

MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 23, 2004

TO: The Board of Supervisors

FROM: Scott J. Thomas, Senior Engineer

SUBJECT: Stormwater Task Group - Special Stormwater Criteria and Offsite Open Space Program

The Board authorized the formulation of a Stormwater Task Group (STG) to develop Special Stormwater Criteria as outlined in Priority No. 7 of the approved Powhatan Creek Watershed Management Plan and develop an offsite open space program (for stormwater compliance purposes) consistent with the 1998 Policy Study (*James City County Stormwater Policy Framework, Final Report of the James City County BMP Policy Project*). At the conclusion of the Work Session presentation, staff will recommend adoption of a resolution that implements the STG recommendations.

Staff facilitated the STG in accordance with Board directives. The Yarmouth Creek Watershed Management Plan was subsequently adopted by the Board at its October 14, 2003, meeting. The Board adopted the Yarmouth Creek Plan with the exception of Priority No. 3, Special Stormwater Criteria.

The STG consisted of ten members, one guest, and County advisory staff. A series of fourteen monthly meetings were conducted from June 2003 through October 2004. Members and guests of the STG consisted of local consulting engineering and landscape architect firms, a large private developer, a large and small homeowners association, the Friends of the Powhatan Creek Watershed, the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), and a large-tract private landowner. County Environmental Division staff facilitated the task group meetings and also served as a single participant for voting purposes. The STG meetings were very technically oriented with educational sessions and open discussions about traditional and emerging technologies in stormwater management and principles and practices of Better Site Design and Low Impact Development. The meetings were consistently structured with advance notification of meeting times/date, agenda, and announcements. Members/guests who missed meetings were provided with a full copy of meetings handouts including minutes. A summary of proceeding (minutes) for each of the fourteen meetings is available upon request.

The main purpose of the STG was to develop the *Special Stormwater Criteria (SSC)*, the *Offsite Open Space Program* and revise and “overhaul” the existing County Best Management Practice (BMP) Manual which has been in existence and use (unedited) since January 1, 2000. Over the course of the last year, these objectives were achieved by the STG and will be presented by four members of the STG. The presentation will provide a background and history of how *Special Stormwater Criteria* and the *Offsite Open Space* program came to fruition, an overview of some of the important highlights of the task group meetings, an overview of the process and procedure for applying *Special Stormwater Criteria (SSC)* and the *Offsite Open Space* program, and a recommended implementation schedule.

Additional reference material is attached, a full stand-alone copy of the *Special Stormwater Criteria (SSC)* as developed by the STG and a full stand-alone copy of the *Offsite Open Space Program* as developed by the STG. (Besides the four members that will present at the Work Session, the task group decided that all other task group members and guests should attend the Work Session to respond to any Board inquiries.)

Staff recommends adoption of the resolution in accordance with the proposed implementation schedule. Questions about the *Special Stormwater Criteria (SSC)*, the *Offsite Open Space Program*, and general County BMP Manual revisions/edits will be addressed at the Work Session.

Scott J. Thomas

CONCUR:

Darryl E. Cook

SJT/gb
stormwtrtask.mem

Attachments