

**The Role of Regional Ponds  
In Fairfax County's  
Watershed Management**

**APPENDICES**

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**Prepared by**

**Environmental Coordinating Committee  
Regional Pond Subcommittee  
Fairfax County, Virginia**

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## Related Materials and Policy Statements\*

- S. January 23, 1989 Board Action Item - Report on Review of Safety and Liability of Stormwater Detention Ponds containing:
  - Nine recommendations
  - Approval of Regional Stormwater Management Plan as first recommendation
- T. August 5, 1991 Board Information Item - Status Report on Implementation of Safety and Liability Recommendation for Stormwater Management Ponds with the Regional Stormwater Management Implementation Procedures
- U. August 2, 1993 Board Action Item - Implementation of the Forested Wetlands Committee Recommendations to minimize Disturbance of Wetlands During Implementation of Regional Stormwater Management Ponds with the Forested Wetland Committee Report

- V. February 26, 1996 Board Information Item - Notification Procedures for Roadway Capital Construction Projects Involving the Repair and Replacement of Existing Facilities
- W. December 1998, Fairfax County Park Authority Policy Manual – Policy 304, Regional Storm Water Management
- X. 2000 Policy Plan - Fairfax County Comprehensive Plan, Environment ([http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/comprehensive\\_plan/main.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/comprehensive_plan/main.htm))
- Y. October 2, 2001, Letter to Industry #01-11 - Revised Procedures for Requests to Use Innovative Best Management Practices (<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/gov/DPWES/publications/LTI/01-11.pdf>)
- Z. May 14, 2002, Letter to Industry #02-06 - Innovative BMPs – Enhanced Extended Detention Dry Ponds Now Acceptable for Public Maintenance in Residential Areas and on Governmental Sites (<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/gov/DPWES/publications/LTI/02-06.pdf>)
- AA. August 21, 2002, Memorandum - County Practices Related to Stormwater Facilities and Mosquito Control
- BB. 2003 Fairfax County Regional Pond Program Status

\* Copies of these Appendices may be obtained by contacting the Stormwater Planning Division of the Fairfax County Department of Public Works and Environmental Services at (703) 324-5500.

# **REGIONAL POND SUBCOMMITTEE CHARTER**

Formation of a Regional Pond Subcommittee to give recommendations to the Environmental Coordinating Committee on the issue of Regional Ponds as a watershed management tool.

## **Preamble**

On January 28, 2002, the Board of Supervisors directed staff to form a multi-agency committee to develop a unified position on the use of regional ponds as well as other alternative types of stormwater controls as watershed management tools. In addition, on February 25, 2002, the Board directed staff to review the issues outlined in an EQAC resolution (see Attachment 1) regarding regional stormwater management. The resolution raised issues concerning: the availability of advanced techniques for the management of stormwater; the review and revision of the County's Regional Stormwater Management Plan adopted in 1989 in the context of these new tools, the County's Stream Protection Strategy, the County's Master Watershed Plan, and the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act; the effects of waivers of stormwater detention and water quality requirements on stream quality; funding of regional ponds; analysis of the impact of regional ponds on stream ecosystems and morphology; and amendment to the Policy Plan portion of the Comprehensive Plan.

In response to the Board's requests, the Environmental Coordinating Committee formed a "Regional Pond Subcommittee," consisting of the Environmental Coordinator and members from the Department of Public Works and Environmental Services (DPWES), the Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA), the Department of Planning and Zoning (DPZ), the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District (NVSWCD), and the Environmental Quality Advisory Council (EQAC), to consider the motion and report back with a recommendation(s).

## **Background**

In the mid-1980's, Fairfax County commissioned a study to examine approximately 100 square miles of the western portion of the County for potential regional stormwater management pond sites. The study was initiated to address water quality issues on a countywide basis. These "regional ponds," which could control larger watersheds (100 to 300 acres) and reduce the maintenance burden to the County by reducing the total number of ponds that would be required to be maintained if they were constructed on individual developments, were viewed as a cost effective means of controlling erosion and flooding that resulted from increased storm flows associated with development.

On January 23, 1989, the Board of Supervisors adopted the Regional Stormwater Management Plan for managing stormwater countywide. The original plan identified 134 sites for building regional ponds that would primarily control stormwater runoff to reduce peak flow rates, prevent erosion and flooding, and improve water quality. Currently, approximately 140 regional ponds are included in the regional pond plan with 46 sites constructed and operational. In addition to regional stormwater ponds, other stormwater management practices were continued or

## **Regional Pond Subcommittee Charter (Continued)**

established in order to support regional water quality efforts and the County's own policies. Developments continue to be approved and constructed under this plan.

Fairfax County continued to witness an evolution of new federal and state guidelines and regulations regarding stormwater controls and best management practices to reduce not only erosion and flooding, but also nutrients and sediment from entering into the Chesapeake Bay. Under the County's Chesapeake Bay Preservation Ordinance, Resource Protection Areas (RPAs) were designated along streams throughout the County. All other areas were designated as Resource Management Areas. Because dry ponds designed solely to provide quantity controls do not adequately filter nutrients and sediment, retrofit efforts were undertaken to determine the feasibility to modify existing stormwater control ponds to include nutrient and sediment controls to comply with the new discharge permit requirements. In September 1998, the County launched a Stream Protection Strategy Study. The Stream Protection Strategy Report, published in January 2001, gave a temporal view of the condition of the County's streams. In October 2001, the County launched a watershed planning initiative for all watersheds over a 5-7 year period.

Since the adoption of the regional pond program, there have been advances in the way stormwater is managed, including managing stormwater as close to the source as practicable. These better site design and low-impact development methods use a combination of innovative techniques and practices to reduce, detain, retain and filter stormwater closer to the source. These practices can be implemented separately, incorporated as part of an overall stormwater management plan, or used to retrofit existing systems. In October 2000, the Board of Supervisors approved a Policy Plan Amendment that established an explicit objective for the protection and restoration of the ecological integrity of streams and that encouraged the use of better site design and low-impact development practices.

### **Objectives**

The Regional Pond Subcommittee will provide recommendations to the Environmental Coordinating Committee regarding the use of regional ponds as well as other innovative and non-structural techniques as part of watershed management. The focus of the effort is to determine in a deliberate and comprehensive way whether modifications to current practices, policies and regulations would be beneficial. The mission objectives include:

1. **Developing** a work program for the approval of the Environmental Coordinating Committee, with time lines, responsibilities, and overseeing progress on the work program to guide the effort.
2. **Identifying** and defining issues or questions to be addressed to develop a greater understanding of the relationships between and among: watershed management and regional ponds or other stormwater practices and innovative techniques; current Comprehensive Plan guidance regarding stream protection; current federal and state regulations and initiatives; the Public Facilities Manual; other local regulations; maintenance considerations; and fiscal considerations.

## **Regional Pond Subcommittee Charter (Continued)**

3. **Reviewing and assessing** current practices, policies and regulations as they relate to the issues identified in objective #2 above.
4. **Assessing** alternative stormwater management approaches within the context of issues identified in objective #2 above.
5. **Coordinating** a discussion of the issues, questions and ideas among the various responsible agencies and stakeholders concerning practices, policies and regulations to assist in developing recommendations on watershed management tools.
6. **Evaluating** stakeholder input and formulating recommendations for implementing new or enhanced practices, policies and/or regulations, taking care to integrate the recommendations with other agency initiatives, such as those developed by the Tree Preservation Task Force, the Infill and Residential Development Study, the Stream Protection Strategy, and the Watershed Management Plans.
7. **Developing** an action plan for the adoption of recommended countywide practices, policies and regulations.

## **Structure and Composition of the Subcommittee**

The Regional Pond Subcommittee shall consist of the following members:

- Robert McLaren – EQAC
- Stella Koch – EQAC
- Diane Hoffman – NVSWCD
- Asad Rouhi – NVSWCD
- Valerie Tucker – DPWES
- Paul Shirey – DPWES
- Evelyn Kiley – DPWES
- Fred Rose – DPWES
- Don Demetrius – DPWES
- Scott R. St. Clair – DPWES
- Carl E. Bouchard – DPWES
- Noel Kaplan – DPZ
- Kambiz Agazi – Environmental Coordinator
- Todd Bolton – FCPA
- Irish Grandfield – FCPA

## **Role of Members**

The Regional Pond Subcommittee will operate in a participative manner, whereby each member has equal standing and the opportunity to present individual points of view.

## **Quorum**

A quorum of eight members is required for Subcommittee meetings.

## **Regional Pond Subcommittee Charter (Continued)**

### **Meetings**

The Subcommittee will meet on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month beginning at 1:30 p.m.

### **Process for Making Recommendations**

Every effort will be made to achieve consensus on recommendations. However, in the absence of consensus, a vote of at least 12 members will be required to forward a recommendation to the ECC. Members may vote electronically in favor of a recommendation.

### **Relationship with Other Groups**

The Regional Pond Subcommittee reports to the ECC. The Subcommittee will consider and attempt to integrate the recommendations of other County policy development efforts in its deliberations.

### **Role of DPWES in Support of the Subcommittee**

DPWES is the convener of the Regional Pond Subcommittee. The ECC recognizes that some Subcommittee alternatives may not be consistent with DPWES's regulatory and management responsibilities. In particular, DPWES must continue to consider stormwater detention waiver requests, accept pro-rata contributions, and work to implement the current regional pond plan. To the extent possible, these considerations will be identified and discussed during the Subcommittee's deliberations.

### **Final Report**

The final report to the ECC will consist of recommendations with supporting narrative summarizing the findings upon which the recommendations are based.

### **Progress Reports**

The Regional Pond Subcommittee will provide monthly reports to the ECC.

### **Chair of the Regional Pond Subcommittee**

The Subcommittee will select its own chair.

## REGIONAL POND SUBCOMMITTEE WORK PLAN

ECC Approval of Regional Pond Subcommittee Charter	April 15, 2002
Issue identification by subcommittee (identification of scope of research and review)	April 2002
Review and summarize current policy, regulations, practices	April 15 - July 13, 2002
Research experiences of other jurisdictions (Includes policies, successes, failures)	April 15 - July 13, 2002
Review what is being done in Fairfax County (Includes remediation, rehabilitation, innovation)	April 15 - July 13, 2002
Review adaptability and feasibility of alternatives to regional ponds (Includes research of commercially available alternatives)	April 15 - August 13, 2002
Engage representative stakeholders from the business community, environmental organizations, and homeowner associations in discussions of the issues, questions, and ideas concerning policy, regulations, and practices	September 2002
Draft conceptual recommendations for change (Includes policy, PFM, non-structural measures, structural alternatives, plans and other items, ways to handle pro rata)	September-October 15, 2002
Completion of subcommittee recommendations	October 15, 2002
ECC review of subcommittee recommendations	November 2002 ECC Meeting
Finalize ECC recommendations to the BOS and forward a report and recommendations to the BOS	December 2002
BOS endorsement/approval of ECC recommendations	January 2003
Implement BOS-endorsed recommendations, with Public input when appropriate	TBD