



TO: Albany City Council  
VIA: Wes Hare, City Manager  
FROM: Mark W. Shepard, P.E., Assistant City Manager, Public Works and Community Development Director *MWS*

DATE: January 2, 2015, for the January 12, 2015, Council Work Session

SUBJECT: Stormwater Discussion

RELATES TO STRATEGIC PLAN THEME: ● Great Neighborhoods  
● A Safe City  
● An Effective Government

Action Requested:

No action is requested at this time. This memo provides a preview of staff's proposed plan for future discussions regarding stormwater.

Discussion:

The topic of stormwater is surfacing more and more frequently at the City of Albany. We have discussed stormwater during the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) process, during land use approvals for developments, as part of budget and rate discussions, and recently during the adoption of new stormwater regulations. During these discussions, it has been recognized that a larger programmatic discussion is required in order to appropriately plan for managing stormwater. Albany's Strategic Plan also recognizes the need for these discussions. The Strategic Plan identifies developing a "full storm drain system program" and for identifying a "stable funding strategy for stormwater utility functions" as objectives.

Albany has not significantly changed how we manage stormwater since we were in the midst of separating the stormwater and sanitary sewer collection systems in the 1970s and 1980s. Since that time Albany's population has almost doubled and much has changed in the regulatory world. Some recent code changes (Erosion Prevention and Sediment Control, and the Post Construction Stormwater Quality Standards) have been instituted to mitigate pollution impacts to our creeks and rivers, but the fundamental approach to managing stormwater has evolved little. It is important to take a renewed look at stormwater and the City's strategies to manage it properly if we want to maintain a community that can accommodate economic development while protecting our existing residents and businesses and not harming our natural environment.

The key benefits to properly and proactively managing Albany's stormwater system are:

- Protection of existing developed properties;
- Minimizes potential of, and impacts from, localized flooding;
- Plans for and facilitates continued development in the City;
- Manages the costs associated with operation and maintenance, as well as capital investment;
- Protects water quality and preserves riparian habitat; and
- Compliance with state and federal regulations.

In an effort to move a broad discussion of stormwater forward, staff intends to provide Council a series of short presentations at Council Work Sessions over the next year. Topics will be presented by a team of staff members, and each presentation will build on the previous presentations. Staff will present you with a project notebook to allow you to track the memos and handouts that will be provided. The ultimate goal is to provide Council with the necessary information to allow you to provide direction on how to best meet the management requirements for the City's stormwater utility, including the identification of a funding plan as called for in the Strategic Plan.

This initial discussion provides Council with an outline and suggested timeline for the stormwater presentation series. Council is encouraged to provide staff with any specific issues or questions you would like addressed through this process.

1. Kickoff - *January 2015, Mark Shepard*

We will review the proposed presentation series strategy and identify if Council is supportive of the plan and if there are specific issues or questions Council would like addressed through this process. We will also identify if this schedule will work for Council.

2. Why is Stormwater Important & Stormwater Planning - *March 2015, Jeff Blaine*

One major rain event can remind us of the importance of stormwater management. And while major street flooding or property damage pose immediate reminders, less immediately visible impacts to receiving waterways are equally important to consider. This presentation will outline the importance of proper stormwater management from various perspectives and review planning/evaluation efforts currently underway for the City's stormwater systems.

3. Stormwater Regulations - *June 2015, Mark Yeager*

The City Council is well aware of recent stormwater regulatory pressures that the City has been faced with. These pressures will likely only intensify in coming years. This presentation will focus on current stormwater regulations and what Albany should expect in the coming years as we work with DEQ towards obtaining a Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4), Phase II permit. Staff will also attempt to identify what community benefits might be realized through regulatory compliance.

4. Current O&M Practices/Future Needs - *August 2015, Chris Bailey*

Albany has historically addressed stormwater operations and maintenance (O&M) in a reactive mode. Aging stormwater infrastructure that is currently uninspected and unmaintained will soon require significant attention. This "attention" can take many forms ranging from cleaning, inspection, study, and replacement. This presentation will review Albany's current O&M activities, how those activities are funded, and the impacts to other utilities. Staff will also outline recommended maintenance activities that are currently unfunded and what we could expect if they aren't addressed.

5. Funding Strategies & Council Direction - *October 2015, Mark Shepard*

The biggest challenge to properly managing the City's stormwater system proactively and in compliance with state and federal regulations is the need for stable stormwater funding. The need for this funding is identified in the City's Strategic Plan. This presentation will identify current stormwater funding sources and review alternatives for securing

additional funding sources. Information will also be provided on what other Oregon communities are doing. Staff will seek direction from Council regarding preferred alternatives for funding stormwater activities and what framework Council would like to use for future discussions.

6. Additional meetings as needed based on Council direction.

Budget Impact:

There is no budget impact at this time.

MS:kw

Attachment