

## MINUTES

### MS4 Advisory Committee – June 12, 2018

The June 12, 2018 MS4 Advisory Committee of Lower Swatara Township convened at 6:30 p.m.

The following were in attendance:

Nancy Avolese	Chris DeHart	Tom Eubank
Doug Ferguson	Chuck Garber	Bruce Harter
Tom Harvey	Betsy McBride	Joe Rovak
Jessica Silcox	Lori Suski	Lou Vogel
Mary Lou Witmer		

Also in attendance, representing engineering firm, HRG, were:

Erin Letavic	Bruce Hulshizer
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#### Opening Remarks & Introductions

Township Commissioner Chris DeHart welcomed and thanked everyone for coming and for their time in future meetings. Commissioner DeHart explained that MS4 is a mandate and as such must be undertaken and the hopes for this committee is to make recommendations to the Board of Commissioners regarding fees, appeals, and credits.

Presentation by HRG, Bruce Hulshizer and Erin Letavic spoke on the following topics:

#### Definitions, History of MS4, Problems with Stormwater Runoff, Best Management Practices (BMP)

What is Stormwater? Stormwater is water runoff after a rain storm from streets, construction sites, parking lots, buildings and other areas that goes directly into storm drains and eventually into local streams and rivers. Any water runoff can transport pollutants into streams, water runoff can occur for reasons other than precipitation, such as car washing, snow melt and drainage. Over time, there have been runoff directly into streams, runoff into pipes to streams and for treatment, runoff into basins.

Problems occur with stream bank stability, debris and pollution, road closures, and property flooding.

Best Management Practices result in, to name a few, functional detention basins, forebay and water quality, vegetated swales, block pavers, porous asphalt, storm tanks.

#### Challenges and Mandates

Erosion control, fertilizers, pet waste, dumping into storm drains are examples of challenges faced. Lower Swatara has 23 miles of stormwater pipes, the condition of which is being

evaluated. It is estimated that millions of dollars will be needed to improve/replace these pipes and be in compliance with the regulations of MS4.

### Development and Goals of a Stormwater Authority

A Stormwater Authority is a utility established to generate a dedicated source of funding for stormwater pollution prevention activities where users pay a fee based on land-use and contributions of runoff to the stormwater system. An authority provides a funding source that is dedicated, program-driven, sustainable, and equitable. It is a funding concept, not bigger government. Legislation enabling an authority was passed in 2013, when Governor Corbett signed Act 68 allowing local governments to form stormwater authorities. There are more than 1600 stormwater utilities in the United States. Public education is important related to stormwater and funding of related needs particularly because it is paying to prevent something that is unwanted (flooding or pollution), in contrast to other utilities in which we pay for receiving service on demand.

A developing Stormwater Authority must:

- Review any Existing Stormwater Program
- Form a Stormwater Advisory Committee
- Initiate Ongoing Public Education
- Define Responsibilities and Budget Needs
- Develop Operations and Management Structure (billing, staffing, etc)
- Develop and Analyze Rate Structure (analysis of impervious area of individual parcels)
- Adopt Necessary Ordinances, Policies, Rules & Regulations

The goals for 2018 are:

- Team with Stormwater MS4 Advisory Committee
- Review purpose and powers of the Authority to include stormwater management
- Define Stormwater Program and Policies
- Determine appropriate Level of Service of Stormwater Authority
- Establish equitable fee structure
- Increase public education on effective SW management, cost, and fees

### The Importance of the Advisory Committee

The Advisory Committee offers a partnership between the Authority, the Township, and the citizens, and other interested parties such as businesses and institutions. The Advisory Committee provides input, serves as a sounding board, and collaborates on stormwater issues affecting the community.

### Future Committee Meetings

July 10, 2018 To discuss current stormwater program, level of service, regulatory requirements, and stormwater program needs

August 2018 To discuss benefits and costs of expansion to a higher level of service

September 2018 To discuss stormwater fee and fee impacts

October 2018 To discuss implementation of fee and appeal process/credit options

November 2018 To discuss credit options, implementation schedule, and public education & outreach

#### Discussion Matters and Suggestions

It was suggested that notices of the meetings and minutes from the meetings be posted on the township website.

Committee members expressed the importance of having credits available and of educating the public about why they are getting the fee. It was noted that a stormwater fee based on impervious area is more equitable than a tax based on property value. It was noted that typically residential properties pay significantly less through a fee than they would through a tax.