

## **Stormwater Management Joint Meeting Minutes March 19, 2007**

**Attendees:**

Shirley Howe, Co-Chair  
Al Graham, Co-Chair  
John Eigenbrode  
Roy Lewis  
Larry Miller  
Sidney Sandy  
Jason Klingler

**Absent:**

Jerry Nolan  
Alton Wright

Jason Mann, Indian Trail Planning Intern  
Susan Habina, Indian Trail Town Engineer  
Brian Matthews, Stallings Town Manager

Meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm

Susan Habina informed the board Jason Mann will be replacing her.

Review of the last meeting.

Ms Habina stated the map in the packet indicates where there are drainage problems. Complaints are logged into a data base. The map indicates the floodplains with the names of the creeks. The large blue circles indicate complaints that are close to the floodplain. Smaller circles indicate complaints located farthest from the floodplain. When there is a cluster of smaller circles in an area it indicates a situation that needs to be addressed. There are two such locations in Indian Trail, off of Indian Trail Fairview (Green Meadows and Rosemary Park neighborhood) and off of Mill Grove Rd (Beacon Hills neighborhood). There is no floodplain anywhere near this area but there are many drainage complaints. This is going to be a focus area. Council has already authorized a CIP project in the Beacon Hills neighborhood. Stallings has a small amount of floodplains on the map. There were no complaints coming from Stallings. Ms Habina explained each circle is a complaint and there could be overlapping. There have been over 100 complaints in the past 2 years. When there is a two year storm, where ever there is a large cluster is where flooding is monitored and the Planning Department can be deployed to be of assistance. Union County seems to get a different rainfall than measured at the airport. Ms Habina stated it would be in the town's best interest for the Stormwater Utility to get their own rainfall study done.

Jason Klingler volunteered to see if we can use a nearby USGS station to more accurately monitor rainfall.

Ms Habina stated stats for every storm, that comes through Indian Trail, is downloaded into a file so it can be monitored when there are major storm events. There is a lot of rainfall and complaint data collected. This will be helpful when Capital Improvement Programs are talked about.

Susan Habina introduced Patricia Malinowski, Utility Consultant from Woolpert, who presented information on the developing the Stormwater Utility Program. Ms Habina stated every Stormwater Utility is authorized by state statute and requires citizen review. This is the role of the committee to handle all the required citizen reviews for the Phase II permit.

Ms Malinowski began by presenting background information as to why a Utility is needed. Indian Trail and Stallings are classified as Small MS4's with the following standard requirements

1. To reduce pollutants to the *maximum extent practical* (MEP)
2. Protect water quality of the service water.
3. Satisfy appropriate water quality requirements of the Clean Water Act.

The MEP standard requires the development and implementation of Best Management Practices (BMPs) to satisfy each of the six minimum control measures:

1. Public Education and Outreach
2. Public Participation and Involvement
3. Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination
4. Construction Site Runoff Control
5. Post-Construction Runoff Control
6. Pollution Prevention and Good Housekeeping

Another reason for the Utility is it will give the Town the ability to increase the number of stormwater control requests and increase the level of service to property owners.

The Utility can fund:

1. NPDES Phase II Stormwater Permit Compliance
2. Stormwater drainage system maintenance
3. Capital Improvement Projects related to storm drainage.
4. General engineering, administration and finance.

The first step is to pass a Stormwater Utility Ordinance. The authority to create a Utility is provided by Article 16 Chapter 160A (Cities and Towns) of the North Carolina General Statutes. This allows a town to establish the Utility and needs to be stated in the Ordinance. Other items to be included in the Ordinance are: (stated in the handout)

1. Definitions
2. Administration, powers and duties
3. Boundaries and jurisdictions
4. Fees, rates and fee schedules
5. Exemptions and credits

6. Billing method, responsible parties
7. Backbilling, Appeals, Complaints
8. Use of Revenue.

Ms. Malinowski stated she understands the Town Attorney has drafted an Ordinance and it will be looked at to insure all items are included. The Utility will be implemented the only economical and feasible way which is to put the bill right on the Union County property tax bill.

Brian Matthews expressed concern that Union County may not want to print additional fees for stormwater on tax bills, and have the towns do it themselves.

Ms Habina stated if a fee is put on the County has to process it.

Mr. Matthews stated the committee should be sure Union County can process it.

Ms Habina stated there will have to be meetings with Union County on that issue. When the town did an assessment project we did not check with the County, it was just done.

Ms Malinowski stated the goal is to get it out in the tax bills in September, fees collected in January. The billing database needs to be ready by the end of July. There are three types of rate structures:

1. **Flat Rate-Residential:** is used for single family residential  
**Non Residential:** all other parcels (commercial, multi-family, institutional, etc) are charged a Flat Rate per impervious surface area measurement. This is measured by GIS.
2. **Equivalent Residential Unit (ERU)**  
**Residential:** Determine average single family residential impervious area to get ERU value (1 ErU=x ft<sup>2</sup> of impervious surface). All single family parcels charged 1 ERU  
**Non Residential:** All impervious surfaces of all other parcels (commercial, multi-family, institutional, etc.) are measured and an ERU calculated. Parcel is charged per ERU.
3. **Tiered-Residential and Commercial:** measure of estimate actual impervious area based on lot size and charge different rates based on the ranges of impervious area (Tiers)

Handout had examples of different rates per Municipality and a chart of revenue estimates. (File)

Ms Habina stated the next question is how much will the project cost. The cost of staffing, CIP project, implementing Phase II permitting, hiring a consultant to create an ordinance, enforcing the ordinance, there could be the design needed for a CIP project, inspections, and public education would have to come out of the revenue. Ms Habina

stated there were estimates done on construction projects. Council has authorized to go ahead on one of the stormwater projects, Clearwater Drive. There are undersized pipes and the solution is to replace the pipes and rework the ditch to have more volume. The cost is \$206,000. in addition to 13,000 to require the right of way and 10,000 for engineering and surveying, just to replace the pipes. Another sample project is to hire a consultant to do an environmental evaluation in the areas of mystery flooding, not near a floodplain it just floods at times. This could cost about \$20,000. Then there is a location where an Indian Trail road is wedged in Stallings. The under road pipe is clogged but the upstream and downstream conditions are Stallings. An easement needs to be required across the downstream property, redefine the ditch and clean out the pipe. The cost is estimated about \$10,000. Indian Trail has 25 square miles, Stallings has 2. Ms Habina informed the committee there were 81 drainage complaints in 2005, 29 in 2006, and 10 in 2007. The next chart showed the percent per component (File).

Member Howe asked if equipment could be purchased as it is needed.

It was stated it has to be used for that purpose.

**Discussion is inaudible.**

Member Howe asked about the availability of grants.

Ms Habina stated the 319 grant can be used for stream restoration. The problem is you would need a staff member just to apply for an administrative grant, the grant is huge, that is why Centralina is doing it for us for the public education information.

Ms Habina stated she has not seen any corroded storm drains.

**Discussion is inaudible.**

Member stated there could be grants available in the future, the ones we might qualify for we are just not capable of applying for.

Ms Malinowski continued her presentation discussing an example of the percentages of each component.

Ms Malinowski stated the first stage is to establish the database. The second stage would be to determine what level of service needed and the administration for that.

Discussion continued regarding hiring an outside contractor for the interim, to do the work, while building a fund balance to eventually be able to have a public works facility.

**Discussion is inaudible.**

Discussion continued on the level of cooperation that would exist between Indian Trail and Stallings for the Phase II permit and CIP work. Brian Matthews suggested a joint public works department.

Member Miller stated the small projects should be taken care of immediately, and let the public see where the money that is coming out of their taxes is going.

**Discussion is inaudible.**

Ms Malinowski discussed the method of measuring by GIS and this can be used or not used depending on which rate structure is selected. Impervious surfaces will be also measured.

**Discussion is inaudible.**

Discussion continued on the need to inform the public of the issues at a joint open meeting. The third week of May was agreed upon. It would include Council members.

Member suggested at the next meeting staff and committee should focus on the level of service based on the general numbers.

Member Lewis stated he was in favor of an average rate.

**Discussion is inaudible.**

Discussions continued on the rate and structure and create time lines.

**Discussion is inaudible.**

Discussion continued on a date for the next meeting. April 12<sup>th</sup> was agreed upon.

**Discussion is inaudible.**

**Meeting Adjourned**