

**Environmental Policy Commission Minutes
September 16, 2013 EPC Regular Meeting
City Hall, Room 1101**

EPC Members in Attendance

✓	Scott Barstow	✓	Jim Kapsis	✓	Steve Walz
✓	Sam Gaugush	✓	Kurt Moser	X	Ryan Wojtanowski
X	Geoffrey Goode	X	Josh Sawislak		
✓	Patrick Holman	✓	Ryan Sloan		
X	Rebecca Jablon	✓	Monica Starnes		

[✓ = In attendance X = Absent]

City Staffin Attendance

Bill Eger, Claudia Hamlin-Katnik, Dan Imig, Jim Roberts, Bill Skrabak, Khoa Tran

Begin 7:30 PM

Welcome and Introductions

Public Comments

- None

Alex Renew Update – Karen Pallansch, CEO, Alex Renew

- Provided an overview of AlexRenew history and operations within Alexandria City and neighboring regions, including the name change that took effect in April 2012 (formerly Alexandria Sanitation Authority)
- Provided an update/overview on the State-of-the-Art Nitrogen Upgrade Program (SANUP), which reflects a successful teaming arrangement with the Carlisle Development Group and the neighborhood at-large; also included at this location is a new wet weather pumping station to significantly improve TMDL from CSO 004, with a potential for CSO 003
- Provided an update on Four Mile Run Pump Station Upgrade project; as a result of public outreach, AlexRenew is exploring cost-effective educational landscaping outside Cora Kelly Elementary School
- Provided an update on AlexRenew reclaimed water initiative (purple pipe). Carlisle Development will be a customer; will work with Covanta to gauge interest in building infrastructure in the Eisenhower corridor
 - Covanta has run laboratory tests on water purity and found no issues; a larger issue is the projected return on investment of installing a purple distribution line
- In October, AlexRenew will begin cleaning and inspecting the Potomac Interceptor to reduce the potential for sewage and debris backup; work will be done after 10pm; significant public outreach is occurring in advance of start-up.
- The Board of Directors for AlexRenew approved new rates on July 23; consumers using less than 45k gallons will see lower rates; reflect stabilization of rates moving forward; bay protection charge remains the same
 - J. Kapsis asked how rates had previously been kept stable. Previously, there was a reliance on grants and keeping operations and maintenance and construction steady, well planned and forward looking, and debt appropriately balanced.

- An open house is scheduled for October 12 from 10am to 2pm and will include rain barrel demonstrations

VA Stormwater Management Act, Chesapeake Bay TMDL, MS4, VSMP Regulations, CSO Permit – Dr. Claudia Hamblin-Katnik, Watershed Administrator, T&ES/OEQ

- Provided an overview on current actions regarding the development of a city ordinance to balance regulatory needs defined by Article 13 of the Virginia Storm Water Management Act.
- Four elements interrelate that feed Alexandria City ordinance discussions: Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4) permit, Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL), Combined Sewer System (CSS) permit, and Virginia Storm Water Management Program (VSMP)
 - The combined impact is that the quantity and quality of storm water discharges become much more stringent; the interrelated nature creates significant challenges in balancing actions.
- A final draft of the ordinance is due to Virginia Department of Environmental Quality by December 15, 2013; it must be approved by Council by April 1, 2014, and put into effect by July 1, 2014.
- J. Kapsis questioned the budget impact of the new ordinance. Staff responded that it will likely result in more inspections, that may be offset by the collection of fees above the state minimum; this is an acceptable course of action, as this is a component of the existing ordinance
- S. Walz questioned how the city was going about public outreach. Staff responded that while no outreach was mandated for updating the ordinance, it is being conducted in conjunction with other related permitting. The city has gone above and beyond in many respects, including protection of intermittent streams through novel implementation that provides greater discretion to users with greater benefits
- S. Walz questioned how the ordinance would handle discharges during rain events. City staff responded that they were being proactive in preparing for such events, including integrating green infrastructure into the CSO and updating signs with pictograms to warn against use near outfalls following rain events. The CSO permit is also structured to minimize impacts that might result from rain events (e.g., 5 million gallon surge capacity)

Green Sidewalks, Stormwater BMP Design Guidelines for Rights-of-Way - Daniel Imig, T&ES/OEQ & Jim Roberts, P&Z

- Provided an overview of the use of green sidewalks, noting their value for reducing sediment, phosphorous and nitrogen from entering the storm system and ultimately the Chesapeake Bay; they will primarily be used for new road/intersections required for development.
- Design guidelines have been drafted; the process started in March 2012 and has involved interactions with design experts and consultants, as well as third party structural reviews. Reached out to Northern Virginia Building Industry Association
- Plan would be for developers to install and city to maintain (although it is recognized that the owner of the property would have interest in maintaining the cleanliness; negotiation would occur regarding the aesthetics of the applications (e.g., tree wells and continuous strips).
- Public outreach will occur in September 2013; plan to bring to the Planning and Zoning Commission and the City Council in the Fall/Winter timeframe
- Potentially, these guidelines may be used in improvements along the Eisenhower corridor, as well as in the Beauregard Master Plan.

- M. Starnes questioned what incentives exist to compel the adoption of these features. Staff responded that it will be a mandate in new construction; also, the use of collected storm water can lessen need to purchase water
- P. Holman questioned whether there will be flexibility in the application of guidance. City staff responded that instances would be reviewed on a case-by-case basis
- K. Moser questioned whether there are any gains in using pervious surfaces. City staff responded that they are optimistic that this will be the case, but it will be handled on a case-by-case basis, focusing on redevelopment opportunities (e.g., small area planning)
- J. Kapsis questioned the impact of the features on green space goaling vis a vis development. City staff responded that the impact would be less than 5 percent; 1-2% at the most.
- S. Walz questioned whether the type of trees and other plant species were covered in the guidance. City staff responded that they were and that the types were chosen for adaptability to different temperature conditions.

EPC Annual Retreat Follow-up – Eco-City Budget

- Discussion of issues related to an Eco-City budget was deferred to the next meeting; there was general agreement that the EPC should develop a letter of support for City Council consideration in the FY 2015 budget process, and that EPC members should conduct outreach with council members.

Staff and Commission Member Updates

- R. Sloan and S. Walz spoke regarding an upcoming public meeting to discuss bike lanes on King St. between Russell St and Janney's Lane, to be held on September 18.
- City staff noted that there are two EPC positions open; discussion was held regarding the classification of the open positions (i.e., citizen or special professional field members)
- City staff updated the EPC on on-going discussions regarding air permitting and the proposed increase in off-loading of ethanol at the Norfolk Southern facility
 - It is likely that Norfolk Southern is exempt from additional air permitting requirements; Norfolk Southern has requested a final determination.
 - Observed better communication between Norfolk Southern, the city and surrounding communities; even if the exemption is affirmed, DEQ will hold a public information meeting.

Adjourn 9:15 PM