

Stormwater and Flood Mitigation Advisory Committee Project & Information Updates – June 2022

Earth Day, 2022

A contingent from the SFMAC (Elana, Lauren, Carola, Jay, and Luke...with help from Dawn) arranged and staffed a committee booth for the Town's 2022 Earth Day celebration held on June 18. The team provided handouts (FAQ document, news release on BayLand contract), demonstrated flood mitigation devices (Hydro Barrier, floodgate), and "raffled" off a basket filled with emergency gear.



Lauren provided the following readout from discussions with the public that day:

- All were **very** appreciative of work being done by our flood committee.
- Several folks mentioned that they really rely on the text updates/blasts for flood info.
- Lots of interest re: public meetings on Compound Flood Action Plan (a must-do with BayLand when appropriate).
- Some concern voiced that those located away from waterfront will be ignored in Flood Plan. We assured them that all parts of the Town will be included.
- Received info from a few that there have been some unintended consequences related to the 261 raising/wider ingress/egress under bridge between Bay and marsh: 1) more silt in marsh; 2) more erosion causing several large trees in nature trail area to fall into marsh; 3) those with backyards abutting marsh notice more and higher water in their yards. The marsh, however, does seem healthier because of more water/better flushing.

5th Street Pump Upgrade

Five vendors had submitted bids on the 5th Street Pump Upgrade project by the June 6 submission deadline. The bidders: Johnston Construction Company, EMH Environmental, Gradient Construction, Com-Bros Contracting, and Tri-Phase Services.

Bids ranged from \$409,000 to \$279,000.


Donnie reports that his office has requested references from the low bidder (Tri-Phase Services) and will continue examining the bid and company qualifications in preparation for delivering a recommendation to the Town Council and, eventually, to the Maryland Department of the Environment (since it approves the grant funds).

Carola has previously noted that we must submit the final pricing to the MDE in addition to other requirements to accompany our recommendation. The MDE will likely take 8-10 weeks to approve. Donnie also noted that the lead time on ordering equipment will be a big factor on when the project can begin. He estimates it would only take a few weeks to do the installation.

Compound Flood Plan

The BayLand group submitted the required Quality Assurance Project Plan (see PDF below) to the Maryland DNR as required and, with minor changes, it was forwarded on May 31 to Dr. Durga Ghosh in the EPA Chesapeake Bay Program Office for review/approval.

A get-together for BayLand and the Flood Committee is still being arranged.

 [2022_05-13_Town of North Beach QAPP.pdf](#)

Miscellaneous

New Day/Time for Committee Sessions & New Committee Name Proposed

SFMAC meetings will be moved to the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 3:00pm to accommodate everyone's schedule, i.e., later in the day is better for those working day jobs; Tuesday better for Dave; right before Town Council meetings so good timing for Lauren/Donnie in terms of reporting out SFMAC efforts at Town Council meetings.

The first meeting to follow the new schedule will be held at 3pm on Tuesday, July 12.

In addition, a proposal was forwarded to simplify the committee's title to "Flood Committee." Lauren will work with Stacy to identify/implement any required measures to formally rename the committee, after which Dawn will update all references on the Town's website from SFMAC to Flood Committee.

Update on Three MDE Grants

We've reached out to state sources to learn of any progress or updates on the three grant applications (enhancing the Atlantic Avenue rock revetement, constructing a pump station on 7th Street, upgrading the 9th Street pump station) we submitted in January to the MDE's "Comprehensive Flood Management Grant Program".

No updates were available.

Hurricane Prep Info

We've forwarded a recommendation to Dawn to distribute hurricane prep info to Town residents in advance of the hurricane season. We provided a suggestion for a "blast" text message and additional content for the Town and Committee web pages.

Suggested text message:

"The North Beach Flood Committee wants you to be ready for hurricane season. Get the latest information on hurricane alerts and hurricane-related flood hazards from the National Weather Service at <https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/> "

Suggested content for web pages:

- A hurricane is a tropical cyclone that forms in the Atlantic Ocean, eastern Pacific Ocean, the Caribbean Sea, and the Gulf of Mexico. They are among the most destructive forces in nature. Hurricane season runs from June through November, peaking in early to mid-September, but hurricanes can happen any time. Prepare now so you can stay safe.
- Hurricanes can be accompanied by hazards before, during and after the storm. Here's a look at hurricane-related flood hazards.
 - **Storm surge** is the abnormal rise of water generated by a storm's winds. This hazard is historically the leading cause of hurricane-related deaths in the United States. Storm surge and large battering waves can result in a large loss of life and cause massive destruction along the coast. Storm surge can travel several miles inland, especially along bays and rivers.
 - **Flooding** from heavy rains is the second leading cause of fatalities from landfalling hurricanes. Widespread torrential rains associated with these storms often cause flooding hundreds of miles inland. This flooding can persist for several days after a storm has dissipated.
 - **Rip currents** produced by a hurricane's strong winds can pose a significant hazard to coastal residents and mariners. These waves can cause deadly rip currents, significant beach erosion, and damage to structures along the coastline, even when the storm is more than 1,000 miles offshore.
 - For more information about Hurricane Hazards, please visit the [National Hurricane Center for Hurricane Preparedness](#).
- Know the difference between a hurricane "watch" and "warning."
 - **A hurricane watch** means hurricane conditions (sustained winds of 74 miles per hour or higher) are possible in a stated area. Experts announce hurricane watches 48 hours before they expect tropical-storm-force winds (sustained winds of 39 to 73 mph) to start.

- **A hurricane warning** is more serious. It means hurricane-force winds are expected in a stated area. Experts issue these warnings 36 hours before tropical-storm-force winds are expected in the area to give people enough time to prepare for the storm.
- Listen for National Weather Service alerts on TV or radio or check for them online. For more information about hurricane watches and warnings, visit the National Hurricane Center's [Watches, Warnings, Advisories, and Outlooks](#) page. If you hear that there is a hurricane watch or warning in your area, you must take action to prepare.
- Get an Insurance Checkup
 - Call your insurance company or agent and ask for an insurance check-up to make sure you have enough insurance to repair or even replace your home and/or belongings. Home and renters' insurance doesn't cover flooding, so you'll need a separate policy for it.
 - Flood insurance is available through insurance companies and the [National Flood Insurance Program](#). Act now, as flood insurance requires a 30-day waiting period.
- Other Resources
 - [National Weather Service Hurricane Preparedness Week](#)
 - [CDC Hurricanes & Other Tropical Storms](#)
 - [National Flood Insurance Program](#) coverage for flood damage that homeowner's insurance won't cover.
 - [Flood Map Service Center](#) for determining your flood risk.
 - [National Storm Surge Hazard Maps](#) to determine your vulnerability