

Stormwater Fee Committee
Monday, 26 Nov. 2018
6:00pm

Attending:

Committee Members:

Carl Simon, Vice Chair of the Committee
Dawn Rhodes, University of Maryland
Adeline Hutchinson, Gwynns Falls Watershed
Phil Lee, Moffatt & Nichol
Fran Flanigan, Jones Falls Watershed
Leanna Wetmore, Delegate for Adam Lindquist, The Waterfront Partnership
Bonnie Sorak, Faith-Based Institutions
Elisabeth Hyleck, Herring Run Watershed

DPW Representatives, Staff, & Guests:

Marcia Collins, DPW
Kristyn Oldendorf, DPW
Justin Lane, Staff to the Committee
Kimberly Brandt, Preservation Maryland,
Chair of the Green Team at the Shrine of the Sacred Heart (Jones Falls Watershed)

Absent:

Committee Members:

Eric Costello, Chair of the Committee
Adam Lindquist, Waterfront Partnership – sent L. Wetmore as Delegate
Jim Kraft
Pierce Flanigan
Josh Sharon, Delegate for Sean Davis

DPW Representative:

Kim Grove

Introductory Remarks & Remembrance of Peter Auchincloss

Introductions were made around the room and members of the committee remembered Peter Auchincloss, the driving force behind the creation of this committee, who passed away suddenly on 17 October.

Review & Approval of Meeting Notes

We need to bring the private sector to bear. Pay-for-Performance by Anne Arundel incorporates the private sector, but the funds primarily come from the State Highway Administration: Do this within parameters of stream restoration.

The objectives of each presentation: alternative means/methods of financing these projects—we will amend the minutes to include that statement.

Move to Approve Minutes as Amended

Yea – Unanimously carried

Reflections on Private Sector Briefing

City land is challenging because of soils and utilities. Lots of interesting ideas; we want to look at all possibilities. It would be helpful to see what other counties are doing.

All projects the City does have to include maintenance components in order to be credited with MDE.

Everything in the City is more expensive because a majority of land is privately held.

DPW is not necessarily opposed to any Pay for Performance models; it just needs to see what fits, what is cost-effective, and what will get the job done.

MS4: Easement: DPW can regularly inspect these developments to make sure they are being maintained, and let the property owner know what he or she needs to do in order to fix the problem.

Pay-for-Performance (Green Vest): an example where the private sector takes on the project risk.

At the end of the meeting, we will revisit the decision-making framework.

Nonprofit & Community Priorities

Shrine of the Sacred Heart Project Example / Incentives

The Sacred Heart Green Team worked with Blue Water Baltimore on Water Audit; captured water from rooftop, parking lot, and driveway to rain garden. They submitted the plan to the City and got approved for a permit to do the work. Once installed, SHGT submitted drawings to the City to see what was installed. They applied for a Stormwater Credit.

DPW and the City Inspector were either unresponsive or unhelpful for months. The priest had to call the Green Team Chair when an inspector was on the property claiming that the project was illegal, claiming there was no record of it. This took a very long time to resolve. It required the involvement of Councilman Schleifer and Marcia Collins from DPW.

Discussion of the Presentation & Recommendations

Projects on private property/church property: customer service issues with DPW must be resolved/the credits approval process needs to be streamlined. Billing issues remain.

Timeline: There should be a set number of months between the submission and approval or denial, with an appeals process. It may just take somebody looking at the process.

Addition to Incentives Discussion: Different Levels of Volunteering Needed to Get Monetary Credit.

Need to be Revised – Leanna (Group Level & Individual Level).

Community Perspectives – Adeline

Spent >\$10K on project, and process was cumbersome, to build second crematory. We need to figure out how we're going to explain to the citizenry what this fee is for.

Customer service is a consistent theme for improvement.

Funding Resources – Carl

Dawn: Where else is this opportunity?

The Archdiocese is one of the largest landowners in the City; as is Johns Hopkins.

State facilities: charged or not?

MDE serves as the DPW for the State. Thus, by state law, state-owned property is not included in the MS4 calculation (City of Baltimore's impervious areas).

Communications & Public Outreach – Elisabeth & Bonnie

Tabled until Next Meeting.

Recommendation Structure & Next Steps – Fran, Carl, Dawn

What we should aim for based on Size of the largest counties in Maryland – Montgomery, Prince George's, Baltimore County, Baltimore City, Anne Arundel, etc.

About 50% of grant requests do not get funded. Most applications come from Baltimore City for education and outreach.

Kristyn: The Chesapeake Bay Trust gives grants to projects that are not necessarily stormwater-related. It wouldn't be stormwater money in that case, though.

We need to come up with a definitive dollar amount or range or percentage.

Tabled until next meeting – Enforcement issue has been flagged.

Carl and Fran have been talking about accumulating these recommendations.

Adjournment