Ann Arbor Comprehensive Stormwater Management Plan
Stormwater Advisory Group (SWAG) Meeting Minutes
Session 5 – October 8th, 2025

Attendees:

The following individuals attended the in-person meeting on October 8th:

Michelle Bennet
Don Carpenter
Dan Christian
Miekyn Cotton
Erin Donnelly
Gretchen Driskell
Selena Lopez
Vince Carouso
Omar Gates
Craig Hupy
Jasmine Isaac-Ofori
Melissa Menerey
Sara Nedrich
Richard Norton
Andrea Paine
Dana Wilkinson
Dean Wozniak
Lindsey Kerkez
Katie Dillon

Meeting Agenda:

The meeting consisted of the following components:

1. Welcome and Introductions (8:05-8:10)
2. SWAG Overview (8:10-8:50)
3. Focus Group Discussion (8:50-8:56)
4. Technical Memo #3 – Water Quality (8:56-9:09)
5. Technical Memo #7 – Watershed Management (9:09-9:50)
6. Closing and Adjournment (9:50-9:56)

Meeting Minutes:

1. Welcome and Introductions (8:05-8:10)

Opening remarks from the Project Lead.

Approved meeting minutes from SWAG sessions 3 and 4.

Katie Dillon is a new attendee; she is a community engagement specialist working with the city of Ann Arbor.

2. SWAG Overview (8:10-8:50)

Dan gave a project recap, overviewing the goals, and recap from the first meeting discussion on goals. The goal is to finish the SWAG meetings in June. The end product of the SWAG meetings is to have a citywide framework.

Hydrologic & hydraulic modeling: Dan updated the model to account for bigger culvert sizes. A tech memo will be provided on modeling at the next meeting.

Audience requestions were raised including: Is the city moving away from the 500-year storm model? Is it possible to create and analyze city wide hydrologic modelling? How long would it take?

Dan suggests going through the model, when focusing on a specific area of the city, plan in advance:

- Put out flow meters in year one.
- Then in year two adjust the calibration.
- On year three begin planning and design.

Stagger this approach (above), moving across the area. Models should be continuously updated; models are important to make sure everything is sized correctly.

A question arose surrounding whether it makes sense to stop development for five years until we get a full picture of the flood impacts. The question was met with a general response that no, we should not stop development, in some areas storm water is being managed for the first time. Stemming from that, it was noted that there is a gap in modelling management for small and single-family areas. 2D modelling needs to be brought up to speed to show what's happening above ground.

Concerns were also brought up about new developments unleashing a flurry of more flooding events. The plan calls for building faster, but how do we balance it to ensure the necessary steps are taken to prevent new flooding?

A comment was also made about whether the model incorporates climate change impacts. Don’s response was that as a profession, we are starting to consider cloud burst events and then view how the system responds to that. We can note where the pinch point is in the system for that event. Dan said we can consider recent heavy events and simulate them in different

areas to replicate the event and view system responses. Additionally, we can do a 'blue spot' analysis and identify low points based on topography alone by removing the pipes.

A question was brought about a price evaluation between the different modelling software's we could use. Response was that PCSWM is backed by the EPA, but additionally models can be swapped between programs easily.

SWAG purpose:

Don provided an overview of the SWAG charter and purpose.

Attendees were given a SWAG evaluation handout and asked to answer questions individually, then summarize within their table. Comments from each table are summarized in the document *SWAG 5 Meeting Memo.*

3. Focus Group Discussion (8:50-8:56)

Neighborhood Associations have been invited to the next focus group. Known active groups, not specifically HOA's.

Interested in talking with AA public schools and UofM:

- They have their own storm water permitting requirements, regardless of what's happening in the city.
- AA Staff are meeting with them separately and not part of the Focus Groups.

Jasmine: Sent invitations to neighborhood associations, have heard back from 3 groups. If anyone knows a group, please let Jasmine know.

4. Technical Memo #3 – Water Quality (8:56-9:09)

Clarification on how the local watershed management plans fit into the comprehensive storm water management plans for the city. Focus on informing the city, alignment of storm water and watershed management goals.

Comment about wanting to see quality control on storm water infrastructure construction. Concerns about physical storm water infrastructure issues, clogging of drains and catch basins. Public education should include encouraging the residents to clean up catch basins. Perhaps take a regional approach to 'adopt a drain,' make it a formal county wide effort.

Comments about pet waste being considered storm water pollution; add to graphic.

5. Technical Memo #7 – Watershed Management (9:09-9:50)

Attendees were asked to include comments regarding TM #7 on the backside of the earlier handout. Comments are documented below.

Question 1: Are there any further avenues of inquiry that we should pursue?

Comments:

- Lacking explicitly called out progress to TMDLs. BMPs need to be called out more.
- We are struggling greatly within the planning area when discussing new developments and preserving natural features. There is tension surrounding these discussions. We need to focus on finding the balance between accommodating new developments and natural features. Focus should also be on collaborating with neighboring jurisdictions.
- There was a question whether the goals are too broad? Discussion concluded that the specific goals will be defined in watershed specific plans.

The topic of county-wide planning was brought up. There has been some discussion at the county planning meetings to focus on a more regional approach to planning efforts. There is interest shown at county planning committees in protecting rural communities. Rural communities are feeling pressure from data centers; we need to focus on trying to protect these communities through county wide planning. This discussion led to SEMCOG's green infrastructure planning initiative. It was mentioned that the scope of SEMCOG's plan is broad, and each county has different needs, Don assured that through the concept task, pilot packages will become localized to the area.

Comment was made that we should focus on pushing 'low hanging fruit' green infrastructure techniques to share with the public, rain barrels, rain gardens, and green roofs. Conclusion arose that maybe we need to share more loudly our successes because lots of these smaller techniques have been implemented with success.

Question 2: Are there any relevant watershed management concerns or goals missed?

Celebrate watershed wins and what has been accomplished!

6. Closing and Adjournment (9:50-9:56)

Engagement and feedback updates:

- Three focus groups events are coming up.
- Farmers market events are finished, hoping to receive engagement and feedback.
- If anyone is interested in pipe maintenance and inspections, there is an open house on Saturday Oct. 25th.
- State of the Huron Watershed Conference on November 12th sign up closes this Friday.