

**FAIRFAX COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
JUNE 20, 2013**

PRESENT: James R. Hart, Chairman, Commissioner At-Large
Ellen J. Hurley, Braddock District
Jay P. Donahue, Dranesville District
Frank A. de la Fe, Hunter Mill District
Timothy J. Sargeant, At-Large
Janyce N. Hedetniemi, At-Large

ABSENT: Kenneth A. Lawrence, Providence District

OTHERS: Earl L. Flanagan, Mount Vernon District
James T. Migliaccio, Lee District
Inda Stagg, Senior Urban Planner, Walsh, Colucci, Lubeley, Emrich & Walsh, PC
Pamela Nee, Assistant Director, Department of Planning and Zoning (DPZ)
Elisabeth Smith, Stormwater Planning Division, Department of Public Works and Environmental Services (DPWES)
Eric Brunner, Office of Design and Construction, Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS)
Kimberly Bassarab, Assistant Director, Planning Commission (PC) Office
Jeanette Nord, Deputy Clerk to the Planning Commission, PC Office

ATTACHMENT:

A. Stormwater Management Partnership

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Chairman James R. Hart called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., in the Board Conference Room of the Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, Virginia 22035.

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Commissioner Hart explained that the committee would receive a presentation regarding the stormwater management partnership between the Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) and the Department of Public Works and Environmental Services (DPWES). He introduced Elisabeth Smith from the Stormwater Planning Division, DPWES, and Eric Brunner from the Office of Design and Construction, FCPS.

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PARTNERSHIP

Ms. Smith stated that the partnership between the agencies had begun two years ago, but accelerated with regard to stormwater management. She noted that county agencies were required to meet the requirements of the Clean Water Act, adding that DPWES relied on county agencies like FCPS to meet its own requirements as well as those for DPWES. She added that

the Board of Supervisors had directed the agencies to collaborate in order to share some of their stormwater management responsibilities, particularly since FCPS owned property and had some expertise. She said that DPWES personnel had noticed that FCPS frequently provided capital improvements to its properties and suggested combining some of their projects to maximize and possibly enhance the stormwater treatment better than the Schools Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) might otherwise do. As a result, Ms. Smith said that DPWES no longer had to seek contractors, bid/select contracts, or perform contract administration, and FCPS exceeded some of stormwater requirements, thereby providing a benefit to the community and county as a whole.

Mr. Brunner pointed out that the improvements made through this partnership were over and above the requirements set forth in the county's Public Facilities Manual (PFM). When Commissioner de la Fe asked if the requirements would be met without having to request waivers, Mr. Brunner acknowledged that while requests for waivers seemed excessive at times, some of the FCPS properties were so small and limited, that there was no other choice but to request a waiver of some kind. He pointed out, however, that the final development in this case would have better stormwater management.

Commissioner Hurley asked how the partnership might affect schools located in environmentally sensitive areas. Ms. Smith explained that the county was no different than any developer and would comply with state and local regulations, in addition to providing enhancements to the existing systems. Additional discussion followed regarding best management practices (BMP) at two of the local schools, wherein Ms. Smith explained that the partnership would pay the difference in cost to provide a better and more efficient system.

When Commissioner Flanagan asked for clarification regarding the enhancements provided by DPWES Ms. Smith explained that FCPS would meet the requirements set forth in the PFM; however, for properties developed prior to the passage of the Clean Water Act, the requirements would not be the same as those for new construction, so the partnership would provide additional improvements to meet current standards.

Commissioner Hart referenced the difficult issues that had risen with the Sunrise Valley and Terraset Elementary Schools. Mr. Brunner explained that those experiences helped the partnership to focus on meeting the requirements in the regulations and implementing innovative practices.

Commissioner Hedetniemi asked whether the partnership was short-term or not and, if it was meant to be long-term, would a memorandum of agreement be established. Ms. Smith said that it would be a long-term partnership, but added that no written agreement had been drafted, since the partnership was in its early stages. Commissioner Hedetniemi acknowledged that the partnership was new and unique; however, having a written account of the events, procedures, and an agreement would benefit the other partnerships that followed.

Commissioner Hurley asked about athletic fields on school property and how they would be funded. Mr. Brunner stated that there had been a discussion about public/private funding. Ina Stagg, Senior Urban Planner with Walsh, Colucci, Lubeley, Emrich & Walsh, PC, said that such funding occurred in districts where a great deal of development took place, with proffered

commitments that facilitated the development of those fields. When Commissioner Flanagan asked about consideration of turf fields in the Mount Vernon District, Mr. Brunner said the same financing model would apply, adding that FCPS would partner with the Park authority and other entities, as well as developers in cases where county park land might lie adjacent to schools.

Ms. Smith described the Stormwater Management Partnership process from the first meeting with consultants through funding to FCPS for stormwater enhancements. In addition, she described current projects at Sunrise Valley, Ravensworth, and Keene Mill Elementary Schools and briefly detailed the enhancements on each site.

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There was a brief discussion regarding options for water usage for property maintenance, wherein Mr. Brunner explained that the partnership had reviewed several options, including rainwater and UV-treated water.

When Commissioners Hart and Flanagan asked additional questions about rainwater detention and usage, Ms. Smith noted that the partnership intended to move into public outreach and education on water purification, phosphorous reduction, and monitoring systems.

Ms. Smith explained that some of the athletic fields were scheduled to be re-seeded/replanted, assuring committee members that none of those fields would be removed or changed in any other way, particularly considering the level of activity taking place on the fields. She went reviewed a list of schools with improvements already in progress, as well as those scheduled for improvements in 2016 or 2017.

Commissioner Flanagan noted that several schools in Ms. Smith's presentation were in the Mount Vernon District and asked when community outreach might begin. Ms. Smith said that it would begin later in the year, with Mr. Brunner adding that construction would not begin until 2016. Ms. Smith added that a consultant had been hired to provide suggestions for improvements, ranging from structural additions to nutrient management plans and dumpster replacement programs. She further added that the partnership would incorporate state and local watershed plans into the program.

Mr. Brunner pointed out that he and Ms. Smith were working on ways to make impervious areas, such as courtyards, teaching and/or outdoor learning spaces. Commissioner de la Fe pointed out that some of the elementary schools in Reston provided classes outdoors and suggested that Mr. Brunner review the curriculums.

Commissioner Hurley expressed concern about snow removal and cited a case during a storm in 2010 where snow had been removed from one site and placed in the courtyard at another school. Mr. Brunner explained that outreach between county agencies had improved since the partnership had formed and acknowledged Commissioner Hurley's concern. He also explained

that communications had improved considerably among the additional partnerships with the Park Authority and other agencies to mitigate such situations from occurring again.

Commissioner Hart thanked Mr. Brunner and Ms. Smith invited them to return if and when they wished. Ms. Smith said that as the program began to gather more speed, she believed it would be approximately six to nine months.

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Commissioner Hart announced that the Committee would meet again on the following dates:

- Thursday, July 18 (EV Infrastructure)
- Thursday, July 25 (EV Infrastructure)
- Thursday, September 19, 2013 (Briefing on proposed changes to the Stormwater Management Ordinance)

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The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 p.m.
James R. Hart, Chairman

An audio recording of this meeting is available in the Planning Commission Office, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Suite 330, Fairfax, Virginia 22035.

Minutes by: Jeanette Nord

Approved: January 14, 2015



John W. Cooper, Clerk to the
Fairfax County Planning Commission