

MINUTES

Lowell Stormwater Commission Meeting

Regular Meeting

Tuesday, November 1, 2022

Held Immediately after the Planning Board Meeting at 6:00 p.m.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Scott Wilson, Planning Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:46 p.m. Stormwater Commission members present: Heather Seay, David Jennings and Norris Lamb. Board Member Troy Roberts Sr. was absent. Staff members present: Joe Gates, Planning Director, and Cheryl Ramsey, City Clerk. Members of the public were also in attendance.

II. DETERMINATION OF QUORUM – four Board Members were in attendance; therefore, a quorum was reached.

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE led by Scott Wilson.

IV. CHANGES TO AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

With no changes noted a motion was made by Board Member Jennings to approve the agenda, seconded by Board Member Seay. The vote was unanimously in favor.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 6, 2022 – A motion was made by Board Member Jennings to approve the minutes and seconded by Board Member Seay. The vote was unanimously in favor.

VI. OLD BUSINESS – None

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. AmeriCorp Staff member Introduction of Kelly Hendrix – Mr. Gates introduced Ms. Hendrix to the staff as a volunteer that will be specifically helping with regional Stormwater. She then explained her role. She does outreach in local schools, develops resources for target audiences teaching about pollutants and best management practices for use with social media. She also works on a quarterly newsletter and participates in outreach events such as the Treat Walk recently held on October 25, 2022. Chairman Wilson asked when she will go to the schools. She said she is currently working with the Holbrook principal to come in and hopes to go there this winter. Chairman Wilson said the program was a fantastic idea in the hopes of getting younger people involved.

- B. Public Outreach Report – to keep track of the outreach done by City Staff on the way to reaching the MS 4 Permit Reporting goals and requirements by the State,
1. Gaston Christian School – Career Day on 9/16/22, attended by 585 students and teachers to learn about Stormwater giving them information about different topics affecting them in the City of Lowell
 2. Treat Walk – on 10/25/22 attended by approximately 1000 people
- C. Other Business
1. Policy and Advocacy Subcommittee – this group of Stormwater professionals within the county meet throughout the year to review different localities policies to determine if policies need to be county-wide, or if a policy can be adopted in another locality and general improvements to policies that would benefit the county at large. Mr. Gates and Todd Stroupe (GIS Analyst) are a part of this committee and attended the October 19, 2022 meeting. Mr. Gates pointed out the update on Gaston County/Gastonia inspections/enforcement merger and recommended the board read it and the rest of the minutes from the meeting.
 2. Infrastructure Mapping – Mr. Gates stated Todd Stroupe has been working on mapping the City of Lowell infrastructure as required by the MS 4 Permit Reporting requirements from the State. The mapping of inlets, outlets/outfalls, conveyance structures (pipes, ditches, etc.) and flow directions will help us digitize and manage the stormwater conditions. Mr. Stroupe will use Facebook to let people know what the City is doing in their communities. Board Member Seay asked how much mapping has been done? Mr. Gates said since October 1, 2022, 110 total features (48 inlet points, 13 Outlet/Outfall points, and 49 Conveyance lines, City Hall and a portion of Harold Rankin Park have been mapped. In total, .67 miles of roadway has been mapped. Chairman Wilson asked how long it will take to get the entire city mapped. Mr. Gates didn't know exactly but will be asking Kelly Hendrix with AmeriCorp to help.
 3. Granted an extension for MS4 requirement and will be posting the self-assessment by the next meeting to the city's website. Chairman Wilson asked if volunteers could be incorporated to help with some of these requirements. Mr. Gates mentioned the River Sweep this coming weekend (November 5, 2022). Chairman Wilson asked about getting help specifically with the mapping. He suggested going to schools/colleges. Mr. Gates thought that was a good idea. Chairman Wilson then mentioned field trips for the board to understand more about their role on these boards. Mr. Gates and will let board members know of opportunities to help. Chairman Wilson also mentioned opportunities around Earth Day (April 22, 2023) and getting Girl/Boy scouts involved as well.


VIII. ADJOURN

With no other discussion, Board Member Jennings made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Board Member Seay. The vote was unanimously in favor by the group. The meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

AFFIRM:



Chair, Scott Wilson



Cheryl Ramsey, City Clerk