



Storm Water Advisory Team – SWAT

June 16, 2015 Meeting Minutes

Central Office Complex - 3363 West Park Place, Pensacola, FL 32505

In Attendance:

Committee: Mary Gutierrez, Glenn Niblock, Dr. Elizabeth Benchley, Phil Turner, Garrett Walton, & John Cheney
Absent: Nathan White

Staff: Colby Brown, Chris Curb, Chips Kirschenfeld, Brent Wipf

Citizens: Ryan Weed, Jim Waite, Fred Donovan, Jr., Judy Niblock, Barbara Albrecht, Christian Wagley, Jim Hunt

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- **Welcome** – Mary Gutierrez, Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m.

 - **Meeting Properly Advertised**
 - Ms. Gutierrez verified with staff that the meeting had been advertised and staff presented Proof of Publication dated 6/15/15 for the 6/13/15 advertisement in the Pensacola News Journal.

 - **Approval of 04-21-15 Minutes**
 - Ms. Gutierrez called for approval of the April 21, 2015 minutes, noting the addition of Christian Wagley in attendance of the meeting. Mr. Cheney made a motion to approve; the motion was seconded by Mr. Turner and carried unanimously.

 - **BDI White Paper Update** – Colby Brown and Ryan Weed
 - Colby Brown reviewed the timeline and schedule for the Storm Water Advisory Team. The next SWAT meeting will be held on July 21, 2015, to approve the final white paper which will then be presented to the Board of County Commissioners at their regular meeting on August 6, 2015. Mr. Brown stated that staff will work into the final paper any additional comments by the SWAT from tonight's discussion and any following comments he receives via email. Mr. Brown reviewed the layout and format of the white paper and asked for approval. Ms. Gutierrez shared her comments, requested using Low Impact "**Design**" rather than Low Impact "**Development**" throughout the paper, and then opened the floor.

- Ryan Weed asked if comments were to be included in the Low Impact Design (LID) Manual or the white paper document. Mr. Brown stated that the Technical Committee would be preparing the LID manual separately and comments could be forwarded to be included.
- Dr. Benchley asked staff if the white paper includes both the city and county. Mr. Brown responded that the initiative included the county only but that city and county coordination efforts can be included. Phil Turner stated that Derrick Owens, City Engineer, has almost completed the city's project list. Mr. Brown assured the SWAT that a draft of the white paper would be sent to Mr. Owens.
- Mr. Weed opened a discussion regarding basin studies versus flooding complaints and flood control issues, and addressed questions by the SWAT regarding flood control issues. The white paper draft was briefly reviewed page by page.
- Ms. Gutierrez asked about the selection process and scheduling for the LID Technical Advisory Committee. Mr. Brown indicated that he had discussed the process and timeline with Joy Blackmon, County Engineer. Ms. Gutierrez asked staff to include district-specific project maps for review.
- Mr. Weed stated that he is using rankings by previous consultants, for consistency, and has prepared project summaries based upon those rankings.
- Mr. Turner commented that the paper should be detailed and simplified in laymen's terms and should include references to the coordinated efforts between the city and the county, and requested that SWAT members' names also include reference to the district or agency represented.
- Mr. Turner stated that he would like to see the Aragon/Longhollow areas mentioned in the white paper since they had been discussed at previous meetings and that the city may wish to include their input and projects.
- Ms. Gutierrez added that the city's studies, which had been discussed in previous SWAT meetings, need to be mentioned in the white paper. Mr. Brown said that the Pensacola Bay Basin Study overlaps to Delano and an inclusive paragraph regarding the city's studies could be included in the body.
- Dr. Benchley expressed her concern regarding the issue of the downtown area ignoring historical wetland areas, and stated she believes the city isn't addressing engineering and development changes that are affecting flooding issues. She reiterated that she would like the matter of

archeology to be addressed in the white paper and to assure that references to city and county policies are made and implemented.

- Mr. Walton stated that the city may not be clear on their role. This was to be a joint city/county committee. He believes that the city's role, projects and studies need to be included. "The big story here is city/county cooperation. Same-source funding is crucial, surprising and good to hear."
- Mr. Brown briefed the SWAT on the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) grant where the city and the county overlap in the Pensacola Bay Basin, and how staff is incorporating Delano and Pensacola Bay language. He also mentioned the concerted efforts of both agencies working together to move forward projects with available grant funding.
- Mr. Walton commented that he hopes the county will not spend much money on developing a new manual since there are so many available online, and further, that all LDC changes should go through a stormwater impacts filter. Mr. Walton also said that he is not excited about more studies. He would rather see money spent on the projects that have already been identified rather than spending money studying what can be done in the future. He believes that reasonable criteria have been used, and that the county should not deviate from the consistent historical considerations and guidelines.
- Mr. Niblock stated that the county is understaffed to complete the ~\$405 million project workload. He commented that the white paper verbiage should be "punchier" and more detailed. He is concerned with the project ranking, and prefers ranking by cost plus the engineers' judgments using comparative studies in a Consumer Reports type ranking, although he understands the pressure and deadlines.
- Ms. Gutierrez asked Mr. Brown to state the Needs Assessment ranking process used. Mr. Brown responded that the guidelines used were by drainage basin studies which consist of existing and approved guidelines based on nationwide research. Ryan Weed then summarized the Needs Assessment list ranking.
- Mr. Turner added that he would like the white paper to include the number of households and/or people affected, both positively and negatively. Mr. Niblock and Ms. Gutierrez both agreed with the historical consistency and that the current list should be used based on the historical evaluations.
- Mr. Brown stated that project maps would be used, and Mr. Weed added that the top thirty ranked projects have been reviewed by the following criteria: severe flooding; water quality; and permitting problems/issues. He responded to Mr. Turner that the number of households and/or people affected is not always available in previous basin studies. Mr. Brown gave

as an example, that a single roadway washout would affect an entire neighborhood, quantities could be tied to different types of projects, but it is difficult to tie to the total number of households/people affected.

- Mr. Brown stated that the white paper would be updated with modifications from today's meeting and would then be posted to the county's web site, on the SWAT page.

- **Daylighting**

- Ms. Gutierrez brought up the topic of daylighting, based on recent and past walking tours that assessed daylighting in the downtown Pensacola area. At the first tour, Eric Meade provided several examples and resources on daylighting. Ms. Gutierrez asked if daylighting would create stormwater benefits by opening streams such as San Gabriel Creek, Washer Woman's Creek & Connect Creek that have been covered for decades. If daylighting is relevant, it should be included or at least mentioned in the white paper. Dr. Benchley added that a review should be made of ways to spread out the daylighted streams and slow down the surface water. Some creeks have been draining since 1776. There have been discussions about opening the daylighted creek on the west side of the Pensacola Bay Basin, but the east side has not been discussed. She was also under the impression that the SWAT white paper was going to include city projects.

- **Low Impact Design**

- Ms. Gutierrez expressed her concern with the time frame, asked where we stand with the LID incentive-based initiatives being brought to the Planning Board, and asked if this has to be done by the Technical Advisory Committee or if could it be done earlier and separately. Mr. Brown stated that the TAC would make recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners, and we should not "leap frog" the Planning Board.

- **Public Comments**

- Ms. Gutierrez opened the floor for public comments. (None were received.)

- **Other items for consideration**

- Agenda for July 21, 2015: White Paper Revisions Incorporated

- **Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 6:14 p.m.