

Recommendation to Town Council
Blacksburg Stormwater Stakeholders Advisory Group
January 2014

The Blacksburg Stormwater Stakeholders Advisory Group has met regularly every two weeks from August 2012 through November 2013. The Stakeholder Advisory Group was developed out of a recommendation to Council from the Blacksburg Stormwater Task Force (May 2010).

The group was comprised of representatives from the local engineering community, local government, non-profit groups, and residential and commercial business sectors. Several of the members served previously on the Stormwater Task Force.

We were charged by the Town to:

"...Evaluate the proposed stormwater utility (subsequently changed to stormwater enterprise fund) fee structure and implementation; engage and educate the public; recommend stormwater spending priorities; and advise the Town Council accordingly."

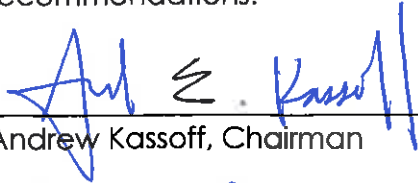
The focus of our work has been on the implementation of the enterprise fund and education of the public. We evaluated all aspects of the proposed fee structure and developed a fee system that will address the current revenue demand for the stormwater related obligations of the Town. Particular emphasis was placed on an analysis of the Level of Service for the stormwater Management Program of the Town. With respect to public education, we developed a trifold brochure, a frequently asked questions white paper, prepared and distributed an informative insert into the Town water bill, prepared a four minute informative video, conducted two open houses for the public and conducted six outreach meetings with business and civic groups.

Our efforts have led us to recommend the following:

- Implement a Stormwater Enterprise Fund based on the amount of impervious surface controlled by landowners.
- Establish the Stormwater Equivalent Unit (SEU) based on 3,300 square feet of impervious area. The value was established by determining the median amount of impervious surface of all single family residential properties.
- Establish a single rate for all single family residential structures of one SEU regardless of size.
- Charge all non-residential land uses based on the number of SEUs of impervious surface they contain.
- Charge \$6.00 per month per SEU of impervious surface.
- For multi-family apartments and commercial operations serviced by master water meters, charge based on the number of SEUs of impervious surface of the entire property.
- For multi-family residential units that are serviced by individual water meters for each housing unit, charge one SEU per housing unit.
- Provide a credit system that will allow non-residential landowners to achieve a credit of up to 50% for stormwater management best management practices.

- Utilize the existing financial and billing infrastructure of the Town to collect the fees.

We appreciate this opportunity to be of service to the Town and are prepared and willing to provide additional insight, explanation and clarification of our recommendations.



Andrew Kassoff, Chairman



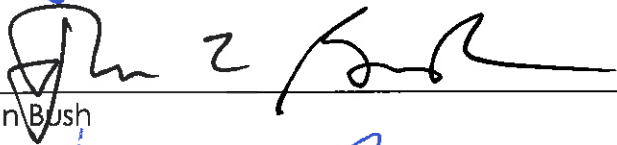
Donna Gresh, Vice Chairman



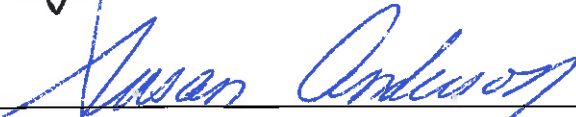
Joe Meredith



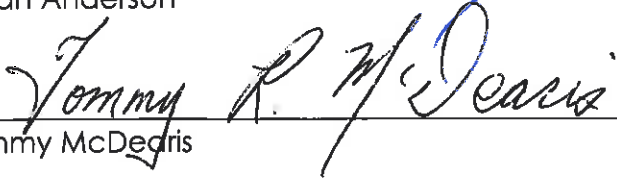
Carolyn Howard



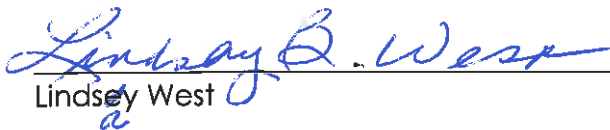
John Bush



Susan Anderson



Tommy McDearis



Lindsey West

Individuals withdrawn from Participation of the Group:

Charlie Smith, Tom Poole and Jim Farrell.