**Ann Arbor Comprehensive Stormwater Management Plan**
**Stormwater Advisory Group (SWAG) Meeting Minutes**
**Session 2 – April 2nd, 2025**

**Attendees:**

The following individuals attended the in-person meeting on April 2nd:

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| Don Carpenter | Jasmine Isaac |
| Vince Caruso | Jennifer Lawson |
| Dan Christian | Sara Nedrich |
| Miekyn Cotton | Richard Norton |
| Erin Donnelly | Andrea Paine |
| Gretchen Driskell | Peter Stephens |
| Omar Gates | Skye Stewart |
| Jerry Hancock | Melissa Menerey |
| Jillian Hesler | Dana Wilkinson |
| Craig Hupy | Dean Wozniak |

**Meeting Agenda:**

The meeting consisted of the following components:

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Charter
3. Climate Resiliency Exercise
4. Vision Statement Discussion
5. Stormwater Practice Terminology
6. Engagement and Feedback Updates
7. Next Steps
8. Closing

The presentation slides that guided the SWAG meeting discussion are attached. A summary of current and upcoming action items for SWAG members can be found at the end of the meeting minutes section below.

**Meeting Minutes:**

1. Welcome and Introductions

The meeting began with a round of introductions. Attendees introduced themselves including their job/role and what they hope to get out of the meeting. The purpose of the SWAG was also reiterated: The SWAG will inform the development of Ann Arbor's Comprehensive Stormwater Management Plan through resiliency planning incorporation, watershed planning feedback, assessment of existing standards, input on project deliverables and drafts, and identification of potential partnerships.

2. Charter

At the last SWAG session, the charter was reviewed in detail and signed by many attendees. Please follow up with Jen to sign off on the charter if you have not had the opportunity.

3. Climate Resiliency Exercise

Dan Christian led a climate resiliency exercise called 'Decisions for the Decade.'

The exercise explores the relationship between climate uncertainty and decision-making, examining how individuals and communities make their decisions, collaborate, and interpret information. Additional information on the game can be found on the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre's site here.

After completing the activity, the group discussed their experiences and outcomes. Dan noted that climate uncertainty is not the only source of uncertainty, and the group mentioned regulations, political climate, population, partnerships/cooperation, technology/innovation, and funding as other potential sources of uncertainty. This highlights the need to make smart decisions in the face of uncertainty.

4. Vision Statement Discussion

Don Carpenter led the discussion surrounding the development of a vision statement.

The vision is not binding so much as it is a goal – What does success look like? What are you striving to accomplish? A narrative also supports the overarching vision statement with additional detail.

A vision statement draft was distributed. Attendees first made personal revisions to their preferences, then each table discussed their changes and put together a final version of the statement as a group to return to the project team. People were encouraged to translate the lessons from the game into a shared vision, considering values, longevity, and what could be missing. Groups were also encouraged to document any additional important information and components they discussed, even if it was not ultimately included in their final vision statement draft. While the vision is one sentence and will not capture anything, additional important information can be incorporated into the narrative and supporting materials.

The initial draft of the vision statement is as follows:

*We envision a resilient, sustainable, and equitable stormwater management system that protects public safety, preserves water quality, and enhances climate adaptation through data-driven planning and forward-thinking infrastructure.*

After each group finalized their version of the statement, Don polled the group on their reactions and adjustments to the components of the statement, as divided below.

Component 1: *We envision a resilient, sustainable, and equitable stormwater management… system*

- A substantial majority of the group agreed conceptually with this component
- Approximately 2/3 of the group word-smithed the first component

Component 2: *…that protects public safety, preserves water quality, and enhances climate adaptation…*

- Fewer people (approximately 1/3) agreed conceptually with this component
- About half of the group made significant modifications to this section

Component 3: *…through data-driven planning and forward-thinking infrastructure.*

- The concluding portion of the statement resonated with almost everyone
- Only a few people modified this portion in their versions of the statement

Groups then shared their revised vision statement drafts, shown below with the revisions underlined.

Version 1: We envision a resilient, sustainable, <u>collaborative</u>, and equitable stormwater management approach that protects public safety <u>and vitality</u>, preserves water quality, and <u>advances</u> climate adaptation through data-driven planning and forward-thinking infrastructure <u>investments</u>.

Version 2: We envision a <u>reliable</u>, sustainable, and equitable stormwater management system that <u>ensures</u> public safety, <u>improves</u> water quality, and enhances climate <u>resiliency</u> through data-driven planning, <u>community collaboration,</u> and forward-thinking infrastructure.

- This group also noted that they liked the use of 'vitality' (Version 1) and thought that including watershed/broader natural resource consideration was beneficial.

Version 3: We envision a resilient, sustainable, and equitable stormwater management system that <u>prioritizes</u> public safety, <u>supports watershed health</u>, and <u>adapts to a changing climate</u> through data-driven planning and forward-thinking infrastructure.

- This group also noted the importance of conserving natural features as a consideration.

The general consensus was that the first and last portions of the statement are effective, but the middle needs to be adjusted. Multiple groups indicated that including collaboration was important. People resonated with the introduction of 'watershed' as included in Version 3 and wanted to see the conservation of natural features included beyond the phrase 'preserve water quality.' It was mentioned that the word 'system' could be interpreted as referring exclusively to the physical elements and could be replaced with 'approach.' It was mentioned that 'prioritize,' as used in Version 3, could imply to some that it is the first or only priority.

5. <u>Stormwater Practice Terminology</u>

Don Carpenter presented a compilation of common stormwater treatment terminology and their respective definitions, noting that there is a generational component to which terms are most prevalent. Identifying appropriate terminology is important to communicate the plan's goals clearly and consistently. It was noted that 'green infrastructure' is not always green visually,

and that can be a source of confusion. A list of the terms was distributed to each individual present, and they were asked to indicate the top 3 terms that resonated with them the most.

The terms included were:
- Best Management Practices (BMPs)
- Green Infrastructure (GI)
- Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI)
- Low-Impact Development (LID)
- Nature-Based Solutions (NbS)
- Engineering with Nature (EWN)
- Stormwater Control Measures (SCM)
- Stormwater Management Practices (SMP)
- Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS)
- Water-Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD)
- Ecosystem-Based Adaptation (EbA)
- Blue-Green Infrastructure
- Regenerative Stormwater Conveyance (RSC)
    - Note: Definitions can be found in the attached presentation slides.

The top terms, as identified by the SWAG attendees, were:
- Stormwater Management Practices (indicated by 60.0% of participants)
- Nature-Based Solutions (indicated by 53.3% of participants)
- Sustainable Urban Drainage Design (indicated by 53.3% of participants)
- Best Management Practices (indicated by 33.3% of participants)

6. Engagement and Feedback Updates

The following events are upcoming:
- The Plan's first public event will be at the Water Treatment Plant open house
- The project team is launching a farmer's market series in the summer to get feedback and provide information
- Huron River Day is taking place at Gallup Park, Sunday, May 18th

7. Next Steps, Closing and Adjournment

The next SWAG will take place on June 11. Materials will be distributed at least one week prior for review. The next session will begin delving into the more technical, policy side of stormwater management.

**Action Items:**

Current action items include the following:

- Please reach out to Jennifer Lawson if you have not had the opportunity to sign the SWAG charter.

Upcoming action items include:

- The next SWAG meeting will be held on Wed 6/11/2025, relevant materials will be distributed at least one week prior for your review.