

CCV Stormwater Management Committee Meeting
December 15, 2020 7:00-8:30 PM

In Attendance: Julie Sparacino, David Goldwyn, Elise Pas, Paul Kempton, Kevin Cannard, Nancy Somerville, Peter Marks, Bruce Hebbard, Todd Eskelsen, Todd Eskelsen, Tony Salah and Tom McCarty

- I. Initiation of the meeting - quorum (8 members) was noted and meeting initiated.
- II. Approval of minutes for 12.1.20 meeting
- III. Stormwater practices of neighboring towns workstream (Somerville)
 - A. Over the last 1-2 decades, many areas in MoCo and MD have identified that green stormwater infrastructure costs significantly less (20%) and also has a number of co-benefits including environmental (e.g., removal of pollutants; climate) and residential (e.g., increased property values).
 - B. Shared hydrograph after Tropical Storm Allison that indicated the rain flow (cubic feet per second) in Houston during this storm, comparing actual flow during the storm (36-37K cubic feet per second) to “pre-development” flow expectations and demonstrates that large storms could be handled when there isn't development (and that the flow would never would have surpassed 8K cubic feet per second, pre-development).
 - C. Discussed the number of flooding events occurring in non-flood plains that stem from development and impervious surfaces. For example, one study showed that in the Chicago region flood insurance claims map NOT to flood plains but to the areas with the most impervious surfaces.
 - D. Reviewed the THRIVE Montgomery 2050 plan- planning document in public hearings- identifies climate changes as “the most serious environmental and public health issue”. Also reviewed the Montgomery County Climate Action Plan (also a public draft document). See <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/green/climate/index.html>- projections in county climate changes, especially high intensity storms.
 - E. MoCo DEPA report summarized parts of CCV as fair and poor in terms of overall stream conditions- CCV is not high on the priority list based on stream restoration, stormwater management.
 - F. Talked about green streets that either use pervious pavements, small rain gardens, or green infrastructure underneath the street- making the point that there are a range of examples to consider and are being used in MoCo already.
 - G. Nearby towns are similarly struggling with stormwater management issues.
 - H. Identified weakness of the county stormwater requirements were shared from slides- and include the exclusion of existing impervious surfaces, limit of stormwater impacts to roof size, rather than other impermeable surfaces and that any given small project may not be problematic but that cumulatively, these projects can have a negative impact.

- I. Outlined neighboring area requirements; these include policies like: permitting processes that require environmental site design requirements for stormwater plans, increasing the amount of water that sites need to manage (3 times more than county), prohibiting discharging water into right-of-way and in one town keeping all water on site.
- J. Areas under consideration in neighboring towns: prohibiting the waivers available through MoCo; requiring SWM for any project that adds 100 sf of impervious surface; making tree/vegetation requirements (e.g., requirements replacement of trees; mandatory notice to neighbors, requiring reasons for tree removals, tree canopy laws.
 1. No one has soil protection protocols/compacting soils.
- K. Uncovered 3 grey infrastructure projects in Chevy Chase Section 5, they have significant Environmental Site Design (ESD) requirements now in response to issues of too many impervious surfaces.
 1. Chevy Chase Section 5 did an inspection for stormwater drain blocks.
 2. No blockages were found. The conclusion was that there was not enough capacity.
 3. Significant environment site requirements were added that no longer allow stormwater from private property into public right of way.
- L. Key suggestions for enhanced GREEN stormwater management in CCV:
 1. Require (ESD) SWM practices, even for small projects
 2. Address cumulative impacts of impervious surface additions over time
 3. Require construction projects notification to all adjacent property owners and anyone else potentially affected by stormwater runoff
 4. Integrate ESD into public right-of-way (e.g., sidewalks, streets)
 - a) A missed opportunity was not to do ESD in the Cedar Lane traffic calming enhancements- may be something to consider retrofitting.
 5. Include vegetation and soil protection protocols.
 6. Address tree canopy as a key element of green infrastructure.
- M. Group discussion:
 1. Are there more tax revenues in the areas with greater requirements? A couple have capital improvement budgets- **Nancy will go back and look and talk to Jana** (per Pete's recommendation)
 2. Any programs to address existing t impervious surfaces? Efforts to plant more trees and some towns are spending money on right-of-way areas to improve green infrastructure.
 3. Are there incentives? There is a rainscape budget; budgets for planting trees (e.g., per tree incentive in Village of Chevy Chase).
 4. Can you direct us to the MoCo resources mentioned? **Nancy to send an email with links.**

- a) Tony recommended that information links be shared with residents. Tony is willing to be an example for others by adoption rainscapes on his property along Cedar Lane.
5. Are any municipalities working with the county or internally modeling the water management factors, to determine the unique contributions of different factors? In small projects (e.g., 7 homes in CC Section 5) they are looking at tools available from landscape engineering. The Sustainable SITES project and other county tools have some resources for this. Nancy spoke to DEPA about a tool to examine the types of soils in CCV.
6. The CCV practice of allowing leaves into the street is in contrast to the county approach (which does not allow this) - do we want to explore whether this contributes to some of our stormwater management issues? There is a cost element to examine here as well, as the leaves in the street makes it easier for the leaf collection employees.

IV. Workplan: Next Steps

- A. Fact finding endeavors (hope to have everything complete in January):
 1. Town's Clark-Azar study which should be concluding this month (and maybe presented to the town in January- encourage all members to be present for that council meeting to hear the results and ask questions)
 2. CCV survey taken by residents (as of our last check, there were 80 responses - about 25% of CCV and then Jana sent a reminder- no other updates known at this point- Pete emailed Jana to ask the status- will also clarify how we can get access to the data/findings at tomorrow's council meeting)- we may want to overlay our results with the GIS data and revisit gaps in SWM infrastructure within CCV and whether there are specific recommendations about that (will want to raise this with Clark Azar and their flow analysis);
 3. Completion of Nancy's work;
 4. We may want to explore whether we want to connect with DPS about their SWM work and standards.
 5. A question about whether to revisit the suggested study to the town that was not voted on: We may want to do this once we have our findings (at least the Clark Azar study) to refine our ask. The council expressed concerns about what the scope of the proposed study would be- the MoCo Councilman (Albornoz) is already planning to get this done, and so may happen regardless.

6. Is there an opportunity to review and, if necessary, impact the Stormwater Management mitigations for 4213 Dresden Street since it is the next new construction project to potentially impact lower Dresden stormwater management?

- a) The 4213 plan is on the agenda for the 12/16/20 CCV council meeting. Residents are welcome to ask questions about the plan.
- b) A quick scan of the plan did not show explicit mention of SWM mitigations.
- c) It would be interesting to know if SWM mitigations have been requested/approved for recent new construction.

B. Report generation: David volunteered to do the outline of the report in January and then draft recommendations in February.

- 1. Nancy has started the process of making recommendations.
- 2. Include a recommendation of the study recommendation for the town council.

V. Next meeting: January 12th at 7 PM

VI. Resident questions

A. No residents present

VII. Adjournment