

**Combined Sewer System and the Long Term Control Plan Update**  
**Stakeholder Group – Meeting Notes**  
*Meeting #1 – October 7, 2015*



<b>Meeting Attendees</b>	
<i>CSS Stakeholder Group</i>	<i>City of Alexandria</i>
Skip Maginniss	Bill Skrabak
Rich Brune	Lalit Sharma
Lee Hernly	Erin Bevis-Carver
Stacy Langsdale	
Kate Mackenzie	<i>Greeley and Hansen LLC (engineering consultant)</i>
Elizabeth McCall	John McGettigan
Stephen Milone	John Cassidy
Randy Randol	Dustin Dvorak
Brett Rice	
Dixie Sommers	<i>Waterford Inc. (public engagement consultant)</i>
Jack Sullivan	Beth Offenbacker
Tom Walker	Paul Coelus
Chuck Weber	

The meeting convened at 7:00 pm with welcome comments by City staff members, Bill Skrabak and Lalit Sharma.

The CSS Stakeholder Group members, City staff members and project consultants, and the public introduced themselves. City staff then gave a presentation following the established agenda:

- Mr. Skrabak explained what a combined sewer system (CSS) is and how it works. He then went on to explain the City’s current Long Term Control Plan, what a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) is and how the one for Hunting Creek applies to the City’s CSS.
- Mr. Skrabak and Mr. Sharma detailed the types of combined sewer control strategies that have been evaluated to meet the goals of the TMDL and explained how the current shortlist of three store and treat strategies was evaluated.
- Mr. Skrabak explained that City staff will develop a memorandum documenting the consensus of the group as it relates to the charge of the CSS Stakeholder Group as follows:
  - Recommendations for minimizing impacts to the community for the primary project strategy chosen by the City.
  - A summary of the Group’s efforts to review and monitor the preparation of the Long Term Control Plan Update, including a list of significant issues, if any.
  - A summary of the Group’s efforts to disseminate information to the public about the Long Term Control Plan Update.
  - A summary of the public input received by the Group during development of the Long Term Control Plan Update.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.

The following is a summary of the types of questions asked by members of the CSS Stakeholder Group or members of the public and the answers provided by City staff and consultants. This summary discusses the general concepts and not the individual questions verbatim.

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### *How does the Hunting Creek TMDL apply to the combined sewer system?*

The Hunting Creek TMDL, issued by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, provides a “budget” for the *E. coli* bacteria that can be discharged and still meet the water quality standards issued by the Environmental Protection Agency of “swimmable and fishable”. The “budget” contains many sources of *E. coli* including combined sewer overflows (CSOs), stormwater, wildlife, the treated effluent from Alexandria Renew Enterprises wastewater treatment facility, as well as others. The Hunting Creek TMDL requirements necessitate that the *E. coli* bacteria from the City’s CSO-002 outfall (at the base of Royal Street) must be reduced by 80% and that the CSO-003 and CSO-004 outfalls (just south of Duke Street in Hooffs Run) must be reduced by 99%, all based on rainfall data from the years 2004 and 2005.

It is important to note that the City’s CSO-001 site (located at the intersection of Pendleton Street and Union Street) discharges into Oronoco Bay and out into the Potomac River. Oronoco Bay is not included in the Hunting Creek TMDL and therefore, there are currently no regulatory requirements for the City to address CSO-001. However, the City is evaluating strategies that could be implemented at CSO-001 to reduce the discharges into Oronoco Bay and to help improve water quality and will be sharing this information with the CSS Stakeholder Group.

### *How will the City’s plan incorporate future regulatory stormwater requirements in other parts of the City?*

The City has a separate stormwater permit that requires reductions of pollutants in the City’s stormwater discharges between now and Year 2028. The City is actively working to meeting these reductions. In addition to the work done on the stormwater side, the Long Term Control Plan Update can also help to achieve the required stormwater pollutant reductions.

The shortlisted strategies are all store and treat strategies; this means they will store the combined sewer overflows (which are predominantly comprised of stormwater) until the wet weather event has passed and then pump them back to Alexandria Renew Enterprises (AlexRenew) for a high level of treatment. Since AlexRenew provides such a high level of treatment, this means that excess nitrogen, phosphorous, and suspended solids credits could be generated. The City is confident that by working with the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, these credits can be applied to stormwater discharges elsewhere in the City.

### *What are the current cost estimates and what is the timeline for construction?*

The shortlist of alternatives contains combinations of deep storage tunnels and underground storage tanks. Based on the preliminary estimates developed thus far, the costs could range from \$100 million to \$200 million. These are preliminary cost estimates so the level of accuracy is assumed to be within -30% to +50%. Based on the City’s current CSS Permit, once the Long Term Control Plan Update is approved by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality infrastructure to store and treat combined sewer flows must be

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constructed no later than 2035. However, the City anticipates starting major capital projects in the next few years in addition to their ongoing efforts.

*Will the CSS Stakeholder Group evaluate other strategies/controls other than the top three shortlisted strategies?*

The CSS Stakeholder Group will not evaluate other strategies/controls, the charge of the group is to provide input and recommendations on the three shortlisted strategies only. At the request of the Group, City staff can present in detail how the shortlisted strategies were determined. It should be noted that although green infrastructure is one of the shortlisted strategies since it does not meet the goals of the Hunting Creek TMDL, it will be considered as a complementary strategy and input from the Group will help to finalize its level of implementation.

There were two items that were deferred and will be addressed at the next meeting:

1. Scheduling a potential field visit for the group to see the outfalls as well as the AlexRenew treatment plant; and
2. Setting a regular meeting date and time for future CSS Stakeholder Group meetings.

The next CSS Stakeholder Group meeting will be **Monday, November 2, 2015 from 7-9pm** in the Sister Cities Conference Room 1101.