

Notes

August 16, 2021 Meeting

Stormwater and Flood Mitigation Advisory Committee

Attendees: Donnie Bowen, Stacy Milor, Gary Koopmann, Lauren Kabler, Luke Johnson, Lisa Garrett, Elana Van Oudenaren, Jay Loveless, Dawn Richardson, Dave Damalouji

Discussion Items

1. Announce new committee roles.
 - a. Committee Secretary Lauren Kabler has been appointed to fill a vacancy on the Town Council. She was sworn in last week.
 - b. Committee Chairman Donnie Bowen recommended Dave Damalouji to succeed Lauren as secretary. Committee members agreed.
 - c. Lauren will remain with the Committee as Town Council liaison.
2. Brief SFMAC on meeting with Annapolis Department of Public Works.
 - a. On August 6, 2021 several SFMAC members met with City of Annapolis Public Works Director Mike Johnson and staff to discuss the city's stormwater and flood mitigation project. The intent was to learn about their project firsthand via a briefing at the City Dock and to seek advice based on their experience that would apply to the North Beach project.
 - b. Also attending from the City of Annapolis was Chief of Engineering & Construction Sam Brice, Project Manager Lisa Grieco, and Superintendent of Utilities Joe Hannah.
 - c. Attending from North Beach were Donnie Bowen, Lauren Kabler, Gary Koopman, Jay Loveless, and Dave Damalouji.
 - d. See Additional Notes at the end of this document for a summary of SFMAC members' observations and recommendations.
3. Provide update on the 5th Street and 9th Street pump projects.
 - a. The purchase order for the new pumps slated for installation on 5th Street has been completed and will be delivered to Sherwood Logan.
 - b. Since the lead time between ordering the pumps and installation is lengthy, Donnie is investigating installing a smaller electric pump in the 5th Street wet well to supplement the existing pump in keeping the conduit's water level low.

- c. No changes or updates to report on the 9th Street pump upgrade.
 - d. Regarding the Town's related pursuit of a \$95,000 state grant to assist with stormwater management...¹
 - i. Two engineering firms with experience in state grant submissions—DBF, Inc., and Clark Azar & Associates—have been contacted to provide a proposal on preparing the Town's submission. They are currently reviewing the 5th Street documentation.
4. Provide update on finalizing the Department of Natural Resources grant.
- a. At the time of the meeting, North Beach was awaiting final approval from the DNR on a \$75,000 grant for Phase II of the comprehensive flood action plan. **(NOTE: Approval was obtained on August 17, 2021).**
 - b. Once approval is obtained, the Town will develop an RFP to engage an engineering firm that will complete the plan. Dave will coordinate identifying key points of the approved framework (Phase I) and produce a draft RFP for the September meeting.
 - c. On the subject of securing maps to projecting sea-level rise...
 - i. Gary Koopmann identified NOAA as a source of comprehensive, solid mapping data. He pointed us to the website and specific maps:
<https://coast.noaa.gov/slr/#/layer/slr/4/-8519625.720830679/4679565.879805286/15/satellite/none/0.8/2050/interHig h/midAccretion>
 - ii. Lauren suggested updating the maps found in the 2016 North Beach Flood Mitigation Plan developed by DNR. The maps in this plan were obtained from the Calvert County government and the DNR's coastal atlas.
 - iii. Donnie will be meeting with the planning staff from Chesapeake Beach to investigate using their mapping data for our needs.
5. Provide update on draft #2 of Education and Engagement Plan.
- a. Lisa Garrett's submission of conservation committee activities will be incorporated into the plan's list of proof points.

¹ North Beach was advised in July by State Senator Jackson's office of its eligibility for a \$95,000 grant from the state of Maryland to assist with stormwater management. To secure the funds, DPW is planning to use the documentation prepared for the 5th Street pump project and have it tailored according to the grant's specific requirements. Deadline for submission is November-December.

- b. Dave discussed an addendum to the plan (see Additional Notes) concerning targeting audiences with specific messages. Pending adoption of a comprehensive plan by the Town, it was recommended that the committee focus on “driving awareness” of the Town’s efforts among key stakeholders and investigate conducting an online survey of residents to provide a baseline view.
 - c. Dave will send an updated version of the EEP to the committee for final review/comment before the September meeting.
- 6. Provide update on Maryland Department of Planning meeting (October 26-27) and Mayor Benton’s speaking role.
 - a. No changes or updates on the meeting. Donnie will notify Mayor Benton that the committee will prepare materials for him to consider for his address.

Additional Notes

Observations/Recommendations from

8/6/21 visit with City of Annapolis, re: Stormwater and Flood Mitigation Project

- The Annapolis engineering team reinforced our view that stormwater pipes discharging below sea level need to be plugged to prevent backflow and the right pumping solutions (i.e., bigger is not always better) need to be sought and implemented.
- North Beach will need to significantly enlarge its wet well for any long-term pump design solutions.
- The engineering firm that completes Phase II for North Beach must also be responsible for the soundness of all data inputs, i.e., climate predictions, sea-level rise assumptions, maps, etc. That way, if it turns out that bad data was used, the engineering firm will be responsible for recasting their report to reflect the proper inputs.
- It was evident Project Engineer Lisa Greico is a terrific ambassador for the Annapolis project. Her presence, communications skills, and command of the subject won over many citizens to support the project. She is a good role model for North Beach to follow when it comes to community engagement.
- Patience is key. The Annapolis team has been working on this project since 2015. They have many more hurdles than North Beach (e.g., a very active Historical Society), but it's clear these projects take time—even in a state capital.
- Even though the Annapolis team has been biding their time on their project in dealing with regulatory and civic hurdles, they continue to be innovative and produce solid, workable solutions. Good examples: the 1 1/2 hp pumps that move the nuisance flooding from Ego Alley, the concrete enclosure and pump system that moves the water that flows around Newman Street.
- A Stanford University team produced a study for the Annapolis team that measured the economic impact of nuisance flooding in the city. It would be worthwhile for North Beach to commission such a study at some point; it would serve as a terrific data point to use in pursuing grants.
- When the time comes to actually implement the recommendations from Phase II, a project manager reporting to the DPW Director seems like a must-have. North Beach has the staff expertise to oversee such a project, but not the current resources.
- The large engineering firm that developed the Annapolis project is likely not the right consultant for North Beach. Need to find a firm that is relatively nearby and scaled to suit our needs. Recommend looking at firms serving St. Michaels or Baltimore consultant.

- It's evident from Annapolis' experience that the engineering firm North Beach hires must be responsible for all components of the project/plan development—from education and outreach to technical/engineering components (consultant can sub out as necessary but should be ultimately responsible for delivering a complete plan).
- It will be important that Town has adequate operational and engineer resources available to manage quality control at different stages during plan development. This is necessary to make sure the plan is appropriately tailored to the Town in terms of feasibility addresses the Town's specific problems vs. a cut/paste job.
- Town needs to ensure that a good grant writer is in place so that funds to implement the plan can be secured once the plan is finalized.
- Town needs a person on staff to manage any grants obtained. Most grants are time-consuming, e.g., most grants are reimbursable, requiring lots of hoops to jump through to actually get funds disbursed.
- Annapolis is paying for plan implementation via state and FEMA flood grants.
- We should pursue similar visits to St. Michaels and Oxford—two towns in Maryland that are engaged in similar flood mitigation projects.

Addendum to EEP on Target Audiences

The list of stakeholders to address when it comes to “understanding and addressing the flood risks associated with the Town’s adjacency to the Chesapeake Bay and the effects of climate change” is extensive. At a minimum, it would include residents, business owners, visitors, state and local elected officials, and the sustainability community.

The challenge for North Beach will be to overcome any stakeholders’ barriers to the acceptance and implementation of the flood action plan—whatever that may be. Not knowing *how* the Town will ultimately address flood risks makes it problematic to identify specific barriers to address in any outreach.

Nevertheless, it will be imperative to address residents and business owners whatever the outcome. It will also be key to engage state and local elected officials as they will be important to any future funding requirements.

To that end, a two-step communications effort is proposed (pending development of a comprehensive flood plan):

1. Spread the news. The list of proof points provides a solid foundation of content for delivering our key messages to the core stakeholders. We should deliver that content as best we can, given our resources.
2. Check the pulse. Devise and distribute a simple survey (5 - 7 questions) for Town residents and business owners to get a sense of how they: a) understand the flood risks facing the Town, and b) are aware of what the Town is doing to address those risks. The survey may also uncover any hidden issues. The survey could be constructed and tabulated with online tools and distributed via the Town's website. Costs will be minimal.