

***Potential* Stormwater Advisory Committee Statements of Principles**

1. Develop an expedited process for technical standard and for level of service policy updates.
2. Increase knowledge on behalf of stormwater staff regarding level of service to better facilitate decision-making in the field and advice to residents.
3. Increase knowledge on behalf of ACCGov staff regarding overall community goals and how those goals affect every day decision making including stormwater infrastructure design.
4. Encourage compact urban form. ACCGov's ability to sustain high cost, far-flung infrastructure is limited.
5. Take bite-sized, common sense, affordable steps that move the community in positive directions.
6. Stormwater is a public health and safety issue that is misunderstood.
7. Stormwater needs to be funded with an equitable, dedicated funding source. SPLOST is not a good strategy for funding all stormwater capital upgrades. It's essential there's an adequate operating budget for stormwater.
8. ACCGov needs to invest in smart planning to minimize the creation of future costs born by property owners.
9. Work needs to get done now to prepare for increased weather events we'll experience from climate change.
10. Let's share the news that Athens is so forward thinking in our stormwater program.
11. Residents feel like their needs for drainage on private property aren't met and that ACCGov needs to do something relating to poorly designed development - even if it's small.
12. There needs to be a specific policy that details when the County can intervene to address stormwater issues on private property.
13. The Clean Water Act and stormwater infrastructure are two different things. The stormwater bill should reflect the two purposes of the fee.
14. We need to tailor our level of service to realistic fiscal limitations and modernize our approach to delineate what customers are entitled to.
15. We will encourage businesses and homeowners to adhere to sustainable stormwater best management practice by continuing to provide financial incentives.
16. 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.
17. 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.
18. 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.
19. People are dealing with issues created by big developers implementing bad practices. Correcting those issues at the County level can be nebulous and difficult to navigate.
20. 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.