

Minutes for the February 2, 2016 meeting

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**Committee members in attendance**

Kimberly Brandt  
Ellis Brown  
Debbie Cameron  
Terry Cummings, Chair  
Anthony Pressley  
Alan Pressman  
Ann Robinson  
Daryl Sabourin, Vice-chair  
Noah Smock

**Ex-officio members / others agencies in attendance**

Alan Robinson, Chief, Office of Strategy and Performance Management, DPW  
Kimberly Grove, Chief, Office of Compliance and Laboratories, DPW  
Mark Cameron, Office of Compliance and Laboratories, DPW  
Marcia Collins, Chief of Legislative Affairs, DPW  
Dana Cooper, Chief of Legal and Regulatory Affairs, DPW  
Kristyn Oldendorf, Office of Legislative Affairs, DPW  
Denise Caldwell, Department of Recreation and Parks  
Michael Wilmore, Department of Transportation  
Beth Strommen, Department of Planning

**Meeting Minutes**

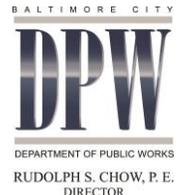
The meeting started at 6:10pm. The Chairman had current members introduce themselves to the new members and identify the stakeholder group they represent. The new members are:

- Ann Robinson, president of the Mt. Winans Community Association, is interested in learning more about stormwater program and the stormwater fee, and the impact of the fees on water bills
- Anthony Pressley, representing Druid Heights Community Development (and president of the Rosemont Homeowners/Tenant Association) wants to learn more about the importance of stormwater program and how the fees are being used, to share with community members who do not understand or have incorrect information about the program (many assumed the State got rid of the stormwater fee)
- Ellis Brown, representing institutions and Morgan State University, has lived in Baltimore for over a decade and, in his work at Morgan, has become more aware of issues important to environmental protection

One of the SWAC members asked the Chairman if the SWAC would consider meeting on a night other than Monday, as he has a regularly scheduled community meeting that conflicts. After a brief discussion, the Chairman asked that members email him with their suggested days that would work for them, including Mondays.

**Approval of the November 2, 2015 minutes**

The Chair asked for an approval of the November 2, 2015 minutes. The minutes were approved unanimously. It was noted that all minutes are uploaded onto the Clean Water Baltimore website.



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Update on the Trash TMDL Implementation Plan and MS4 Annual Meeting

Mark Cameron gave a brief update on the Trash TMDL and the MS4 Annual Report.

- The 2015 MS4 Annual Report is now posted online at the Clean Water Baltimore website. There was a brief discussion whether the SWAC was mentioned in the Annual Report, and was later confirmed that SWAC was included in the report.
- The Trash TMDL Implementation Plan was submitted to MDE on January 4, 2016 after a 30-day public comment period. Six organizations and citizens provided comments on the Plan. The final version of the Plan and the Comment Response Document are both posted on [www.cleanwaterbaltimore.org](http://www.cleanwaterbaltimore.org).

SWAC Policy Sub-committee update

Brian Hammock, Subcommittee Chair, was not in attendance, so Daryl Sabourin, was asked to present in his place. The Policy Subcommittee met on January 29 and offered two items for discussion:

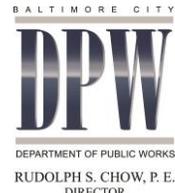
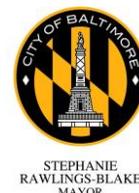
Item 1: Stormwater Participation credit. Members of the subcommittee felt that the current \$10 credit for 8 hours of participation in a City approved event (tree plantings, stream cleanups, impervious surface removal, etc.) was not attractive enough for persons to contribute their time. The subcommittee originally proposed to change the credit to \$5 for 4 hours of participation, keeping the \$30 maximum credit in one year. This proposal was amended to \$10 credit for 4 hours of participation, retaining the \$30 maximum credit in one year. Several committee members asked questions about how the current participation credit worked, how and when credits would be reflected on the water bill, and personal experiences with trying to engage residents in Stormwater participation Events. SWAC unanimously approved the subcommittee’s amended proposal.

Item 2: State Law requirement for non-profits. With the changes made during the 2015 General Assembly, hardship exemptions for certain non-profits must be provided. For those organizations that qualify, being exempt from the fee also requires that they do an Alternative Compliance Plan that would result in a stormwater BMP or other action to lessen the impact of their stormwater runoff (funds are to be made available through the Bay Restoration Fund, but the amount of funds available are not clearly defined in State law). The problem as defined was how to set objective hardship criteria that DPW could use to determine a nonprofit’s eligibility. Options discussed included researching what other local governments do to exempt similar organizations, using the nonprofit’s IRS 990 form as a listed source of revenues, or using some form of assessed property value to determine if a prescribed percentage of fee to assessed value could work. Members were asked to look at their own organization (if a non-profit) and consult with their stakeholders to gauge the impact of the stormwater fees on their organization and what they feel would be a reasonable threshold to qualify for exemption. Names of the queried organizations would not be needed. This information is to be emailed to Terry, who will distribute to the members of the subcommittee, and a recommendation will be brought to the SWAC at the next quarterly meeting.

One of the SWAC members asked when the recommendations would go to the Director. DPW asked the Committee if they wanted to compile the recommendations that have been approved to date, and then submit the hardship exemption separately. It was decided by SWAC that ALL recommended changes to the regulations should be submitted as one package.

Discussion of the SWAC Survey

In December 2015 the SWAC initiated and participated in a survey of its members to ascertain how the first year went and to identify issues they would like to address. The Chair reported on some of the issues identified in the Survey, including the need for more transparency on stormwater finances and a more robust communications plan (grants, etc.).



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Alan Robinson thanked SWAC for their candor and ideas in the survey and explained that DPW staff reviewed and discussed the survey results and submitted a report to discuss with the Director. DPW agreed that communications and financial information were consistent themes, as well as the role of the SWAC and its members. The following is a summary of the discussion that followed:

Communications / Role of SWAC

- What are the best ways to interact with the City as well as share information with SWAC stakeholders (examples given – report highlights and provide copies of minutes, verbal reports given at industrial meetings, use of simple fact sheets that would help explain misconceptions about the stormwater program).
- The communications plan developed by the Communications subcommittee needs to be brought to the whole SWAC for consideration. SWAC would like to know what funds will be devoted to create a PR campaign.
- Summer youth workers could be used to go door-to-door to educate residents about stormwater - why it is important and what the fees help pay for.
- SWAC members should be ambassadors, and not wait for a magic communication campaign. How can these outreach efforts be shared and paired with other communication efforts?

Financial Report

- The SWAC Chairman asked if a stormwater fee financial report could be provided at the next SWAC meeting. The Finance subcommittee will review before the SWAC meeting. Kim Grove reminded the SWAC that DPW is developing a Financial Assurance Plan as required by State law.
- DPW does not have an audited finance statement from Department of Finance; looking to getting a representative from Finance to present at the next meeting.

Other Ideas

- Resurrect the Innovations and Implementation subcommittee
- Create a Technical Subcommittee to help get projects in the ground
- Organize a SWAC tour of stormwater projects

Announcements

Mark Cameron announced to the new members that they will need to attend Ethics Training provided by the City as members of the Advisory Committee. Once the Spring training schedule is announced he will forward the information to the new members.

Marcia Collins reported that she had a summary of several legislative bills related to stormwater and that she would email this to the SWAC members.

Conclusion

The meeting ended at 7:45pm. Next meeting date, subject to change, is May 2, 2016, at the Planning Department (417 E. Fayette Street, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor).

*Note: These minutes were approved by the SWAC Executive Committee (Chair and Vice-Chair) on 2/16/16.*

