

## April 2022 Stormwater Committee Meeting

### In Attendance:

- Jamie Hill
- Cassidy Lord
- Ed Lane
- Dave Hyder
- Bruno Giri
- Rani Katreeb
- Todd Stevenson
- Dave Hyde

### Approval of minutes

- Bruno motions to approve
- Ed seconded
- Motion approved

### Agenda

- Ed motions
- Jamie seconds
- Motion approved

### No public comments

### Rani Katreeb is attending

- Assistant Director for ACC Transportation & Public Works

### Todd met with Stephen Bailey and Wayne Mead regarding the rock program

- This committee has shown interest in a rock program
- At this time, with staff shortages, it would be funded through overtime

### Driveway pipe cleaning

- It would have to be very limited and on a case by case service for cleaning
- Replacing pipes is not feasible so work couldn't be done on pipes that were so degraded that failure would be a risk of cleaning

## Committee's Statement of Principles

- Ed Lane
  - Technical flexibility and relevancy
    - Including regular updates to technical standards
    - More frequent policy updates, development of an expedited process for policy updates
  - Increased knowledge on behalf of stormwater staff regarding level of service to better facilitate decision-making in the field
  - No more suburbs
  - Implement the plans that are made before doing more plans
- Jamie
  - Stormwater is a silent utility that effects all of us. It's a public safety issue that is misunderstood.
  - It needs to be funded with an equitable dedicated funding source.
  - Work needs to get done now to prepare for increased weather events we'll experience from climate change
  - Let's share the news that Athens is so forward thinking in our stormwater program.
  - SPLOST is not a good strategy for funding stormwater upgrades. It's essential there's an adequate operating budget for stormwater.
  - Residents feel like their needs aren't met and the county needs to do something. Even if it's small.
  - It's not clear enough when the County can intervene. Especially on the Eastside where it's more rural. There needs to be a specific policy that details when the County can intervene.
  - The Clean Water Act and the stormwater infrastructure are two different things. The bill should reflect the two purposes of the stormwater fee.
- Bruno
  - We need to tailor our level of service to realistic fiscal limitations and modernize our approach to delineate what customers are entitled to.
  - We will encourage businesses and homeowners to adhere to sustainable BMPs via continuing to provide financial incentives.
- Cassidy
  - In order to adequately maintain the infrastructure we've already paid for and installed, we have to have a dedicated funding source that is sufficient to meet current economic conditions.
  - The public is not supportive of funding stormwater because they don't understand the necessity of stormwater management. And you can't see stormwater infrastructure, it's out of sight out of mind. Why would someone want to pay money for something they can't see and they don't understand?
  - Stormwater runoff is drinking water for someone downstream. Literally. And whatever we put in our waterways (sediment, styrofoam cups, car oil and rubber particles from tires), someone downstream has to pay money to remove. Dirty stormwater costs people money.

- Dave Hyde
  - People are dealing with issues created by big developers implementing bad practices. Dealing with those issues at the County level was nebulous and difficult to navigate.
  - A “Stormwater Hearing Board” would be helpful to help guide homeowners and determine where the County needs to intervene on a case by case basis.

Brief discussion on the difference between combined stormwater/sewer systems (like Atlanta) and separate systems (like Athens).