

## **CPAC Meeting Comments on Elements 2, 4 and 9 of the City's Initial Stormwater Management Plan**

June 22, 2010



**Meeting Date:** June 15, 2010

### **Comments about Element 2 – Post-Construction**

1. A participant asked if the reporting line was different from 311 and commented that the City has put a lot of effort into developing 311.
2. City staff responded that it was different.
3. The participant then asked if the reporting line would be difficult to find or use.
4. City staff responded that the Stormwater Section will be promoting it and will have it online.
5. City staff also responded that the Stormwater Section is working on a promotions campaign, is already talking with Community Development Neighborhood Liaisons about using it, and plans to further look into working with 311.
6. A participant suggested adding “or call 311” to the Stormwater Section advertisement campaign.
7. City staff responded that one of the challenges with the line is that the Stormwater Section has to respond to the call within a certain amount of time of the City receiving it, not just the Stormwater Section receiving it. The Stormwater Section has had some challenges receiving 311 complaints in a timely manner.
8. A participant observed that 311 does not work if you call from a cell phone.
9. Another participant agreed that 311 only works with land lines.
10. A participant commented that there were other challenges with 311.
11. A participant cautioned City staff not to focus only on being concerned about S.C. DHEC “dinging” the City for not doing enough. The participant commented that a reporting line could be for bigger concerns like calling in for air pollution problems, but that might be something for those higher up in the City such as the City manager to look into.

### **Comments about Element 4 – Flood Control**

*Participants were given an opportunity to ask questions or make comments about this portion of the presentation. No one had any questions or comments.*

### **Comments about Element 9 – Construction**

1. A participant who had been involved with Richland County's stormwater ordinance revisions noted that the “devil is in the details” in regards to getting technical specifications passed for various stormwater best management practices (BMPs). The example of stream buffers was given.
2. City staff responded that the City's stormwater ordinance will handle technical specifications by referencing State requirements.

3. City staff also noted that technical specifications for particular BMPs can be set up in design manuals to allow flexibility. For example, when technology improves, this would require updating the design manual rather than updating the ordinance to reflect new BMP specifications.
4. City staff also noted that there may be some confusion about the difference between regulations and an ordinance. Regulations, such as those in a design manual, are enforceable but are more flexible.
5. A participant asked several question about new plans:
  - Will they have to meet requirements in regulatory documents?
  - Can this be enforced?
  - And will new plans have to meet these to be approved to start work?
6. City staff responded that yes, new plans would require approval, and these requirements could be enforced.
7. A participant asked what would happen if “someone with clout” tried to get approval.
8. City staff responded that any deviations from current regulatory documents’ technical standards would require justification, but that there is a mechanism for approval with justification.
9. A participant pointed out that technical standards are changing daily. Approval with justification allows for new standards to be incorporated into practice.
10. A participant asked what the process was for updating regulatory documents like the design manual.
11. City staff responded that the process is still being worked on; it will at least take the Department of Utilities & Engineering Director’s approval.
12. A participant asked if there would be a public notice with the updates.
13. City staff responded that a public notice is not required.
14. City staff also noted that the design manual will reference State regulations to make sure the City at least meets State minimum standards and stays compliant.
15. A participant asked what other communities handle their regulations this way.
16. City staff responded that Greenville and various other communities use this method.
17. City staff also responded that the City Stormwater permit calls for technical specifications to be in a design manual, not in an ordinance.
18. A participant asked who was working on updating the City ordinance and if they could see it.
19. City staff responded that Utilities & Engineering is currently working on it; it is undergoing revisions so the current draft is already out of date. City staff offered to provide a copy of the final draft.
20. A participant asked what the State regulations are for stream buffers.
21. City staff responded that it depends on the stream type and referenced the State regulation number, which is online.
22. A participant asked if the City could provide the link to the State regulations.
23. City staff responded that they could send out the S.C. DHEC link.
24. A participant commented that in the early stages of an ordinance revision, the most important thing is to let people who live under the ordinance know what to do before any enforcement actions take place.
25. City staff responded that the permit has that goal; enforcement is emphasized in the permit, so the City needs to include that in its Stormwater Management Program, but the Stormwater Section wants to work with those affected by any stormwater ordinance.

26. City staff also noted that the permit requires training for site operators and designers, those largely affected by this portion of the permit.
27. A participant noted that the City is likely to find different levels of experience for managing stormwater issues within the development community.
28. City staff responded that the Stormwater Section understands what it means to be “living under new regulations,” so Stormwater wants to work with those affected and make an effort to help them understand.