

MINUTES

Lowell Stormwater Commission Meeting

Regular Meeting

Tuesday, November 6, 2023

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Scott Wilson, called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. Planning Board members present: Heather Seay, Troy Roberts Sr., and Norris Lamb. David Jennings was absent. Staff members present: Jamie Watkins, Stormwater Administrator, and Cheryl Ramsey, City Clerk. Amy Bowen was the officer on duty. No members of the public were in attendance.

II. DETERMINATION OF QUORUM – it was determined a quorum was reached.

III. CHANGES TO AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

No changes.

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE led by Scott Wilson.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 3, 2023 – Board Member Seay added a typo correction from collusion to pollution on the last page of the minutes. A motion was made by Board Member Roberts to approve the minutes with the correction and seconded by Board Member Seay. The vote was unanimously in favor.

VI. OLD BUSINESS – None

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Updates from Stormwater Administrator, Jamie Watkins – Mrs. Watkins gave updates on the Riversweep, Treat Walk, and Halloween event tying in water quality activities (see attached). She said events like these are a big part of what she does because they “tick boxes for the DEQ” to maintain compliance with the MS4 Permit. Mrs. Watkins explained that her duties protect the City of Lowell from incurring up to \$62,500 per day in criminal and civil penalties. [To be in compliance with the DEQ, there are six minimum measurements required, one of which is public reach.]

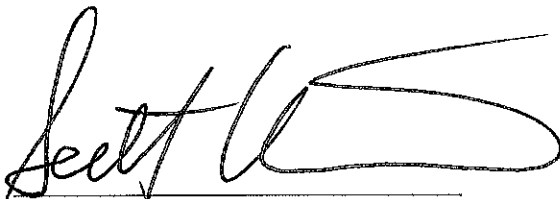
Mrs. Watkins also gave an update on future programming which includes interactive activities to increase knowledge and retention. She stated she would like to start tracking efficacy (showing where people started out in their learning

process and how they are improving over time). Mrs. Watkins stated that while she was pursuing her certification as an environmental educator, she took a NOLS Wilderness First Aid Class as part of that program. She wanted to be able to teach that class and was told she needed to be an EMT Basic and have experience on an ambulance. This led to her obtaining her EMT-B in May 2018 and her joining the Rowan County Rescue Squad as a volunteer shortly thereafter. She is now an Advanced EMT and currently working to become a Fire, Life, and Safety educator. She recently attended a Fire Life and Safety Educator training course and plans to use what she learned in that class to help with her efficacy measurements when working with children in the capacity of Stormwater Administrator.

Chairman Wilson asked where does all this trash come from, is it litter? Mrs. Watkins said some of the stuff found at Poston Park were things like industrial type debris, illegal dumping, etc. Chairman Wilson added that he likes what Mrs. Watkins puts on the website for kids and thinks her energy helps kids too. She would like to start having resources that teachers can incorporate into their classrooms at Lowell Elementary and Holbrook Middle or she possibly do an in-person presentation. "Either way, we [City of Lowell] get engagement [with the kids] and have the ability to track the numbers better and get the Stormwater message out to people."

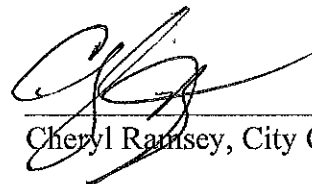
VIII. ADJOURN

With no other discussion, Board Member Roberts made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Board Member Seay. The vote was unanimously in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:27 p.m.



Chair, Scott Wilson

AFFIRM:



Cheryl Ramsey, City Clerk

To: Stormwater Commission

From: Jamie Watkins, Stormwater Administrator

Date: November 6, 2023

Re: Monthly Department Update

- **Riversweep:** 35 Volunteers, 41 bags of garbage, 6 large metal objects, 2 cooking pots, 1 tire, 1 hatchet, 1 plastic lawn chair, weighing a total of 354 pounds.
- **Treat Walk:** 287 Coloring Books/Goodie Bags given to kids. Assuming there was 1 adult for every 2 kids present, 430 people total.
- **Halloween:** Dropped off 385 Coloring Books and Crayon Packs to Lowell Elementary which serves 378 K-5 students.
- **Future Programming:** Interactive Activities to Increase Knowledge and Retention.