality Management Supplement with one modification concerning the implementation timeline. The motion carried on a vote of 6 to 0. Mr. Dunn was absent.

**Reason:** The Planning Commission agreed with the staff recommendation to amend the 1992 Master Plan by adding the Water Quality Management Supplement to bring the City into compliance with the comprehensive planning requirements of the Chesapeake Bay preservation Area Designation and Management Regulations. The Commission approved a change to the implementation timeline on page 72, clarifying that a short-term action should occur within 24 months and a long-term action should occur within five to six years.

**Speakers:**

Barbara Clark, 731 Bernard Street, spoke in support of adoption of the Plan, particularly efforts to reduce pollutants from lawn and garden activities and offered her expertise in that area.

Marilyn Doherty supported adoption of the Plan and indicated the wording has been improved. She also supported the consolidation of environmental programs under the Department of Transportation and Environmental Services.

Sean Doherty stated that some of the language had improved but some of the language was still vague. He suggested that specific timelines be included for the action items and that the Plan should be more specific so that it could be used to support funding needs in the budget process. He also stated the Resource Protection Area should be 100 feet, as a matter of policy, and in the past the City had frequently allowed reductions. He indicated the City was doing a good job at protecting the environment.

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Tom Wagoner suggested that more specific language be used and that the action items be prioritized, particularly for long-term action items and as it relates to budget issues.

Cindy Chambers, Chairman of the Environmental Policy Commission, supported the adoption of the Plan and described the Commission's efforts to reach out to the community and get more public input.

Kenyon Larsen, Vice Chair of the Environmental Policy Commission (EPC), spoke in support of adoption of the Plan and said that all of the EPC's comments were adequately addressed in the Plan. He also said the EPC has been provided specific timelines for projects on which the City is currently working.

## WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT SUPPLEMENT

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends approval of the master plan amendment.

**PURPOSE:**

The primary purpose of the Water Quality Management Supplement (WQMS) to the Master Plan is to bring the City into compliance with the comprehensive planning requirements of the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Area Designation and Management Regulations. The Regulations (9VAC 10-20-60) state: "Local programs shall contain... a comprehensive plan or revision that incorporates the protection of Chesapeake Bay Preservation Areas and of the quality of state waters." The Chesapeake Bay Local Assistance Board (CBLAB), whose members are appointed by the Governor, has the authority to review local government plans for consistency with the Regulations.

**BACKGROUND:**

In December, 1996, the Chesapeake Bay Local Assistance Department (CBLAD), which is staff to CBLAB, performed a review of the City's Master Plan and made several significant recommendations, including:

- (1) additional discussion of sensitive natural features;
- (2) potential and existing sources of pollution;
- (3) protection of potable water supply;
- (4) water conservation;
- (5) shoreline and stream bank erosion (including an inventory);
- (6) the adequacy of existing public access to the waterfront; and,
- (7) a discussion of water quality improvement through redevelopment.

To help the City bring its Plan into compliance, CBLAD suggested that the City partner with the Northern Virginia Regional Commission (formerly the Northern Virginia Planning District Commission) to apply for a technical assistance grant. NVRC applied for and was subsequently awarded a grant on behalf of the City. Work commenced in July, 1997.

## WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT SUPPLEMENT

Development of the Supplement involved a series of meetings with City staff. It also involved input from the Alexandria Environmental Policy Commission. Important dates included the following.

- City and NVRC staff introduced the planning process to the Alexandria EPC with a presentation on September 15, 1997.
- On December 15, 1997, NVRC came back to the EPC with an update on progress.
- A draft Inventory section of the Supplement (everything but the policy analysis and actions sections) was submitted to the EPC for review on March 16, 1998.
- Alexandria and NVRC staff arrived at the final draft on October 13, 1998 for transmittal to department heads in T&ES, Planning and Zoning, and Health.

By March 30, 1999, the original contract with CBLAD had expired and funds had been expended. CBLAD, in a letter dated May 11, 1999, did not believe that a formal grant extension was necessary given "that the only outstanding action remaining under the contract is local approval of the document." At that juncture, CBLAD had reviewed the Supplement and were prepared to recommend to its Board that Alexandria had met all the requirements under the Regulations.

After a summer for interdepartmental review, a final presentation on the Supplement was made by NVRC staff to the Alexandria EPC on November 15, 1999, at which time the EPC adopted a resolution of support for the Supplement.

The WQMS was docketed for the February 1, 2000 Planning Commission meeting. Following the testimony of eight speakers, the Commission deferred the issue for additional public comments before the EPC and further refinement of the amendment. Since that time, City Staff has met with many of the commentators, and a number of comments were raised through the public participation.

On June 19, 2000, the EPC held a Public Information Meeting on the WQMS and invited the public to provide additional comments on the Supplement at the meeting. Three speakers provided additional comments at the meeting and written comments were also submitted by the public.

In addition, on June 19, 2000, the CBLAD reviewed and accepted a request by the City and NVRC to extend the City's deadline for compliance with the Regulations to December 31, 2000.

On December 18, 2000, the EPC passed a resolution endorsing the WQMS and supporting its adoption by the Planning Commission at their meeting on January 2, 2001 and by the City Council at their meeting on January 13, 2001.

**REVISIONS TO THE WQMS:**

The Draft of the WQMS that went to the Planning Commission on February 1, 2000 has been revised to reflect the following:

To the extent possible, staff has incorporated changes into the WQMS to address comments received from the public and the EPC. Changes included providing additional details on the City's efforts to control and minimize combined sewer and sanitary overflows, minimizing the use of herbicides, and mitigating for impacts on wetlands and Resource Protection Areas.

The document was also updated to reflect present conditions and changes including the reorganization and consolidation of environmental programs and responsibilities under the Department of Transportation and Environmental Services, including the creation of a new Division of Environmental Quality.

The establishment of an Environmental Coordination Group with representatives from the Department's of Transportation and Environmental Services, Planning and Community Development, Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Activities and other City departments as needed to facilitate coordination of environmental issues in the City. The lead agency will be the Department of Transportation and Environmental Services and the Group will be led by the Division Chief of Environmental Quality. The Environmental Coordination Group will also assist in the development and coordination of public education & outreach materials on environmental issues.

The development of a process to track the progress on implementation of the recommendations and action items listed in the WQMS, which includes providing regular updates to the City's Environmental Policy Commission and reporting to City Council as part of the EPC's annual report.

**STAFF:**

Richard J. Baler, P.E., Director, Transportation and Environmental Services  
William Skrabak, Division Chief, Environmental Quality, T&ES  
David Bulova, Director of Environmental Services, Northern Virginia Regional Commission.

RESOLUTION NO. MPA 2000-0007

WHEREAS, under the Provisions of Section 9.05 of the City Charter, the Planning Commission may adopt amendments to the Master Plan of the City of Alexandria and submit to the City Council such revisions in said plans as changing conditions may make necessary; and

WHEREAS, an application for amendment to the 1992 Master Plan was filed with the Department of Planning and Zoning for changes; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Planning and Zoning has analyzed the proposed revision and presented its recommendations to the Planning Commission; and

WHEREAS, a duly advertised public hearing on the proposed amendment was held on January 2, 2001 with all public testimony and written comment considered; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission finds that:

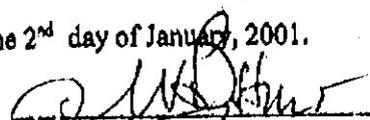
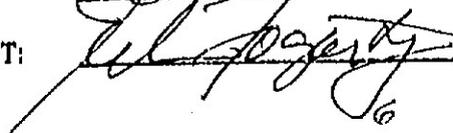
1. The proposed amendment is necessary and desirable to guide and accomplish the coordinated, adjusted and harmonious development of the Master Plan of the City; and
2. The proposed amendment is generally consistent with the overall goals and objectives of the 1992 Master Plan; and
3. The proposed amendment shows the Planning Commission's long-range recommendations for the general development of the 1992 Master Plan; and
4. Based on the foregoing findings and all other facts and circumstances of which the Planning Commission may properly take notice in making and adopting a master plan for the City of Alexandria, adoption of the amendment to the 1992 Master Plan will, in accordance with present and probable future needs and resources, best promote the health, safety, morals, order, convenience, prosperity and general welfare of the residents of the City;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Planning Commission of the City of Alexandria that:

1. The following amendment is hereby adopted in its entirety as an amendment to the 1992 Master Plan of the City of Alexandria, Virginia in accordance with Section 9.05 of the Charter of the City of Alexandria, Virginia:
2. This resolution shall be signed by the Chairman of the Planning Commission and attested by its secretary, and a true copy of this resolution forwarded and certified to the City Council.

ADOPTED the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of January, 2001.

ATTEST:

  
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W. B. Hurd, Chairman

Eileen P. Fogarty, Secretary