



Hamilton County Storm Water District

Administered by the Hamilton County Engineer's Office – Theodore B. Hubbard, County Engineer
in partnership with the Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District
the Hamilton County Department of Planning & Development,
and the Hamilton County Public Health Department

Website: <http://www.hcswd.org>

Hamilton County Storm Water District

81st Oversight Board Minutes

March 1, 2018

2:00 p.m.

Springfield Township Administration Building

Allen Paul Room

Board Members Present	Board Members Absent
Mark Quarry – Hamilton County Municipal League	Chris Monzel – Hamilton County Commissioners' Office
Joseph Honerlaw – Hamilton County Township Association	Andrew Pappas – Hamilton County Township Association
Theodore Hubbard – Hamilton County Engineer	Jenny Kilgore – Hamilton County Municipal League
Alternates Present	Alternates Absent
Frank Birkenhauer – Hamilton County Township Association	Jim Obert – Symmes Township Resident
Tim Gilday – Hamilton County Engineer's Office	Gena Bell – Hamilton County Commissioners' Office
	Jennifer Kaminer – Hamilton County Municipal League
	Merrie Stillpass – Hamilton County Municipal League

Guest Name	Organization
Chey Alberto	Hamilton County Soil & Water Conservation District
Andrew Bohlen	CDM Smith
Chris Calpin	CDM Smith
Nancy Ellwood	CDM Smith
Jon Gelhausen	Delhi Township
Dora Hamblin	CDM Smith
Lanita Hanekamp	Hamilton County Commissioners' Office
Brad Johnson	Hamilton County Public Health
Todd Long	Hamilton County Engineer's Office
Gordon Perry	City of Blue Ash
Kelsey Richards	Hamilton County Planning & Development
Ron Ripperger	Delhi Township

1) Meeting Called to Order / Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Quarry called the 81st Oversight Board Meeting to order at 2:02 p.m., and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2) Introductions

Introductions of the Oversight Board and Alternate Members were made.

3) Approval of Minutes:

Board Member Hubbard moved to approve the minutes from the 80th Oversight Board Meeting dated June 22, 2017; seconded by Vice Chairman Honerlaw; and the motion carried.

4) Unfinished Business:

None

5) New Business:

A) Acknowledgement of receipt of a Resolution:

Chairman Quarry acknowledged receipt of the Resolution from the Hamilton County Board of Commissioners with their recommendations for appointing their Member representative and Alternate Member positions to the HCSWD Oversight board.

B) Motion recommending the slate of Officers Board Members and Board Alternates to the Hamilton County Storm Water District Oversight Board for the calendar year 2018:

Mr. Long made a formal request for motion for 2018 Officers, Board Members, and Board Alternates to the Hamilton County Store Water District Oversight Board (copy of Slate and Proposed Resolution provided).

Board Member Hubbard moved to approve the slate of officers for the Oversight Board, seconded by Vice Chairman Honerlaw, and after the vote the motion carried.

Mr. Long acknowledged a correction to be made in the cover letter, removing an underscore in the date. The correction will be made before submittal to the BOCC.

C) Presentation and discussion regarding alternatives for addressing District long-term fiscal sustainability:

Mr. Long presented materials (which were also provided in a handout) related to the fiscal sustainability study including:

Please refer to agenda packet for schedule details

- a graphic showing fiscal status dating back to 2015 and projections out to the year 2020 assuming no change in District programs (this graphic has been shared with the Board in prior meetings),
- tables describing two alternative rate scenarios, and
- a graphic showing yearly storm water fee comparisons for 90 communities in Ohio.

The latter graphic shows the District's current fee to be lower than all but two communities in Ohio and smaller than any of the regional communities. Mr. Long used the graph to show how the alternative rate scenarios compared to other Ohio communities.

Background and Current Conditions

Mr. Long started the discussion by providing a brief summary of the current District funding approach through an impervious area-based storm water fee and uses an estimated Single Family Unit (SFU) rate. This rate – introduced approximately 10 years ago – was established to meet the permit requirements. Annual funding needs are developed using zero-based budgeting tools to determine estimated expenditures for annual permit compliance activities. Mr. Long reminded the board that this funding approach leverages coordination of existing County agency services enabling the District to have one of the lowest storm water fees in the state at \$8.13/SFU/year. Townships are permanent members of the District and municipalities participate voluntarily. Mr. Long noted that Ohio EPA releases a new MS4 permit every 5 years which can change the compliance requirements.

Fiscal Projections

Mr. Long reviewed the current HCSWD fiscal projections graphic stating that it is used only as a budgeting tool and is not a dollar for dollar accounting. The District free balance is shown in blue and has a downward trend as time progresses. The dotted line on the graphic indicates the rainy-day funding threshold at roughly \$2.3 million. With no changes in membership or new revenue shortfalls, the District free balance dips below that threshold in 2019.

Alternate Scenario Assumptions

Mr. Long presented five assumptions associated with the two alternative rate scenarios:

- District budget is adjusted to account for existing loss of revenues
- The annual budget does not rely on use of the free balance
- They use a 10-year time frame, including adjustments for inflation

Please refer to agenda packet for schedule details

- The District program uses the minimum membership – 12 townships – to obtain a worst-case scenario
- There are no major changes in the MS4 permit requirements

Alternate Scenario 1 – Robust Program

The robust program would result in a significant increase to \$34.38/SFU/year. It incorporates new elements including integrated watershed planning, and increased operation and maintenance program, maintains the budget for the CIP program and is adjusted for loss of revenues. This fee puts the District at slightly above the median for Ohio storm water communities with 39 of the 90 communities having higher annual fee – including Forest Park, Cincinnati, Hamilton and Mason.

Alternate Scenario 2 – Adjusted Current Program

The adjusted current program would result in a smaller increase to \$20.16/SFU/year. It maintains the CIP program and is adjusted to account for the loss of revenue. This proposed increased fee is still one of the smallest in Ohio – with 80 out of 90 communities having higher lower annual fees.

Discussion Highlights

- There was interest expressed in promoting multi-year agreements with municipalities to reduce year-to-year funding variability and allow for longer-term planning. A term of five years was suggested by two Board members to coincide with the length of Ohio EPA MS4 permit terms. An additional suggestion was to offer a discounted rate for the multi-year agreements.
- The current rainy day funding level is an estimate of what is necessary to keep the District going for approximately one year.
- In response to a question on why communities leave the District when it is so inexpensive, two answers were provided: some communities wanted larger programs and others left due to local politics.
- The CIP program is important as it is seen as a benefit for belonging to the District.
- The no action alternative will result in a fee of approximately \$14/SFU/year – something needs to be done.
- The MSD decision will have an impact on the District – the exact nature is yet unknown.

- There is a need to develop a program that includes reasons for municipalities to be in the District – permit compliance, incentives and positive impacts on communities.
- The message needs to be shared at all levels - Hamilton County Commission, District and co-permittee. A presentation on possible fee changes was scheduled later in the same day. A Board member suggested a presentation at the next Municipal League meeting.
- The District fee decision will need to be made based on maintaining compliance with permit requirements. It was clarified that the District is aware of pending Ohio EPA permit requirements to allow for planning.
- There is a need to further develop a program that includes reasons for municipalities to be in the District – permit compliance, incentives and positive impacts on communities.

5) Further Announcements:

A) Next Meeting Dates:

- Partner Agency Coordination Meeting – Thursday, April 19, 2018 – Springfield Township Allen Paul Room 9:00 A.M.
- Oversight Board Working Session – Thursday, April 26, 2018 – Springfield Township Allen Paul Room 9:00 A.M.
- Oversight Board Meeting - Thursday, May 24, 2018– Springfield Township Allen Paul Room 2:00 P.M.

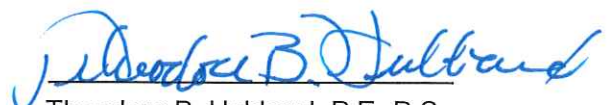
6) Other Business:

A) None

7) Adjournment:

With no further business, the 81st Oversight Board meeting was adjourned by Chairman Quarry.

Respectfully submitted,



Theodore B. Hubbard, P.E.-P.S.

Secretary/Treasurer for HCSWD

Please refer to agenda packet for schedule details