

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: JANUARY 9, 2009
TO: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER
THROUGH: RICHARD J. BAIER, P.E., DIRECTOR, T&ES
FROM: STORMWATER WORKING GROUP
SUBJECT: PRELIMINARY FINDINGS

Thank you to the working group for much hard work - JJB

ISSUE: This memorandum provides preliminary findings to the City Manager from the City's Stormwater Working Group, based on its activities during the period October 16, 2008 through January 8, 2009.

BACKGROUND: In June 2008 City Council authorized the City Manager to appoint a Stormwater Working Group to:

- Provide input on the City's stormwater program, including capital improvement projects and operations and maintenance programs.
- Provide input on various funding options.
- Serve in a representative capacity for the organizations that each SWG member represents, ensuring stakeholder interests and needs are adequately conveyed to the SWG.
- Serve as a co-convenor with the City of Alexandria for community or stakeholder meetings and facilitate two-way communication as needed.

Attached are meeting agendas, presentations and meeting notes from the five Stormwater Working Group meetings held during the period October 16, 2008 through January 8, 2009.

RECOMMENDATION: That the City Manager accepts the preliminary findings of the Stormwater Working Group and informs the City Council of the need to identify a reliable funding source for the City's stormwater needs.

In addition, it is recommended that T&ES continue the public outreach efforts related to stormwater funding, as directed by City Council, using the Stormwater Working Group as a co-convenor for future meetings with community representatives.

PRELIMINARY FINDINGS: The preliminary findings of the Stormwater Working Group are as follows:

1. The Stormwater Working Group urges the City to address significant stormwater needs in response to health and safety concerns and federal and state regulatory requirements.
2. The Stormwater Working Group believes strongly that there is a significant need for additional, dedicated funding for the City's stormwater program.
3. The Stormwater Working Group recommends that the City establishes a dedicated funding source to augment existing funding for the stormwater program.
4. Potential options for dedicated funding that should be considered include direct taxation (ad valorem), a stormwater utility or a combination of these funding options.
5. Potential safety, health, environmental, and economic impacts should be considered when the City establishes dedicated funding for the stormwater program.

SCHEDULE:

August - November 2009: Community outreach meetings

December 2009: Final recommendation

December 2010: Complete implementation

The Stormwater Working Group is available to brief the City Manager and/or City Council, if requested, during budget discussions.

FISCAL IMPACT: None at this time.

STAFF:

Mark Jinks, Deputy City Manager

Bruce Johnson, Director OMB

Emily Baker, P.E., City Engineer, T&ES

Maurice Daly, P.E., Division Chief, T&ES

Stormwater Working Group:

Jim Butler, Budget & Fiscal Affairs Advisory Committee

Keith Freihofer, Environmental Policy Commission

Joseph A. Grigg Jr., residents for Planning District 3

Lyn Gubser, residents for Planning District 2

Deborah D. Johnson, businesses for Planning District 1

Mark D. Koppenhaver, businesses for Planning District 3

Bob Larson, businesses for Planning District 2

Debra Sabourin, residents for Planning District 1

Michael Wenk, Budget & Fiscal Affairs Advisory Committee