

February 28, 2022 Meeting Notes

Stormwater and Flood Mitigation Advisory Committee

Attendees: Donnie Bowen, Lauren Kabler, Gary Koopman, Jay Loveless, Luke Johnson, Carola Wilson, Elana VanOudenaren, Dave Damalouji, Lisa Garrett, Stacy Milor, Allan Grubel-Creamer.

Discussion Items

1. Read-out from 2/14/22 pre-bid meeting on Compound Flood Action Plan RFPv2

- a. Twelve firms participated in the pre-bid meeting—a significant increase from the previous pre-bid session in which four firms were present. The expanded distribution of this RFP—namely, posting on the Maryland Municipal League site and other state-wide platforms—no doubt spurred attendance.
- b. Questions from the participating firms during the pre-bid session were limited. Approximately a dozen questions were subsequently submitted via email; a small cadre of committee members signed on to assist Donnie & Stacy in drafting replies.
- c. The committee was notified that the contract with the Eastern Shore Regional GIS Cooperative for the plan’s mapping component was finalized. A question had surfaced from this firm regarding the Town’s preferred risk/tolerance threshold. The committee recommended DPW pursue a “low tolerance” approach. The mapping component is scheduled to be completed by March 25.
- d. Deadline for submitting bids for the Compound Flood Action Plan is March 16. The committee decided its March 21 meeting would be entirely devoted to reviewing/discussing the bids and organizing a recommendation for the Town.

2. Flood-related items on North Beach capital projects list.

- a. The committee reviewed the document prepared by Tom Litke of Common Resilience Partners that listed the current capital projects line-up and identified potential funding sources.
- b. Flood-related items were adequately represented in the list, in the committee’s view, and it was surprising to see the extent of possible funding—including the American Rescue Plan and Infrastructure Act. A sizable gap, however, was evident: how do we get from identifying a funding source to pursuing it?
- c. As an aside, the committee found merit in Tom’s recommendation to expand the line-up of capital projects to include recreational and economic development endeavors along with infrastructure improvements.
 - i. To that end, a short survey was drafted for possible use by the Town that would ask residents to identify any infrastructure, recreational and economic development priorities. The idea being to get a broad, directional sense of what residents believe is worthy of capital spending vs. gathering opinions on a specific project.
 - ii. The committee resolved that it is best left to the Town and its communications staff to pursue any polling.

3. “Frequently Asked Questions” draft

- a. The draft developed by Carola and Dave was reviewed and largely approved.
- b. Elana noted the importance of including information on how much the Town spent on clean-up and repairs following the October 2021 storm. Her point was widely accepted. Dave and Carola will develop a new Q&A that provides that data.
- c. Distribution suggestions:
 - i. Post on the Town and SFMAC website.
 - ii. Direct residents to the site via text message.
 - iii. Create paper copies on Town letterhead and place in info kiosks at Town Hall and the Welcome Center.
 - iv. Include in an “update” package to Senator Jackson.
- d. Next steps:
 - i. Add the new Q&A.
 - ii. Provide completed document and distribution suggestions to Dawn.

4. Subject Matter Experts’ reports

- a. Carola has completed the revised RFP for the 5th Street pump upgrade. Timing is contingent on approval of the \$95K grant¹ from the Maryland Department of the Environment.
- b. Elana will be investigating putting together a flood/stormwater info table at the Town’s Earth Day gathering on April 23.
- c. Dave will be providing recommendations on a refresh of the SFMAC website.
- d. Luke reported the three MDE grant submissions (enhancing rock revetement, constructing 7th Street pump station, upgrading 9th Street pump station) were delivered on time; however, approval won’t happen until 2023. Luke will be attending the NOAA Coastal Adaptation Planning training.

¹ In 2021 Town issued an RFP for two new stormwater pumps and a control panel with plans to self-install. The Sherwood Logan company delivered the low bid on the pumps and the Town was set to purchase in 3Q21. A grant for \$95K in stormwater mitigation funds subsequently became available thanks to Senator Jackson’s input to the MDE. Work on the upgrade has been suspended pending approval of this grant. The grant is contingent upon MDE’s approval of the project’s engineering plans and associated control panel. The Town contracted with the Clark/Azar firm to complete the documents required for submission. All info has been provided to MDE.