

**DERRY TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY
STORMWATER STAKEHOLDERS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING #2 SUMMARY: JANUARY 27, 2016**

Meeting #2 – Stormwater Program Development (Part 1)

MEETING NOTES

1) Recap, News & Updates

- DTMA launched new website which will contain Stormwater & SAC pages (www.dtma.com)
- Revision to Authority's Articles of Incorporation approved by Township on January 26th. (Submission for Commonwealth approval planned for February)
- DTMA's bond council determined existing Trust Indenture allows DTMA to borrow from sanitary sewer reserves to fund stormwater startup costs. (Borrowed costs to be repaid.)

2) Revisit Roles of the Township, Authority and SAC

The proposed division of roles and responsibilities between the Township, DTMA and SAC for the revised stormwater management program were discussed. (Refer to power point presentation).

Questions/Comments:

- *"Is the website the primary vehicle to keep the public informed?"*

Response: It will be a multi-pronged approach. DTMA is currently considering the use of postcards, newspaper articles, public meetings, bill inserts, Township e-newsletter, etc. Authority's website has a tab for stormwater information, not a dedicated site. Information may also be disseminated through the Township's Facebook page.

A technique for getting the public to pay attention is to start off slow with releasing information and keep feeding more content at a faster pace as implementation of the fee gets closer. (Attendees agreed that beginning to provide information via a postcard or newsletter over the next month or two seemed to be an appropriate time to begin information the general public.)

- *"It may not be a bad idea to get ahead of press coverage via newspaper articles by providing them information ahead of time so that when they write the articles, they are educated on the issues."*

- “As the SAC, we previously discussed the importance of how this is positioned and the importance of the name. Has it been decided firmly that “Clean Water and Drainage Management Fee” is the name of this program?”

Response: Based upon internal meetings with DTMA and the Township, that is currently the preferred name at this time because it describes the benefits of this initiative. However, a definitive name has not been selected.

There was open discussion about the name and the need to keep it simple and positive. **Committee members determined “Stormwater Program Fee” abbreviated SPF is the preferred name.**

- *Has a fee already been established?*

Response: It has not. That is one of the main goals of this group to provide input on the Stormwater Management Program (SWMP) and associated annual revenue requirement that will drive the fee. Implementing the fee is still months away (likely fourth quarter of 2016).

Before we can establish a fee, we need to determine the priorities of the stormwater program and how much revenue should be put towards different functions of the program. DTMA will be looking for the SAC offer feedback on this topic. The discussions during the next couple of months will help us determine what the program will look like and the magnitude and structure of the fee.

- 1) SAC Members discussed services offered by the current stormwater program, along with the following elements:
 - General Functions of a Stormwater Utility
 - Requirements for MS4 Permit Compliance
 - Services Provided Through the Current Township Stormwater Program
 - How to Categorize the Functions of a Utility into Levels of Service (LOS)
 - Assessment of the LOS Provided by the Current Township Program
 - Township/HRG/SAD Identified Gaps in the Township’s Current Program.

Question was raised by HRG: What do you think the main function of a Stormwater Program should be?

Summary of Response: *Operation, maintenance, water quality, regulatory compliance, public educational component, public outreach, asset management, capital improvement planning, permitting, engineering and planning, financing, implementing capital improvement, monitoring and inspecting privately owned facilities, mapping, volume of flow, emergency planning, public safety*

- Question was raised and group discussed: On that list, What about encouraging the use of pervious surface? Should that be a goal of stormwater management? Also, the use of natural stormwater basins. This type would be part of the public education and outreach
- Question was raised by HRG: How many functions from our list do you think the Township is currently doing?

Response: *Sense is that we're doing most of these functions, but probably not as well as the Authority will be able to.*

Group discussed that overall, the Township's stormwater (SW) Program is more comprehensive than most municipalities in PA:

- They are in the process of transferring the SWMP to an established authority to create a dedicated and sustainable source of revenue for the system.
- The infrastructure is mapped,
- The PA DEP had no audit findings during the 2015 MS4 Audit
- In 2015, the Township completed a significant multi-year Stormwater/Sanitary Improvement Project, costing over \$7M. The project improved local drainage and enhanced wetlands and stream buffers.
- The Township has brought an SAC and the Authority members in as partners to provide support, feedback and recommendations regarding the stormwater program.
- Township has a person dedicated to street sweeping from March – December (roughly 75% of time) (each street swept roughly once/month). Also performs above ground analysis of inlets in need of repair.
- Township employs 2 crews focused on street and roadway work (roughly 8-9 people total). The crews spend roughly one week a year cleaning inlets, 20 days a year replacing inlets (amounts to 10-12 inlets a year) (~4,000 inlets total so inlet is rebuilt every 300 to 400 years +/-) and roughly 5 days a year cleaning up after storm events.
- Township crews also handle leaf collection.

Noted deficiencies of the current program include:

- The Township currently does not have staff available to perform inspections of privately owned infrastructure. Following initial construction, private infrastructure is only inspected if there's a reported problem.
- Significant portion of facilities anticipated to reach its useful life in next 10-20 years. (Roughly 60% of pipe is Corrugated Metal Pipe (CMP) which is 30-35 years old.)
- \$7M of drainage improvements completed last year and an additional \$20M to \$30M of improvements identified through planning efforts

- Condition of pipes largely unknown yet roughly 60% CMP therefore, likely reaching end of useful life in next 10-20 years.
- Tightening MS4 Permit requirements.

Questions/Comments:

- *Clean water should be thought of as a social responsibility.*
- *Until we see clean water in our stream, we are not doing enough.*

- Question was raised by HRG: Based upon what we've been talking about today, what LOS do you think the Township is currently providing?

Response: *Probably at the expanded level, between average and expanded.*

Response: Yes, based upon discussions with the Township, pipelines are likely classified as "Average" which means the O&M is responsive and improvements are focused on emergency repairs and critical needs with a minimal budget. The Inlets and basins are more closely linked to the Expanded LOS in which the O&M and capital projects are inspection based.

- Moving to a higher LOS would include:
- Focused efforts on condition assessment, asset management planning and capital improvement planning
- Cleaning and televising all stormwater infrastructure

- The condition assessment information would then be used to complete Asset Management Planning

- Asset management is a method that helps to predict when facilities may require renewal. Insufficient maintenance causes assets to fail prematurely, while excessive maintenance wastes money. Asset Management planning will provide better information as to how much should be budgeted each year for maintenance, rehab and replacement to ensure facilities are being handled in the most cost effective manner.

- Capital Improvement Planning will allow the stormwater service to move from reactionary to proactive. It will give the Authority members an overall understanding of the condition of the facilities and magnitude of need prior to implementing their first significant project. This allows the Authority to focus funds in the areas of greatest need.

- DTMA mentioned the goal to develop a standardized design manual for stormwater management.

- The provision of fee credits were discussed, including those for private versus public stormwater basins.
- *Suggestion was made to discuss the roles and responsibilities to have a better understanding of the authority which DTMA will have versus DEP versus Conservation District to gain further understanding of individual roles related to stormwater. (Potential idea for a future meeting.)*
- *Up to this point, has there been any determination of the average square footage of impervious surface in the township? Is there anything like that in existence at this time?*

Response: HRG is currently working to develop a better understanding of the average square footage per residential property. The best way to develop that is if you can have high resolution aerial photography and actually go through and get an impervious coverage layer developed through GIS. That cost to complete this effort is several hundreds of thousands of dollars. There may be opportunities for teaming with the County, US Army Corps of Engineers or other municipalities in the future. The way that we decided to do it is for non-residential properties we are pulling the land development records on file at the Township which show the percentage of impervious coverage. We are using that as a starting point. For the residential properties, we have divided the township in about 60 separate neighborhoods based on property size, development of property, and location. HRG has gone through and sampled homes in each neighborhood and to up with an average impervious area for each neighborhood. The average is coming up to 3,500 sq. feet per single family home, which has been the general standard in PA for other stormwater utilities that have been established.

- Generally, we'll establish an Equivalent Runoff Unit (ERU) which will be assigned to standard single family home properties. A tiered ERU system may be established for residential properties if there are significant deviations from this standard.

4) Costs associated with Current Stormwater Program

- Anticipated MS4 Permit Related Costs were discussed
- The rough estimate for the cost of the Current LOS was presented to be ~ \$1.1M per year over the first 5 years.

5) **Closing Questions and Discussion**

- *One question, the project recently completed by the Township which cost \$7 million, was that only a portion of the total recommended capital improvements for the township from the 2007 Capital Improvement Study? Were the remaining capital projects included in the \$1.1M annual budget?*

Response: Yes, a portion of the remaining projects were included.

Just to give you an order of magnitude on the sanitary sewer side, we have about 160 miles of sanitary sewer piping, the stormwater side is about 60 miles. When we do improvements on the sanitary side, a lot of it uses new technology which allows for pipes to be rehabilitated

without digging. Once condition assessment is completed for the stormwater system, DTMA will be better poised to use similar cost saving techniques to extend the overall life of the stormwater assets.

- *The vast majority of the money from the fee will go towards the capital projects and the operation and maintenance (O&M), is that the staff?*

Response: Ultimately, O&M costs include labor for staff doing the work to keep it clean. In terms of keeping it simple for the public, we need more money to replace our infrastructure, to pay people to keep it clean and to watch our water quality.

Until we get a handle on the assets and their condition, we'll be utilizing televising and flushing equipment from the sanitary side. It may take another person or two to man the equipment.

Wayne is meeting with the US Army Corp of Engineers (USACE) tomorrow to discuss an opportunity for partnering to receive USACE technical assistance for a 50/50 cost share to complete condition assessment and mapping to be able to extend the useful life of the pipe.

In order to maintain affordability, the program will not solve problems overnight, but if appropriately funded it will put in place the tools to be proactively operating and maintaining the facilities.

This is a long term program that we will look back on 10 years from now and say, wow, we really did that right. It costs more money to be proactive versus reactive.