



**TOWN OF CARRBORO
STORMWATER ADVISORY COMMISSION
AGENDA**

March 9th, 2022; 6:30 pm
Remote Meeting

| <u>Time</u> | <u>Item</u> | <u>Presenter</u> |
|--------------------|--|-------------------------|
| 6:30 pm | Administrative Matters: Call to order, approval of minutes | Chair, all |
| 6:35 pm | Public comment | Chair, all |
| 6:40 pm | Stormwater Staff Update | Staff, all |
| 7:15 pm | Announcements and adjourn | Chair |

Citizens (other than Commission members) should email stormwater@townofcarrboro.org to receive an invitation to view the meeting. The requester should also specify if they wish to make any comments in the email. If you wish to make public comment, at the time of public comment, the speakers will be allowed to address the Commission. Please send any written statement or materials to the same email provided above. All written statement and materials will be forwarded to the Commission members.

TOWN OF CARRBORO



STORMWATER ADVISORY COMMISSION - SUMMARY

Remote Meeting on February 9th, 6:30 pm (Zoom)

| Commission Members | | Staff |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| Jeanette O'Connor (chair) | John Cox (vice-chair) | Emily Cochran |
| Robert Dickson | Michael Paul | Randy Dodd |
| Lauren Joca | Aja Kelleher (absent) | |
| Sammy Slade (Council) | | |

Administrative Matters

Minutes from January were approved unanimously.

Stormwater Staff Update

The SWAC discussed the recent decision to change the location of the future Arts Center and water quality concerns regarding brine being used for winter weather response. Staff provided a presentation on recent work in the Stormwater Division to supplement the staff memo. The SWAC discussed the West Main Street conveyance project, ARPA fund availability for stormwater projects, mapping flood events, prioritizing social and racial justice in capacity building and grant applications for climate resiliency projects. Jeanette indicated that she will plan to continue discussions with the Affordable Housing Commission chair to coordinate shared interests.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:53 pm.



TOWN OF CARRBORO

NORTH CAROLINA

TRANSMITTAL: STORMWATER UTILITY

DELIVERED VIA: HAND MAIL FAX EMAIL

To: Stormwater Advisory Commission (SWAC)
From: Randy Dodd, Stormwater Utility Manager
Heather Holley, Stormwater Specialist
Emily Cochran, Stormwater Administrator
Cc: Daniel Snipes, Acting Public Works Director
Date: March 4th, 2022
Subject: Staff Update on Stormwater Program Activities

Summary

The purpose of this memo is to provide the Stormwater Advisory Commission (SWAC) with an update related to recent Stormwater program activities. The SWAC is also referred to the most recent [Stormwater monthly report](#) provided to the Town Council, noting that some new content has been added. Much of the material provided below is repeated from the February 4th memo; new material is underlined for emphasis.

Information

NPDES Permit Compliance and Related Program Activities

Staff have shared information about an audit in recent months of the Town's NPDES stormwater permit and subsequent updating of the permit's [Stormwater Management Plan](#) and reissuance of the permit. NPDES permits require the implementation of a comprehensive stormwater management program to reduce pollutants in stormwater runoff based upon implementation of six Minimum Control Measures (MCMs): Public Education & Outreach; Public Involvement & Participation; Illicit Discharge Detection & Elimination; Construction Site Runoff Controls; Post-Construction Site Runoff Controls; Pollution Prevention & Good Housekeeping for Municipal Operations. NPDES training for Town staff is underway. The training is being done by Stormwater staff starting with Public Works staff. Each Department is receiving training separately establishing the anniversary date for required annual training going forward.

SCM Maintenance and Inspection

For the past 15 months, staff have been communicating with property owners (Homeowners Associations, commercial and others) regarding their responsibility to maintain and inspect the Stormwater Control Measures (SCMs) on their properties. A total of 50 responsible entities have been contacted, representing 175 SCMs, with varying levels of compliance. Of those contacted, 11 responsible parties (41 SCMs) have completed their inspection report and are in full compliance, 17 parties (75 SCMs) have completed an inspection report but have repairs due, and 19 parties (46 SCMs) are not yet due to submit an inspection report. Potential challenges going forward include: a) the large expense associated with major repairs/rehabilitating

failed/compromised structures built many decades ago; b) the initial communication of responsibility to an apparently new requirement, and c) possession of accurate paper or digital construction plans or other files showing these structures. Staff have developed a program SOP and Owner Guide, made numerous revisions to templates in response to participation in the program, and are continuing to progress in catering the program to responsible parties' needs and reactions. The Stormwater Administrator will be presenting a poster showcasing the development of the post-construction program at the 2022 Operation and Maintenance of Stormwater Control Measures Conference organized by the Environmental & Water Resources Institute of the American Society of Civil Engineers from March 13th to 16th.

Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination Program

Staff continue to further develop and refine the IDDE program. Staff are mentoring a UNC student who is assisting in the outfall inspections and utilizing GIS to aid in analysis. At this time, all scheduled 2022 outfall inspections (16 total) have been performed with varying success. Several outfalls will be changed or removed in the GIS inventory, one undetermined discharge was identified, and several structures have been flagged for condition assessment. Staff are also collaborating with UNC, the Town of Chapel Hill, OWASA and the Orange County Environmental Health Department in formalizing inter-agency response to sewage spills and coordinating swimming pool discharges in each stormwater jurisdiction. So far, there has been an increase in communication sharing and supportive reinforcement of compliance between agencies.

319 Grant Application

In April 2021, staff presented information about an EPA 319 grant opportunity to pursue watershed restoration (stormwater/ephemeral stream channel activities in the Bolin Forest neighborhood) to the SWAC. The SWAC and Town Council endorsed submitting an application which happened in May. NCDEQ and EPA approved the grant application, and the Town Council authorized moving forward with the project in January. Staff have completed the administrative steps to initiate the project and begun coordination with the many project partners. Surveying work is currently active. An important next step will be procuring engineering services, an RFQ is planned for release in March. More information is available at [this link](#).

Capital Projects

In 2019, the Town Council directed staff to study the High St., Dillard St., Goldston Ave, and W. Main St. drainage system and identify potential improvements. Sungate Design Group completed a conceptual plan in 2020 and the Town Council approved moving forward with the project in June, 2021. The improvements will redirect some of the runoff from High Street, all of which currently flows along Goldston Drive, to West Main Street, thereby reducing the impacts along and downstream of Goldston Drive. Staff have reviewed the study with NCDOT since the improvements would direct more water to the West Main Street underground stormwater infrastructure, and determined that the West Main system is adequately sized and in suitable condition to accept the additional drainage. Preliminary engineering work has been completed and the project construction bid is planned for release in March, this has been delayed because of the time/effort involved in obtaining easements and an NCDOT encroachment agreement. More information is available at <http://www.townofcarrboro.org/2547/Main-Street-at-High-Street-Improvement-Project>.

As one input into planning for future projects, staff are in the early stages of pursuing a stormwater infrastructure condition assessment and will be providing additional information at future SWAC meetings and creating a website. The purpose of this work will be to comprehensively assess all above and below ground stormwater infrastructure that the Town is responsible for. Staff are currently: actively updating the infrastructure inventory; researching approaches for completing condition assessments; coordinating with annually recurring Powell Bill sponsored street maintenance plans; including a request for funding this work as part of the FY23 operating budget submittal; and planning for pursuing this work incrementally over several years with a combination of staff and contracted work. Staff have also initiated planning for potential future green stormwater infrastructure projects at Town facilities and in Town maintained rights of way.

Community Outreach and Engagement

A town wide website revamp is under way. Staff have been editing and creating web content for the new webpages to make Stormwater pages streamlined, easier to navigate, accessible, and more informative. Website will tentatively go live later in March.

March 12th through the 19th, Carrboro Stormwater is partnering with Orange County, UNC-CH, Chapel Hill, and Hillsborough for the First Annual Orange County Creek Week. Orange County has agreed to host a permanent website for the event that will contain links to resources, educational content, and a calendar for all partner events. More information is available at: <https://www.orangecountync.gov/2887/Creek-Week>, <https://www.orangecountync.gov/2905/Creek-Week-Events>.

Stormwater's Annual Joint Clean-up event with Chapel Hill will be virtual again this year and will be part of the Orange County Creek Week events.

Staff will man a table at Carrboro's 2022 Open Streets on Sunday, April 3rd from 12 to 4pm.

If SWAC members are interested in volunteering for Creek Week events, or any other upcoming outreach events, contact Heather Holley at hholley@carrboronc.gov.

RainReady Study Follow Up and Flood Resilience Framework

The Town Council received a RainReady report from the Center for Neighborhood Technology (CNT) in May, 2020 that provided the Town with recommendations for expanding residential scale green infrastructure and resilience efforts. CNT worked with staff and the Stormwater Advisory Commission and the Commission submitted review comments as part of the effort. The SWAC also received a staff report on resilience in June, 2021 and additional follow up in the fall of 2021, and provided additional comments. Staff continue to pursue this, with active work including but not limited to: drafting of a town wide flood resilience framework; exploring obtaining contractual support with single family residential scale technical assistance/assessments; and compiling and publishing a directory of contractors available to provide assistance to residents.

Staff will provide an update on these activities with additional details at the meeting.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the SWAC receive the staff update.