

POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

December 13, 2010

6:00 p.m.

County Complex, Building A

1. Roll Call

Present

Mr. Jack Fraley, Chair
Mr. Tim O' Connor
Mr. Reese Peck
Mr. Al Woods (via phone)

Staff Present

Mr. Allen Murphy
Ms. Tammy Rosario
Ms. Leanne Reidenbach
Ms. Kate Sipes
Mr. Brian Elmore
Mr. John McDonald
Ms. Fran Geissler
Mr. John Horne

Mr. Jack Fraley called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. Minutes - November 22, 2010

Mr. Tim O'Connor moved for approval of the minutes.

The minutes were approved (4-0).

3. Old Business

Mr. Fraley asked Committee members to send staff any comments on the Planning Commission Annual Report.

4. New Business – FY2012 Capital Improvements Program (CIP)

Mr. Fraley asked how staff developed the Stormwater Division Capital Improvements Program (CIP) project list.

Ms. Leanne Reidenbach stated that twelve individual projects were being submitted as a single CIP proposal. She stated the project list was reviewed by the Stormwater Program Advisory Committee (SPAC), who requested funding through the Stormwater Division for the priority projects in FY12. The large number of projects gives the County flexibility to deal with project delays or high cost estimates by shifting to other projects.

Ms. Fran Geissler, Director of the Stormwater Division, stated the SPAC developed a system for ranking priority projects. She stated public health, safety, and welfare, and relation to the Comprehensive Plan are major factors in developing project scores. Water quality and drainage improvements are additional stormwater concerns. Every dollar spent on stormwater infrastructure should improve water quality, allowing the County to receive Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) credits. Tier 1 Stormwater Division projects are the highest priorities in each district. The SPAC believes limited dollars should be spread around the magisterial districts evenly. The \$200,000

feasibility study will help the County determine what types of remediation will be necessary in the York River watershed. The SPAC has considered separating the single Stormwater CIP request into capital maintenance and capital improvement projects. Projects were not divided into project categories due to past issues with gaining access easements. When easements cause delay, Stormwater moves to another project.

Mr. Reese Peck stated Stormwater priorities were difficult to compare to one another. He stated projects should be separated and ranked based on project type. With limited funding, there should be set Stormwater core priorities, such as water quality, which is included in last year's budget description. Larger projects could be ranked individually.

Mr. John Horne, Manager of General Services, stated the Board of Supervisors established the Stormwater division's priorities as drainage repairs, water quality improvements, and flood improvements. He stated these priorities may not always overlap on a proposal.

Mr. Peck stated he would like to see public debate on setting a highest priority among Stormwater's several mission statements.

Mr. Horne stated citizen requests for drainage improvements to the County and Board have been the primary driver of the Stormwater program. He stated calls to the Board regarding property damage usually became top priority.

Mr. Fraley stated there were differences in priorities between the CIP request and the Stormwater bond project list. He stated that taken individually, some Stormwater projects would rank lower than the middle school classroom expansions. Ranking the Stormwater list as a whole would allow some less deserving projects to use the overall list's high priority. The Committee could not be certain which specific projects would be pursued due to the County's difficulty securing easements.

Mr. Horne stated that in similar situations in the past, the Committee has attached comments emphasizing priorities or including further recommendations to forward to the Board with its final CIP listing.

Ms. Geissler stated that neighborhoods with mandatory homeowner's associations (HOAs) that experience stormwater flooding can receive County guidance, but not funds. Neighborhoods on the project list are older or do not have HOAs to raise repair funds.

Mr. Horne stated some Stormwater projects are prioritized due to being inexpensive or relatively simple repairs.

Mr. Peck stated the County should articulate the differences between 'stormwater' and 'water quality.'

Mr. Horne stated the Committee could rank each project category, including drainage improvements, BMP refits, or stream restoration separately. He stated the SPAC's unified ranking system prioritizes projects with multiple benefits, including protection of people and property, relevance to the Comprehensive Plan, and use of outside funding.

Ms. Reidenbach stated the SPAC's ranking process is very similar to the Committee's CIP ranking methods.

Ms. Geissler stated that necessary easements from property owners must be attained before money could be spent on any Stormwater projects.

Mr. Al Woods asked how the Committee could make recommendations to the Board without knowing the various inputs staff was using for rankings, such as cost and complexity.

Mr. Horne stated staff should have attached specifications to the project list to help compare dissimilar proposals. He stated repairs protecting private property also served to improve water quality by improving run-off management.

Ms. Reidenbach stated Stormwater projects were grouped as a whole due to the SPAC's technical review and prioritization. She stated the Committee could add footnotes to the list and the Board could reprioritize them if it wanted.

Mr. Peck stated the public expects clear delineations between the types of work performed. He stated the grouped Stormwater list could create the impression that the Committee recommends the same high priority for each individual project. Stormwater proposals should be grouped by project types.

Mr. Horne stated funding the proposed watershed and feasibility studies were the foundation of staff's recommended project list found in their CIP request.

Mr. Fraley stated the Committee should attach a note saying that studies should be funded by means other than the CIP for the Board. He stated projects could be grouped first by project type and second by tier level. He asked whether the Committee should rank project types as a whole or create averages for project types based on individual rankings.

Mr. Woods asked why Committee members should rank projects over the expertise and recommendations of Stormwater staff and the SPAC.

Mr. Peck stated the Commission has the statutory authority to make recommendations. He stated the Commission is supposed to bring common sense to the process. The CIP process has evolved to defer to staff and advisory boards and to remove maintenance projects. The Committee has attempted to elevate rankings to allow policy discussions on various proposals.

Mr. O'Connor stated if the project list is broken up, projects should be ranked individually.

Mr. Fraley stated he preferred ranking the project list as a whole, with attached notes on certain projects and policies.

Mr. John McDonald, Manager of Financial and Management Services, stated there was very little money for projects.

Mr. Woods stated he favored ranking the Stormwater list as a whole, with notes identifying inconsistent projects or those that needed additional consideration.

Mr. Fraley stated that the New Horizons contribution should not be scored due to the County's contractual obligation to support the program.

Mr. Woods asked about information regarding the school projects, since little information was provided.

Mr. McDonald explained that the schools have not adjusted their CIP review timeline since the Policy Committee began reviewing applications earlier. He then stated that with the classroom expansions at Hornsby and Berkeley middle schools, the need for an additional middle school could be delayed until 2017. He stated bond proceeds existed to finance the expansions. Due to redistricting and changing development patterns, Hornsby has already exceeded design capacity. The Jamestown field lighting proposal came about after foul balls began hitting cars at Mid-County Park. Older youth and adult baseball/softball leagues need a replacement site. Security card CIP proposals represent a longer-term expenditure as the schools slowly acquire and install the systems as they refurbish each school. The Cooley Field lighting project is for a site used occasionally at James Blair school in the City of Williamsburg, but that has no public access. Fire Station #4 currently has no female firefighter facilities.

Mr. Woods asked if the school timeline would be moved ahead to fit in with the Policy Committee's review timeframe.

Mr. McDonald stated that next year the school and Policy Committee timeline would align.

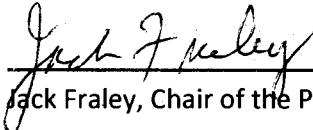
The Committee discussed their CIP project rankings.

Mr. Fraley asked Policy Committee members to have their final rankings and comments to staff by the end of the day on December 14th. He stated scores would be discussed for a maximum of fifteen minutes at the next Committee meeting.

5. Adjournment

Mr. O'Connor moved to adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.



Jack Fraley, Chair of the Policy Committee