**Ann Arbor Comprehensive Stormwater Management Plan**
**Stormwater Advisory Group (SWAG) Meeting Minutes**
**Session 1 – January 29th, 2025**

**Attendees:**

The following individuals attended the in-person meeting on January 29th:

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| Steven Brown | Larissa Larsen |
| Don Carpenter | Jennifer Lawson |
| Vince Caruso | Richard Norton |
| Dan Christian | Andrea Paine |
| Miekyn Cotton | Rachel Pieschek |
| Omar Gates | Harry Sheehan |
| Jerry Hancock | Peter Stevens |
| Jillian Hesler | Melissa Menerey |
| Craig Hupy | Dana Wilkinson |
| Jasmine Isaac | Dean Wozniak |
| Lindsey Kerkez | |

**Meeting Agenda:**

The meeting consisted of the following components:

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Charter
3. Project Overview
4. Purpose and Overview of SWAG
5. Engagement and Feedback Approach
6. Discussion of Goals and Priorities
7. Review of Existing Documents and Data
8. Next Steps
9. Closing and Adjournment

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 general introductions, each individual present introduced themselves and mentioned their relationship with stormwater.

2. Charter

Don Carpenter: The SWAG's purpose is to assist the City in creating a Comprehensive Stormwater Management Plan by providing input throughout the plan's development. Four key objectives include resiliency planning, watershed planning, feedback on work products and plan drafts, and identifying potential partnerships. We are looking for input on any groups that aren't adequately represented in the SWAG.

Initial thoughts and feedback on the charter?

Jennifer Lawson: One group that isn't represented is the private developer side. We are having trouble identifying a good, representative candidate and looking for ideas.

Don Carpenter: On similar projects in the past, homebuilders' associations have been a good resource.

*Someone suggested that BRAG (Builders and Remodelers Association of Greater Ann Arbor) may be a good group to investigate/invite.*

3. Project Overview

Jennifer Lawson: We have a lot of data, analyses, and reports, but we need something comprehensive. We want to have a consistent, established philosophy going forward with an emphasis on climate adaptation and resiliency. This will be engrained in management and planning efforts. The group we are serving and trying to represent goes beyond this room and beyond city hall – we are trying to reflect the community as a whole. This project will include updates to the City's SWMM model, funding considerations, stakeholder acceptance, resiliency planning, succession planning, and policy consolidation efforts. In terms of funding, Ann Arbor is one of only 9 stormwater utilities in the state. Ann Arbor is at the forefront (the 'bleeding edge') of stormwater management in the region. Stakeholder understanding and acceptance are important to the success of this project, and we want to convey the significance of stormwater, including its functions beyond flooding. This plan will be parallel to the A2Zero plan, which focuses on carbon reduction but includes a lot of climate resiliency considerations. A2Zero mentions stormwater only briefly, so further elaboration and detail is warranted.

4. Purpose and Overview of SWAG

The SWAG will facilitate the development of Ann Arbor's Comprehensive Stormwater Management Plan by providing input throughout the plan's development. The SWAG will review deliverables and drafts of key plan components, but the exact format of feedback and SWAG engagement needs to be solidified based on the group's preferences and needs.

5. Engagement and Feedback Approach, Discussion of Goals and Priorities

Each group of 4 to 6 people took 10 minutes to discuss the roles and responsibilities of SWAG, including how they want to be engaged through this process. The following ideas were shared after regrouping:

- Don't see the need for additional meetings beyond those scheduled.
- Prefer face-to-face meeting format
- SWAG members want precise questions for feedback – avoiding open-ended questions when possible and providing guidance on the expected format of the feedback to be provided.
- Selection of the design storm is critical to modeling efforts
- May want to add community engagement as it's own objective, want to place stormwater understanding in broader context
- Want this project to be a demonstration of good governance and integrity
- There is a public education opportunity to build an understanding of 'good' flooding and bad flooding – identifying stormwater conveyance versus flooding
- Agreement on the need to find representation for private developers
- Ensure both water quality and quantity considerations are included
- Focus on accessibility of communications, accounting for different levels of background knowledge
- There are opportunities to broaden engagement efforts to include college students and youth
- Renters are a group that may need representation in the SWAG
- Watershed groups can bring a trusted voice/established partner to the project, look for opportunities to amplify existing programs and avoid duplicating effort
- Looking into media formats beyond the project website will be helpful
    - Ann Arbor Observer
    - Video content
    - Zines
- Neighborhood level engagement important to build support, look into block organizations and community events

Jennifer Lawson: Education and outreach have come up a lot. We have current outreach efforts regarding floodplains, stormwater systems, and permit requirements, would this group be ok if we used you as a sounding board for educational materials?

*The group indicated that they were open to reviewing educational materials.*

Dan Christian: Stormwater means different things to different people; we want to look holistically. We have broken down the plan into specific subtopics, allowing us to understand the components deeply before bringing everything together in a big picture review. Each technical memo becomes a chapter in the full plan. We will also make a condensed, more

accessible version of the final report for general consumption. If you have photos celebrating Ann Arbor stormwater, please send them to us.

The following are the proposed topics for technical memos:

Foundational Framework
Drainage Model Update
Policy Evaluation
Stormwater Quality
Stormwater Drainage
Floodplain Hazards
Flood Preparedness
Watershed Management
Regulatory
Financial Considerations
Prioritization Framework

6. Review of Existing Documents and Data

The following list includes all documents that were reviewed for the first technical memo (Foundational Framework); links to the documents, if available, are provided as requested by the SWAG:

Stormwater Management
- Code of Ordinances (2024)
- Washtenaw County Water Resources Commissioner Rules and Guidelines (2023)
- Stormwater Model Calibration and Analysis Project Report (2015)
- Stormwater System Asset Management Plan (2020)
- Stormwater Utility Rate Study (2018)
- Green Streets Infiltration Policy (2013)

Design, Construction, and Maintenance
- Public Service Department Standard Specifications (2025)
- Ann Arbor Downtown Street Design Manual (2022)
- Downtown Ann Arbor Design Guidelines (2011)
- Stormwater Best Management Practices: Maintenance Manual (2005)

Flood Management
- Code of Ordinances (2024)
- Flood Mitigation Plan (2007)
- Huron River Impoundment Management Plans (2009)
- FEMA Flood Insurance Study (2012)
- Hazard Mitigation Plan with Appendices (2022)

Regional Plans
- Climate Resilient Communities (2013)
- Water Resources Plan for Southeast Michigan (2018)

Water Infrastructure Policies and Actions for Southeast Michigan (2023)
Resilient Washtenaw Climate Action Plan (2022)
Middle Huron River Water Management Plan (2020)
Engineering Guidance for Changing Rainfall (2022)
Stormwater Engineering Design Standards (2021)
Green Infrastructure Vision for Southeast Michigan (2014)
GREEN Initiative (2023)

Other Plans

Natural Features Master Plan (2004)
Urban and Community Forest Management Plan (2014)
Achieving Equitable Engagement in Ann Arbor (2023)
A2Zero Living Carbon Neutrality Plan (2020)
Public Art Overview
Ann Arbor Moving Together Towards Vision Zero (2021)
Sustainability Framework (2013)
Ann Arbor Downtown Plan (2009)
Master Plan, Land Use Element (2009)
Parks and Recreation Open Space Plan (2023-2027)

Dan Christian: From these documents we are trying to extract policies/procedures/programs dealing with stormwater. There is no single overarching document regarding stormwater management, so we are trying to build a foundational understanding from the variety of existing documents. Up next will be policy evaluation where we isolate overarching policies and programs to investigate further, look at best practices, and review trends in implementation and planning. Please let us know if we are missing documents or referencing outdated versions.

7. Next Steps, Closing and Adjournment

The following ideas were shared in the closing discussion:

- As opposed to dedicating a single memo/chapter to climate change, climate change considerations will be included as a part of every other document as it is relevant to every subtopic.
- In addition to climate change, there are local issues surrounding changing landscape development conditions – an overarching 'emerging/changing conditions' subtopic could be beneficial
    - Consider stormwater implications of rapid large scale development to address housing crisis
- First Street is a potential resource for rainfall/flooding information, SEMCOG has a copy of their data available by request to local governments
- Transparency of the prioritization framework is important
- Community input could be its own subtopic as well – could serve to identify overarching themes in feedback.

- HRWC Watershed Resident Survey Reports are a helpful resource - 5 year evaluation data on SW topics understanding and perception – could be a helpful resource to guide education/engagement efforts
- Final report should include SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, and Timely) goals
- The relationship between density and stormwater management may be good to include in public education
- We want to ensure the broader context and perspective is accounted for, consider county and regional efforts
- Agendas and documents for review will be distributed at least one week prior to each SWAG meeting.
- Materials will also be available through the engagement hub for transparency.

8. Summary of Action Items from SWAG Session 1

Current action items include the following:

- Please review the list of documents included in the Foundational Framework for missing or outdated information
- Please send Ann Arbor stormwater photos to Jen.

Upcoming action items include:

- The next SWAG meeting will be held on Wed 4/2/2025, relevant materials will be distributed at least one week prior for your review.