From: Jesse Maines <Jesse.Maines@alexandriava.gov>
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 1:35 PM
To: Kathie Hoekstra <391deltacharlie@gmail.com>
Cc: Khoa Tran <KhoaDinh.Tran@alexandriava.gov>; William Skrabak <William.Skrabak@alexandriava.gov>
Subject: RE: Stream Restoration Follow Up

Kathie:

I apologize for the delay in responding directly to EPC's approach to collaboration on the City's Bay cleanup goals and stream restoration you sent to me in May and found in the below email chain. Although this written response has been delayed, please rest assured that we have been moving the request forward. We appreciate your patience as we work on this effort and the flood response effort under the Flood Action Alexandria initiative. We're looking forward to working with the EPC members and would like to discuss our response to collaborate on these items. This is following up on the City Council guidance from the April 27, 2021 Legislative meeting for EPC and City staff to collaborate on alternatives to natural channel design. We are developing a process for working collaboratively with EPC and other stakeholders and would like to discuss this in more detail in mid-August, so that we can fully develop a shared strategy with EPC.

Additionally, at the Legislative meeting the City Council instructed staff to perform soil sampling and analysis on all three streams using the updated Expert Panel protocol, and instructed staff to pause the planned stream restoration projects at Taylor Run and Strawberry Run but proceed with Lucky Run while the soil analysis occurs. Staff has engaged our consultant and have processed a purchase order and a notice to proceed with the work. ***The field work is anticipated to take place the week of July 25, 2021, with the soils analysis to be completed in 3-5, which puts it around the October to December timeframe.***

The EPC letter included a three-prong, multi-layered strategy for collaboration with staff on this effort. Below is staff's understanding of the request and a discussion of how staff is responding to the request. We look forward to working with the EPC and the community to discuss these items.

***EPC Request*: A. Determination of all credits that are "free" or already accounted for in the budget.**

Some specific and general strategies planned beyond the 40% mandated reduction are referenced in the City's *Phase 2 Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Action Plan for 40% Compliance* to be achieved no later than FY 2023 but are not part of the accounting for the 40% reduction; however, several general strategies are also listed that may be implemented as part of the overall Bay required reductions. In addition to capturing implemented and planned reductions in the Action Plan, the MS4 permit requires annual reporting on nutrient and sediment reductions achieved for each annual reporting fiscal year.

In response to your request, City staff will provide updated nutrient and sediment reduction accounting for credits generated through the end of FY 2022. The City will also provide planned reductions for strategies such as 1) redevelopment, 2) Lucky Run Stream Restoration, and 3) bi-lateral trading, the term used for planned reductions generated by the capture and treatment of existing combined sewer overflows (CSOs) by Alexandria Renew through the River Renew project. Retrofits on City property that have been implemented to date have been included, but additional retrofits are under consideration on City property, with planning and feasibility requiring more effort.

Also, in response to your request, City staff will provide planning level cost estimates for applicable strategies listed in Chapter 8 of the Action Plan that may be implemented as alternatives to the natural channel design approach for stream restoration to achieve the reductions necessary for meeting the Bay TMDL requirements in the MS4 permit. Staff will explore these alternatives with EPC at the planning level in order to determine next steps towards a schedule and target implementation for these alternatives

Schedule*:*
Staff will update the Bay TMDL accounting table for practices completed to date, planned redevelopment, and the annual CSO projected credits; and the generation of planning level cost estimates for potential strategies in the Bay TMDL Action Plan. ***This will take approximately 45-75 days of staff work from the date of this email.***

EPC Request: **B. Understanding Why NCD failed at Strawberry Run.**

While there has been much discussion about the recent issues with the prior restoration effort implemented by the developer during the Taft Avenue subdivision on the segment of Strawberry Run that is downstream and not within the current upstream project area proposed for the Strawberry Run Stream Restoration project, staff agrees that an analysis of the failures here will be instructive. City staff has engaged Wood Environmental and they are developing a task order to investigate and catalog the issues. Note that the methodology in the Urban Stream Restoration Expert Panel (2014) and the updated Protocol 1 document is applicable to new projects following this updated guidance, for which the prior restoration does not comport. However, the investigation will generally follow the approach in this updated protocol. Also, the task will include a consideration of maintenance for the Taft Avenue related downstream restoration.

Schedule: Staff has requested a change order from our consultant to perform this scope of work and generate a report. ***This work is estimated to be performed with the field work tentatively scheduled in August after finalizing the scope and processing change orders, with the work to be completed within 3-4 months***

EPC Request**: C. Explore alternatives to NCD on paper and in person**

In collaboration with the EPC, staff will engage consultants to consider alternatives which include (1) conceptual planning for a sanitary sewer stabilization in Taylor Run, and (2) stream stabilization at Strawberry Run to protect private property and at-risk stormwater infrastructure adjacent to the upstream component. These techniques will include planning-level rough order

of magnitude cost estimates and potential impacts to the area, to include the approximate quantity of potentially impacted trees.

Schedule: Staff is working with our consultants for new task orders to address this request. ***This work is estimated to be performed within 3-5 months after the finalization of scope and notice to proceed that will take 1-3 weeks.***

We look forward to working with you all and would like to discuss the process for working collaboratively with EPC and other stakeholders this in more detail in mid-August, so that we can fully develop a shared strategy with EPC.

Thanks,

Jesse Maines, MPA, PMP
Division Chief
T&ES, Stormwater Management