



CITY OF HARRISONBURG COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

409 SOUTH MAIN STREET, HARRISONBURG, VA 22801

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Memorandum

To: Local Engineers & Developers
From: Matthew Huston, City Engineer, VESMP Administrator
RE: New VESMP Regulations and City Erosion Control and Stormwater Management Ordinance
Date: July 10, 2024

As you likely already know, as of July 1, 2024, the prior Virginia Erosion and Sediment Control Program (VESCP) and Virginia Stormwater Management Program (VSMP) regulations have been repealed and replaced with the Virginia Erosion and Stormwater Management Program (VESMP) regulations. Accordingly, City staff will recommend to City Council to repeal our Erosion and Sedimentation Control and Stormwater Management ordinances and to replace them with a consolidated Erosion Control and Stormwater Management ordinance. The proposed ordinance text is attached.

We would like to solicit your open-ended feedback on the proposed ordinance. We ask that any comments be sent to me no later than the close of business on Wednesday, July 24, 2024, to be considered in our proposal and report to City Council. The anticipated City Council meeting date at which this will be presented is August 13, 2024.

The City's proposed ordinance is based on the model ordinance provided by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and edited to meet our local needs. Other than combining two programs into one, there are no substantive changes to our processes or expectations. We still expect separate erosion control and stormwater management plans to be submitted, as applicable, as part of Engineered Comprehensive Site Plans. Erosion control-only plans, as an initial stage to a land development project, are still available. Review fees and civil penalties are unchanged, although the specific review fees are proposed to be directly incorporated into the ordinance, rather than in a separate document.

We invite your feedback on the proposed ordinance. Remember that any comments must be received no later than the close of business on Wednesday, July 24, 2024, to be considered in our proposal and report to City Council. Please submit your comments to Matthew.Huston@harrisonburgva.gov. Of course, questions and feedback are welcome at any time.

Attachment

**ORDINANCE REPEALING TITLE 10, CHAPTER 7 –
STORMWATER MANAGEMENT, REPEALING TITLE 10,
CHAPTER 4 – EROSION AND SEDIMENTATION CONTROL,
AND ENACTING TITLE 10, CHAPTER 4 – EROSION CONTROL
AND STORMWATER MANAGEMENT OF THE CODE OF
ORDINANCES
CITY OF HARRISONBURG, VIRGINIA**

Be it ordained by the Council of the City of Harrisonburg, Virginia:

That Title 10, Chapter 7 Stormwater Management is repealed in its entirety; and

That Title 10, Chapter 4 Erosion and Sedimentation Control is repealed and replaced as shown:

CHAPTER 4. EROSION CONTROL AND STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

Sec. 10-4-1. TITLE, PURPOSE, AND AUTHORITY.

- A. This ordinance shall be known as the “Erosion and Stormwater Management Ordinance of the City of Harrisonburg, Virginia.”
- B. The purpose of this ordinance is to ensure the general health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of the City of Harrisonburg, Virginia, protect the quality and quantity of state waters from the potential harm of unmanaged stormwater and soil erosion, including protection from a land disturbing activity causing unreasonable degradation of properties, water quality, stream channels, and other natural resources, and to establish procedures whereby stormwater requirements related to water quality and quantity shall be administered and enforced.
- C. This ordinance is authorized by § 62.1-44.15:27 of the Code of Virginia.

Sec. 10-4-2. DEFINITIONS.

The following words and terms, when used in this ordinance, shall have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

"Adequate channel" means a channel that will convey the designated frequency storm event without overtopping the channel bank nor causing erosive damage to the channel bed or banks.

"Agreement in lieu of a plan" means a contract between the City and the owner or permittee that specifies methods that shall be implemented to comply with the requirements of the VESMA and this ordinance for the construction of one single-family detached residential structure or one

duplex residential structure such contract may be executed by the City in lieu of a soil erosion control and/or stormwater management plan.

"Applicant" means person submitting a soil erosion control and/or stormwater management plan for approval in order to obtain authorization to commence a land disturbing activity.

"Best management practice" or "BMP" means schedules of activities, prohibitions of practices, maintenance procedures, and other management practices, including both structural and nonstructural practices, to prevent or reduce the pollution of surface waters and groundwater systems.

1. "Nonproprietary best management practice" means both structural and nonstructural practices to prevent or reduce the pollution of surface waters and groundwater systems that are in the public domain and are not protected by trademark or patent or copyright.
2. "Proprietary best management practice" means both structural and nonstructural practices to prevent or reduce the pollution of surface waters and groundwater systems that are privately owned and controlled and may be protected by trademark or patent or copyright.

"Board" means the State Water Control Board.

"Causeway" means a temporary structural span constructed across a flowing watercourse or wetland to allow construction traffic to access the area without causing erosion damage.

"Channel" means a natural stream or manmade waterway.

"City" or "the City" means the local government of the City of Harrisonburg, Virginia, including any duly authorized agent of the City charged with administration and enforcement of this ordinance or sections thereof.

"Clean Water Act" or "CWA" means the federal Clean Water Act (33 USC § 1251 et seq.), formerly referred to as the Federal Water Pollution Control Act or Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972, Public Law 92-500, as amended by Public Law 95-217, Public Law 95-576, Public Law 96-483, and Public Law 97-117, or any subsequent revisions thereto.

"Cofferdam" means a watertight temporary structure in a river, lake, etc., for keeping the water from an enclosed area that has been pumped dry so that bridge foundations, dams, etc., may be constructed.

"Common plan of development or sale" means a contiguous area where separate and distinct construction activities may be taking place at different times on different schedules.

"Comprehensive stormwater management plan" means a plan, which may be integrated with other land use plans or regulations that specifies how the water quality components, quantity

components, or both of stormwater are to be managed on the basis of an entire watershed or a portion thereof. The plan may also provide for the remediation of erosion, flooding, and water quality and quantity problems caused by prior development.

"Construction activity" means any clearing, grading, or excavation associated with large construction activity or associated with small construction activity.

"Construction General Permit" means the current version of the General VPDES Permit for Discharges of Stormwater from Construction Activities under which VADEQ issues coverage for applicable projects.

"Control measure" means any BMP, stormwater facility, or other method used to minimize the discharge of pollutants to state waters.

"CWA and regulations" means the Clean Water Act and applicable regulations published in the Code of Federal Regulations promulgated thereunder. For the purposes of this ordinance, it includes state program requirements.

"Dam" means a barrier to confine or raise water for storage or diversion, to create a hydraulic head, to prevent gully erosion, or to retain soil, rock or other debris.

"Denuded" means a term applied to land that has been physically disturbed and no longer supports vegetative cover.

"Department" means the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality.

"Development" means land disturbance and the resulting landform associated with the construction of residential, commercial, industrial, institutional, recreation, transportation, or utility facilities or structures or the clearing of land for non-agricultural or non-silvicultural purposes. The regulation of discharges from development, for purposes of stormwater management, does not include the exclusions found in 9VAC25-875-860.

"Dike" means an earthen embankment constructed to confine or control water, especially one built along the banks of a river to prevent overflow of lowlands; levee.

"Discharge" when used without qualification, means the discharge of a pollutant.

"Discharge of a pollutant" means:

1. Any addition of any pollutant or combination of pollutants to state waters from any point source; or
2. Any addition of any pollutant or combination of pollutants to the waters of the contiguous zone or the ocean from any point source other than a vessel or other floating craft which is being used as a means of transportation.

This definition includes additions of pollutants into surface waters from: surface runoff that is collected or channeled by man; discharges through pipes, sewers, or other conveyances owned by a state, municipality, or other person that do not lead to a treatment works; and discharges through pipes, sewers, or other conveyances, leading into privately owned treatment works. This term does not include an addition of pollutants by any indirect discharger.

"District" or "soil and water conservation district" means a political subdivision of the Commonwealth organized in accordance with the provisions of Article 3 (§ 10.1-506 et seq.) of Chapter 5 of Title 10.1 of the Code of Virginia.

"Diversion" means a channel with a supporting ridge on the lower side constructed across or at the bottom of a slope for the purpose of intercepting surface runoff.

"Dormant" means denuded land that is not actively being brought to a desired grade or condition.

"Drainage area" means a land area, water area, or both from which runoff flows to a common point.

"Energy dissipator" means a nonerodible structure which reduces the velocity of concentrated flow to reduce its erosive effects.

"Environmental Protection Agency" or "EPA" means the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

"Erosion and sediment control plan" means a document containing material for the conservation of soil and water resources of a unit or group of units of land. It may include appropriate maps, an appropriate soil and water plan inventory and management information with needed interpretations, and a record of decisions contributing to conservation treatment. The plan shall contain all major conservation decisions to ensure that the entire unit or units of land will be so treated to achieve the conservation objectives.

"Erosion impact area" means an area of land that is not associated with a current land disturbing activity but is subject to persistent soil erosion resulting in the delivery of sediment onto neighboring properties or into state waters. This definition shall not apply to any lot or parcel of land of 10,000 square feet or less used for single family detached residential purposes.

"ESC" means erosion and sediment control.

"ESM plan" means a soil erosion control and stormwater management plan, commonly referred to as the erosion control and stormwater management plan. Though referred to as a singular plan, provisions for erosion control and stormwater management will need to be displayed on separate sheets in plans required under this ordinance.

"Flood fringe" means the portion of the floodplain outside the floodway that is usually covered with water from the 100-year flood or storm event. This includes the flood or floodway fringe designated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and areas determined to be part of the floodplain by the City of Harrisonburg.

"Flooding" means a volume of water that is too great to be confined within the banks or walls of the stream, water body, or conveyance system and that overflows onto adjacent lands, thereby causing or threatening damage.

"Floodplain" means the area adjacent to a channel, river, stream, or other water body that is susceptible to being inundated by water normally associated with the 100-year flood or storm event. This includes the floodplain designated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and areas determined to be part of the floodplain by the City of Harrisonburg.

"Flood-prone area" means the component of a natural or restored stormwater conveyance system that is outside the main channel. Flood-prone areas may include the floodplain, the floodway, the flood fringe, wetlands, riparian buffers, or other areas adjacent to the main channel.

"Floodway" means the channel of a river or other watercourse and the adjacent land areas, usually associated with flowing water, that must be reserved in order to discharge the 100-year flood or storm event without cumulatively increasing the water surface elevation more than one foot (or less as determined in the locality's Flood Insurance Study). This includes the floodway designated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and areas determined to be part of the floodplain by the City of Harrisonburg.

"Flume" means a constructed device lined with erosion-resistant materials intended to convey water on steep grades.

"General permit" means a permit authorizing a category of discharges under the CWA and the VESMA within a geographical area.

"Hydrologic Unit Code" or "HUC" means a watershed unit established in the most recent version of Virginia's 6th Order National Watershed Boundary Dataset unless specifically identified as another order.

"Impervious cover" means a surface composed of material that significantly impedes or prevents natural infiltration of water into soil.

"Incorporated place" means a city, town, township, or village that is incorporated under the Code of Virginia.

"Inspection" means an on-site review of the project's compliance with any applicable design criteria, or an on-site review to obtain information or conduct surveys or investigations necessary in the implementation or enforcement of the VESMA and applicable regulations.

"Karst area" means any land area predominantly underlain at the surface or shallow subsurface by limestone, dolomite, or other soluble bedrock regardless of any obvious surface karst features.

"Karst features" means sinkholes, sinking and losing streams, caves, large flow springs, and other such landscape features found in karst areas.

"Land disturbance" or "land-disturbing activity" means a manmade change to the land surface that may result in soil erosion or has the potential to change its runoff characteristics, including, but not necessarily limited to, construction activity such as the clearing, grading, excavating, or filling of land.

"Land-disturbance approval" means an approval allowing a land-disturbing activity to commence issued by the VESMP authority after the requirements of § 62.1-44.15:34 of the Code of Virginia and the City of Harrisonburg have been met, including issuance of a Land Disturbing Permit.

"Large construction activity" means construction activity including clearing, grading, and excavation, except operations that result in the disturbance of less than five acres of total land area. Large construction activity also includes the disturbance of less than five acres of total land area that is a part of a larger common plan of development or sale if the larger common plan will ultimately disturb five acres or more. Large construction activity does not include routine maintenance that is performed to maintain the original line and grade, hydraulic capacity, or original purpose of the facility.

"Linear development project" means a land-disturbing activity that is linear in nature such as, but not limited to, (i) the construction of electric and telephone utility lines, and natural gas pipelines; (ii) construction of tracks, rights-of-way, bridges, communication facilities and other related structures of a railroad company; (iii) highway construction projects; (iv) construction of stormwater channels and stream restoration activities; and (v) water and sewer lines. Private subdivision roads or streets shall not be considered linear development projects.

"Live watercourse" means a definite channel with bed and banks within which concentrated water flows continuously.

"Locality" means the City of Harrisonburg, Virginia.

"Localized flooding" means smaller scale flooding that may occur outside of a stormwater conveyance system. This may include high water, ponding, or standing water from stormwater runoff, which is likely to cause property damage or unsafe conditions.

"Main channel" means the portion of the stormwater conveyance system that contains the base flow and small frequent storm events.

"Manmade" means constructed by man.

"Minimize" means to reduce or eliminate the discharge of pollutants to the extent achievable using stormwater controls that are technologically available and economically practicable.

"Minor modification" means modifications and amendments not requiring extensive review and evaluation including changes in EPA promulgated test protocols, increasing monitoring frequency requirements, changes in sampling locations, and changes to compliance dates within the overall compliance schedules. A minor permit modification or amendment does not substantially alter permit conditions, substantially increase or decrease the amount of surface water impacts, increase the size of the operation, or reduce the capacity of the facility to protect human health or the environment.

"Natural channel design concepts" means the utilization of engineering analysis and fluvial geomorphic processes to create, rehabilitate, restore, or stabilize an open conveyance system for the purpose of creating or recreating a stream that conveys its bankfull storm event within its banks and allows larger flows to access its bankfull bench and its floodplain. Natural channel design techniques shall only be exercised by individuals trained and experienced in these techniques.

"Natural stream" means a tidal or nontidal watercourse that is part of the natural topography. It usually maintains a continuous or seasonal flow during the year and is characterized as being irregular in cross-section with a meandering course. Constructed channels such as drainage ditches or swales shall not be considered natural streams; however, channels designed utilizing natural channel design concepts may be considered natural streams.

"Nonerodible" means a material, e.g., riprap, concrete, plastic, etc., that will not experience surface wear due to natural forces.

"Nonpoint source pollution" means pollution such as sediment, nitrogen, phosphorus, hydrocarbons, heavy metals, and toxics whose sources cannot be pinpointed but rather are washed from the land surface in a diffuse manner by stormwater.

"Operator" means the owner or operator of any facility or activity subject to the VESMA and this ordinance. In the context of stormwater associated with a large or small construction activity, operator means any person associated with a construction project that meets either of the following two criteria: (i) the person has direct operational control over construction plans and specifications, including the ability to make modifications to those plans and specifications or (ii) the person has day-to-day operational control of those activities at a project that are necessary to ensure compliance with a stormwater pollution prevention plan for the site or other

permit or VESMP authority permit conditions (i.e., they are authorized to direct workers at a site to carry out activities required by the stormwater pollution prevention plan or comply with other permit conditions).

"Owner" means the same as that term is defined in § 62.1-44.3 of the Code of Virginia. For a regulated land-disturbing activity that does not require a permit, "owner" also means the owner or owners of the freehold of the premises or lesser estate therein, mortgagee or vendee in possession, assignee of rents, receiver, executor, trustee, lessee, or other person, firm, or corporation in control of a property.

"Peak flow rate" means the maximum instantaneous flow from a prescribed design storm at a particular location.

"Percent impervious" means the impervious area within the site divided by the area of the site multiplied by 100.

"Permit" means a VPDES permit issued by the department pursuant to § 62.1-44.15 of the Code of Virginia for stormwater discharges from a land-disturbing activity.

"Permittee" means the person to whom the permit is issued.

"Person" means any individual, partnership, firm, association, joint venture, public or private corporation, trust, estate, commission, board, public or private institution, utility, cooperative, county, city, town, or other political subdivision of the Commonwealth, governmental body, including a federal or state entity as applicable, any interstate body, or any other legal entity.

"Point of discharge" means a location at which concentrated stormwater runoff is released.

"Point source" means any discernible, confined, and discrete conveyance including any pipe, ditch, channel, tunnel, conduit, well, discrete fissure, container, rolling stock, concentrated animal feeding operation, landfill leachate collection system, vessel, or other floating craft from which pollutants are or may be discharged. This term does not include return flows from irrigated agriculture or agricultural stormwater runoff.

"Pollutant discharge" means the average amount of a particular pollutant measured in pounds per year or other standard reportable unit as appropriate, delivered by stormwater runoff.

"Pollution" means such alteration of the physical, chemical, or biological properties of any state waters as will or is likely to create a nuisance or render such waters (a) harmful or detrimental or injurious to the public health, safety, or welfare, or to the health of animals, fish or aquatic life; (b) unsuitable with reasonable treatment for use as present or possible future sources of public water supply; or (c) unsuitable for recreational, commercial, industrial, agricultural, or other reasonable uses, provided that (i) an alteration of the physical, chemical, or biological property of state waters, or a discharge or deposit of sewage, industrial wastes or other wastes to

state waters by any owner which by itself is not sufficient to cause pollution, but which, in combination with such alteration of or discharge or deposit to state waters by other owners, is sufficient to cause pollution; (ii) the discharge of untreated sewage by any owner into state waters; and (iii) contributing to the contravention of standards of water quality duly established by the State Water Control Board, are "pollution" for the terms and purposes of this ordinance.

"Post-development" refers to conditions that reasonably may be expected or anticipated to exist after completion of the land development activity on a specific site or tract of land.

"Predevelopment" refers to the conditions that exist at the time that plans for the land disturbing activity are submitted to the VESMP authority. Where phased development or plan approval occurs (preliminary grading, demolition of existing structures, roads and utilities, etc.), the existing conditions at the time prior to the commencement of land-disturbing activity shall establish predevelopment conditions.

"Prior developed lands" means land that has been previously utilized for residential, commercial, industrial, institutional, recreation, transportation, or utility facilities or structures, and that will have the impervious areas associated with those uses altered during a land disturbing activity.

"Qualified personnel" means a person knowledgeable in the principles and practices of erosion and sediment and stormwater management controls who possesses the skills to assess conditions at the construction site for the operator that could impact stormwater quality and quantity and to assess the effectiveness of any sediment and erosion control measures or stormwater management facilities selected to control the quality and quantity of stormwater discharges from the construction activity.

"Responsible land disturber" or "RLD" means an individual holding a certificate issued by the department who is responsible for carrying out the land-disturbing activity in accordance with the approved erosion and sediment control plan or ESM plan. The RLD may be the owner, applicant, permittee, designer, superintendent, project manager, contractor, or any other project or development team member. The RLD must be designated on the erosion and sediment control plan, ESM plan, or permit as defined in this ordinance as a prerequisite for engaging in land disturbance.

"Runoff" or "stormwater runoff" means that portion of precipitation that is discharged across the land surface or through conveyances to one or more waterways.

"Runoff characteristics" includes maximum velocity, peak flow rate, volume, and flow duration.

"Runoff volume" means the volume of water that runs off the land development project from a prescribed storm event.

"Sediment basin" means a temporary impoundment built to retain sediment and debris with a controlled stormwater release structure.

"Sediment trap" means a temporary impoundment built to retain sediment and debris which is formed by constructing an earthen embankment with a stone outlet.

"Sheet flow" (also called overland flow) means shallow, unconcentrated and irregular flow down a slope. The length of strip for overland flow usually does not exceed 200 feet under natural conditions.

"Shoreline erosion control project" means an erosion control project approved by local wetlands boards, the Virginia Marine Resources Commission, the department, or the United States Army Corps of Engineers and located on tidal waters and within nonvegetated or vegetated wetlands as defined in Title 28.2 of the Code of Virginia.

"Site" means the land or water area where any facility or land-disturbing activity is physically located or conducted, including adjacent land used or preserved in connection with the facility or land-disturbing activity. Areas channelward of mean low water in tidal Virginia shall not be considered part of a site.

"Site hydrology" means the movement of water on, across, through, and off the site as determined by parameters including soil types, soil permeability, vegetative cover, seasonal water tables, slopes, land cover, and impervious cover.

"Slope drain" means tubing or conduit made of nonerosive material extending from the top to the bottom of a cut or fill slope with an energy dissipator at the outlet end.

"Small construction activity" means:

1. Construction activities including clearing, grading, and excavating that result in land disturbance of equal to or greater than one acre and less than five acres. Small construction activity also includes the disturbance of less than one acre of total land area that is part of a larger common plan of development or sale if the larger common plan will ultimately disturb equal to or greater than one and less than five acres. Small construction activity does not include routine maintenance that is performed to maintain the original line and grade, hydraulic capacity, or original purpose of the facility. The department may waive the otherwise applicable requirements in a general permit for a stormwater discharge from construction activities that disturb less than five acres where stormwater controls are not needed based on an approved "total maximum daily load" (TMDL) that addresses the pollutants of concern or, for nonimpaired waters that do not require TMDLs, an equivalent analysis that determines allocations for small construction sites for the pollutants of concern or that determines that such allocations are not needed to protect water quality based on consideration of existing in-stream concentrations, expected growth in pollutant contributions from all sources, and a margin of safety. The pollutants of concern

include sediment or a parameter that addresses sediment (such as total suspended solids, turbidity, or siltation) and any other pollutant that has been identified as a cause of impairment of any water body that will receive a discharge from the construction activity. The operator shall certify to the department that the construction activity will take place, and stormwater discharges will occur, within the drainage area addressed by the TMDL or provide an equivalent analysis. As of the start date in Table 1 of 9VAC25-31-1020, all certifications submitted in support of the waiver shall be submitted electronically by the owner or operator to the department in compliance with this subdivision and 40 CFR Part 3 (including, in all cases, 40 CFR Part 3 Subpart D), 9VAC25-875-940, and Part XI (9VAC25-31-950 et seq.) of the Virginia Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (VPDES) Permit Regulation. Part XI of 9VAC25-31 is not intended to undo existing requirements for electronic reporting. Prior to this date, and independent of Part XI of 9VAC25-31, permittees may be required to report electronically if specified by a particular permit.

2. Any other construction activity designated by either the department or the EPA regional administrator, based on the potential for contribution to a violation of a water quality standard or for significant contribution of pollutants to surface waters.

"Soil erosion" means the movement of soil by wind or water into state waters or onto lands in the Commonwealth.

"Soil erosion control and stormwater management plan," commonly referred to as the erosion control and stormwater management plan, or "ESM plan" means a document describing methods for controlling soil erosion and managing stormwater in accordance with the requirements adopted pursuant to the VESMA. The ESM plan may consist of aspects of the erosion and sediment control plan and the stormwater management plan as each is described in this ordinance. Though referred to as a singular plan, provisions for erosion control and stormwater management will need to be displayed on separate sheets in plans required under this ordinance.

"Stabilized" means land that has been treated to withstand normal exposure to natural forces without incurring erosion damage.

"State" means the Commonwealth of Virginia.

"State application" or "application" means the standard form or forms, including any additions, revisions, or modifications to the forms, approved by the administrator and the department for applying for a permit.

"State Water Control Law" means Chapter 3.1 (§ 62.1-44.2 et seq.) of Title 62.1 of the Code of Virginia.

"State waters" means all water, on the surface and under the ground, wholly or partially within or bordering the Commonwealth or within its jurisdiction, including wetlands.

"Storm sewer inlet" means a structure through which stormwater is introduced into an underground conveyance system.

"Stormwater," for the purposes of the VESMA, means precipitation that is discharged across the land surface or through conveyances to one or more waterways and that may include stormwater runoff, snow melt runoff, and surface runoff and drainage.

"Stormwater conveyance system" means a combination of drainage components that are used to convey stormwater discharge, either within or downstream of the land-disturbing activity. This includes:

1. "Manmade stormwater conveyance system" means a pipe, ditch, vegetated swale, or other stormwater conveyance system constructed by man except for restored stormwater conveyance systems;
2. "Natural stormwater conveyance system" means the main channel of a natural stream and the flood-prone area adjacent to the main channel; or
3. "Restored stormwater conveyance system" means a stormwater conveyance system that has been designed by a qualified professional and constructed using natural channel design concepts. Restored stormwater conveyance systems include the main channel and the flood-prone area adjacent to the main channel.

"Stormwater detention" means the process of temporarily impounding runoff and discharging it through a hydraulic outlet structure to a downstream conveyance system.

"Stormwater management facility" means a control measure that controls stormwater runoff and changes the characteristics of that runoff including the quantity and quality, the period of release or the velocity of flow.

"Stormwater management plan" means a document containing material describing methods for complying with the requirements of the VESMP.

"Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan" or "SWPPP" means a document that is prepared in accordance with good engineering practices and that identifies potential sources of pollutants that may reasonably be expected to affect the quality of stormwater discharges. A SWPPP required under the VESMP for construction activities shall identify and require the implementation of control measures and shall include or incorporate by reference an approved erosion and sediment control plan, an approved stormwater management plan, and a pollution prevention plan.

"Subdivision" means the same as defined in § 15.2-2201 of the Code of Virginia.

"Surface waters" means:

1. All waters that are currently used, were used in the past, or may be susceptible to use in interstate or foreign commerce, including all waters that are subject to the ebb and flow of the tide;
2. All interstate waters, including interstate wetlands;
3. All other waters such as intrastate lakes, rivers, streams (including intermittent streams), mudflats, sandflats, wetlands, sloughs, prairie potholes, wet meadows, playa lakes, or natural ponds the use, degradation, or destruction of which would affect or could affect interstate or foreign commerce including any such waters:
 - a. That are or could be used by interstate or foreign travelers for recreational or other purposes;
 - b. From which fish or shellfish are or could be taken and sold in interstate or foreign commerce; or
 - c. That are used or could be used for industrial purposes by industries in interstate commerce;
4. All impoundments of waters otherwise defined as surface waters under this definition;
5. Tributaries of waters identified in subdivisions 1 through 4 of this definition;
6. The territorial sea; and
7. Wetlands adjacent to waters (other than waters that are themselves wetlands) identified in subdivisions 1 through 6 of this definition.

Waste treatment systems, including treatment ponds or lagoons designed to meet the requirements of the CWA and the law, are not surface waters. Surface waters do not include prior converted cropland. Notwithstanding the determination of an area's status as prior converted cropland by any other agency, for the purposes of the CWA, the final authority regarding the CWA jurisdiction remains with the EPA.

"SWM" means stormwater management.

"Temporary vehicular stream crossing" means a temporary nonerodible structural span installed across a flowing watercourse for use by construction traffic. Structures may include bridges, round pipes or pipe arches constructed on or through nonerodible material.

"Ten-year storm" means a storm that is capable of producing rainfall expected to be equaled or exceeded on the average of once in 10 years. It may also be expressed as an exceedance probability with a 10% chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year.

"Total maximum daily load" or "TMDL" means the sum of the individual wasteload allocations for point sources, load allocations (LAs) for nonpoint sources, natural background loading, and a margin of safety. TMDLs can be expressed in terms of either mass per time, toxicity, or other appropriate measure. The TMDL process provides for point versus nonpoint source trade-offs.

"Town" means an incorporated town.

"Two-year storm" means a storm that is capable of producing rainfall expected to be equaled or exceeded on the average of once in two years. It may also be expressed as an exceedance probability with a 50% chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year.

"Virginia Erosion and Stormwater Management Act" or "VESMA" means Article 2.3 (§ 62.1-44.15:24 et seq.) of Chapter 3.1, State Water Control Law, of Title 62.1 of the Code of Virginia.

"Virginia Erosion and Stormwater Management Program" or "VESMP" means a program established by the VESMP authority for the effective control of soil erosion and sediment deposition and the management of the quality and quantity of runoff resulting from land disturbing activities to prevent the unreasonable degradation of properties, stream channels, waters, and other natural resources. The program shall include such items as local ordinances, rules, requirements for permits and land-disturbance approvals, policies and guidelines, technical materials, and requirements for plan review, inspection, and enforcement consistent with the requirements of the VESMA.

"Virginia Erosion and Stormwater Management Program authority" or "VESMP authority" means a designated entity approved by the department to operate the VESMP. For the purposes of this ordinance, these refer to the City of Harrisonburg, Virginia.

"Virginia Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (VPDES) permit" or "VPDES permit" means a document issued by the department pursuant to the State Water Control Law authorizing, under prescribed conditions, the potential or actual discharge of pollutants from a point source to surface waters.

"Virginia Stormwater BMP Clearinghouse" means a collection that contains detailed design standards and specifications for control measures that may be used in Virginia to comply with the requirements of the VESMA and associated regulations.

"Virginia Stormwater Management Handbook" means a collection of pertinent information that provides general guidance for compliance with the VESMA and associated regulations and is developed by the department with advice from a stakeholder advisory committee.

"Wasteload allocation" or "wasteload" means the portion of a receiving surface water's loading or assimilative capacity allocated to one of its existing or future point sources of pollution. Wasteload allocations are a type of water quality-based effluent limitation.

"Water quality technical criteria" means standards set forth in regulations adopted pursuant to the VESMA that establish minimum design criteria for measures to control nonpoint source pollution.

"Water quantity technical criteria" means standards set forth in regulations adopted pursuant to the VESMA that establish minimum design criteria for measures to control localized flooding and stream channel erosion.

"Watershed" means a defined land area drained by a river or stream, karst system, or system of connecting rivers or streams such that all surface water within the area flows through a single outlet. In karst areas, the karst feature to which water drains may be considered the single outlet for the watershed.

"Wetlands" means those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface water or groundwater at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs, and similar areas.

Sec. 10-4-3. VIRGINIA EROSION AND STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM ESTABLISHED

Pursuant to § 62.1-44.15:27 of the Code of Virginia, the City of Harrisonburg hereby establishes a Virginia Erosion and Stormwater Management Program (VESMP) for land-disturbing activities and adopts the Virginia Erosion and Stormwater Management Regulation that specifies standards and specifications for VESMPs promulgated by the State Water Control Board for the purposes set out in Section 10-4-1 of this Ordinance. The City hereby designates the city engineer or their designee as the Administrator of the Virginia Erosion and Stormwater Management Program established by this Ordinance.

Sec. 10-4-4. REGULATED LAND DISTURBING ACTIVITIES

- A. Land-disturbing activities that meet one of the criteria below are regulated as follows:
1. Land-disturbing activity that disturbs 10,000 square feet or more, is less than one acre, and not part of a common plan of development or sale, is subject to criteria defined in Article 2 (9VAC25-875-540 et seq.) of Part V of the Virginia Erosion and Stormwater Management Regulation (Regulation).
 2. Land-disturbing activity that disturbs less than one acre, but is part of a larger common plan of development or sale that disturbs one acre or more, is subject to criteria defined in Article 2 (9VAC25-875-540 et seq.) and Article 3 (9VAC25-875-570 et seq.) of Part V unless Article 4 (9VAC25-875-670 et seq.) of Part V of the Regulation is applicable, as determined in accordance with 9VAC25-875-480 and 9VAC25-875-490.
 3. Land-disturbing activity that disturbs one acre or more is subject to criteria defined in

Article 2 (9VAC25-875-540 et seq.) and Article 3 (9VAC25-875-570 et seq.) of Part V unless Article 4 (9VAC25-875-670 et seq.) of Part V is applicable, as determined in accordance with 9VAC25-875-480 and 9VAC25-875-490.

- B. Land-disturbing activities exempt per 9VAC25-875-90 are not required to comply with the requirements of the VESMA unless otherwise required by federal law.

Sec. 10-4-5. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF PLANS (§ 62.1-44.15:34 of the Code of Virginia); PROHIBITIONS.

- A. The City shall review and upon being found satisfactory, approve, soil erosion control and stormwater management plans, except for activities not required to comply with the requirements of the Virginia Erosion and Stormwater Management Act (VESMA), pursuant to § 62.1-44.15:34 of the Code of Virginia. Activities not required to comply with VESMA are defined in 9VAC25-875-90.
- B. A person shall not conduct any land-disturbing activity in the City until:
 - 1. An application that includes a permit registration statement, if required, a soil erosion control plan and stormwater management plan, as required, or an executed agreement in lieu of a plan, if required, has been submitted to the City; and
 - 2. The name of the individual who will be assisting the owner in carrying out the activity and holds a Responsible Land Disturber certificate pursuant to § 62.144.15:30 of the Code of Virginia is submitted to the City, except that such certificate shall not be required where an agreement in lieu of a plan for construction of a single-family detached residential structure is provided; however, if a violation occurs during the land-disturbing activity for the single-family detached residential structure, then the owner shall correct the violation and provide the name of the individual holding a Responsible Land Disturber certificate as provided by § 62.1-14:30 of the Code of Virginia. Failure to provide the name of an individual holding a Responsible Land Disturber certificate prior to engaging in land-disturbing activities may result in revocation of the land disturbance approval and shall subject the owner to the penalties provided by the VESMA; and
 - 3. The City has issued its land disturbance approval.
- C. The City may require changes to an approved erosion control plan or stormwater management plan in the following cases:
 - 1. Where inspection has revealed that the plan is inadequate to satisfy applicable regulations or ordinances; or

2. Where the owner finds that because of changed circumstances or for other reasons the plan cannot be effectively carried out, and proposed amendments to the plan, consistent with the requirements of the Act, are agreed to by the City and the owner.
- D. In order to prevent further erosion, the City may require approval and permitting of an erosion and sediment control plan and/or a stormwater management plan for any land it identifies as an erosion impact area. (§ 62.1-44.15:34)
 - E. Prior to issuance of any land-disturbance approval, the City may also require an applicant, excluding state agencies and federal entities, to submit a reasonable performance bond with surety, cash escrow, letter of credit, any combination thereof, or such other legal arrangement it finds acceptable, to ensure that it can take measures at the applicant's expense should that person or entity fail, after proper notice, within the time specified to comply with the conditions it imposes as a result of their land-disturbing activity. If the City takes such action upon such failure by the applicant, it may collect from the applicant the difference should the amount of the reasonable cost of such action exceed the amount of the security held. Within 60 days of the completion of the City's conditions and upon provider's request, such bond, cash escrow, letter of credit, or other legal arrangement, or the unexpended or unobligated portion thereof, shall be refunded to the applicant or terminated.
 - F. The City may enter into an agreement with an adjacent VESMP authority regarding the administration of multijurisdictional projects, specifying who shall be responsible for all or part of the administrative procedures. Should adjacent VESMP authorities fail to reach such an agreement, each shall be responsible for administering the area of the multijurisdictional project that lies within its jurisdiction.
 - G. No exception to, or waiver of, post-development nonpoint nutrient runoff compliance requirements shall be granted unless offsite options have been considered and found not available in accordance with subsection D of § 62.1-44.15:35 of the Code of Virginia.
 - H. The City is authorized to cooperate and enter into agreements with any federal or state agency in connection with the requirements for land-disturbing activities in accordance with § 62.1-44.15:50 of the Code of Virginia.

Sec. 10-4-6. REVIEW OF A SOIL EROSION CONTROL PLAN AND/OR STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN.

- A. The City shall approve or disapprove an erosion control plan and/or stormwater management plan according to the following:

1. The City shall determine the completeness of any application within 15 days after receipt and shall act on any application within 60 days after the City has determined the plan to be complete.
2. The City shall issue either land-disturbance approval or denial and provide written rationale for any denial.
3. Prior to issuing a land-disturbance approval, the City shall be required to obtain evidence of permit coverage when such coverage is required.
4. The City also shall determine whether any resubmittal of a previously disapproved application is complete within 15 days after receipt and shall act on the resubmitted application within 45 days after receipt.

Sec. 10-4-7. STORMWATER PERMIT REQUIREMENT; EXEMPTIONS.

- A. Except as provided herein, no person may engage in any land-disturbing activity until a Land Disturbing Permit has been issued by the City in accordance with the provisions of this ordinance and the Regulation.
- B. Notwithstanding any other provisions of this ordinance, the following activities are not required to comply with the requirements of this ordinance unless otherwise required by federal law:
 1. Minor land-disturbing activities, including home gardens and individual home landscaping, repairs, and maintenance work;
 2. Installation, maintenance, or repair of any individual service connection;
 3. Installation, maintenance, or repair of any underground utility line when such activity occurs on an existing hard surfaced road, street, or sidewalk, provided the land disturbing activity is confined to the area of the road, street, or sidewalk that is hard surfaced;
 4. Installation, maintenance, or repair of any septic tank line or drainage field unless included in an overall plan for land-disturbing activity relating to construction of the building to be served by the septic tank system;
 5. Permitted surface or deep mining operations and projects, or oil and gas operations and projects conducted pursuant to Title 45.2 of the Code of Virginia;
 6. Clearing of lands specifically for bona fide agricultural purposes; the management, tilling, planting, or harvesting of agricultural, horticultural, or forest crops; livestock feedlot operations; agricultural engineering operations, including construction of

terraces, terrace outlets, check dams, desilting basins, dikes, ponds, ditches, strip cropping, lister furrowing, contour cultivating, contour furrowing, land drainage, and land irrigation; or as additionally set forth by the Board in regulations. However, this exception shall not apply to harvesting of forest crops unless the area on which harvesting occurs is reforested artificially or naturally in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 11 (§ 10.1-1100 et seq. of the Code of Virginia) or is converted to bona fide agricultural or improved pasture use as described in subsection B of § 10.1-1163 of the Code of Virginia;

7. Installation of fence and sign posts or telephone and electric poles and other kinds of posts or poles;
 8. Shoreline erosion control projects on tidal waters when all of the land-disturbing activities are within the regulatory authority of and approved by local wetlands boards, the Marine Resources Commission, or the United States Army Corps of Engineers; however, any associated land that is disturbed outside of this exempted area shall remain subject to the VESMA and the regulations adopted pursuant thereto;
 9. Repair or rebuilding of the tracks, rights-of-way, bridges, communication facilities, and other related structures and facilities of a railroad company;
 10. Land-disturbing activities in response to a public emergency where the related work requires immediate authorization to avoid imminent endangerment to human health or the environment. In such situations, the City shall be advised of the disturbance within seven days of commencing the land-disturbing activity, and compliance with the administrative requirements of subsection A is required within 30 days of commencing the land-disturbing activity; and
 11. Discharges to a sanitary sewer or a combined sewer system; that are not from a land disturbing activity.
- C. Notwithstanding this ordinance and in accordance with the Virginia Erosion and Stormwater Management Act, Article 2.3 (§ 62.1-44.15:24 et seq.) of Chapter 3.1 of Title 62.1 of the Code of Virginia, the following activities are required to comply with the soil erosion control requirements but are not required to comply with the water quantity and water quality technical criteria, unless otherwise required by federal law:
1. Activities under a state or federal reclamation program to return an abandoned property to an agricultural or open land use;
 2. Routine maintenance performed to maintain the original line and grade, hydraulic capacity, or original construction of the project. The paving of an existing road with a compacted or impervious surface and reestablishment of existing associated ditches

and shoulders shall be deemed routine maintenance if performed in accordance with this subsection; and

3. Discharges from a land-disturbing activity to a sanitary sewer or a combined sewer system.

Sec. 10-4-8. STORMWATER POLLUTION PREVENTION PLAN; CONTENTS OF PLANS.
(9VAC25-875-500)

- A. A stormwater pollution prevention plan shall include, but not be limited to, an approved erosion and sediment control plan, an approved stormwater management plan, a pollution prevention plan for regulated land-disturbing activities, and a description of any additional control measures necessary to address a TMDL pursuant to subsection D of this section.
- B. A soil erosion control plan and stormwater management plan consistent with the requirements of the Virginia Erosion and Stormwater Management Act (VESMA) and regulations must be designed and implemented during construction activities. Prior to land disturbance, this plan must be approved by the City in accordance with the VESMA, this ordinance, and attendant regulations.
- C. A pollution prevention plan that identifies potential sources of pollutants that may reasonably be expected to affect the quality of stormwater discharges from the construction site and describe control measures that will be used to minimize pollutants in stormwater discharges from the construction site must be developed before land disturbance commences.
- D. In addition to the requirements of subsections A through C of this section, if a specific wasteload allocation for a pollutant has been established in an approved TMDL and is assigned to stormwater discharges from a construction activity, additional control measures must be identified and implemented by the operator so that discharges are consistent with the assumptions and requirements of the wasteload allocation.
- E. The stormwater pollution prevention plan must address the following requirements as specified in 40 CFR 450.21, to the extent otherwise required by state law or regulations and any applicable requirements of a state permit:
 1. Control stormwater volume and velocity within the site and at any offsite support areas to minimize soil erosion;
 2. Control stormwater discharges, including both peak flow rates and total stormwater volume, to minimize erosion at outlets and to minimize downstream channel and stream bank erosion;

3. Minimize the amount of soil exposed during construction activity;
 4. Minimize the disturbance of steep slopes;
 5. Minimize sediment discharges from the site. The design, installation and maintenance of erosion and sediment controls must address factors such as the amount, frequency, intensity and duration of precipitation, the nature of resulting stormwater runoff, and soil characteristics, including the range of soil particle sizes expected to be present on the site;
 6. Provide and maintain natural buffers around surface waters, direct stormwater to vegetated areas to increase sediment removal and maximize stormwater infiltration, unless infeasible;
 7. Minimize soil compaction and, unless infeasible, preserve topsoil;
 8. Stabilization of disturbed areas must, at a minimum, be initiated immediately whenever any clearing, grading, excavating, or other earth disturbing activities have permanently ceased on any portion of the site, or temporarily ceased on any portion of the site and will not resume for a period exceeding 14 calendar days. Stabilization must be completed within a period of time determined by the City. In arid, semiarid, and drought-stricken areas where initiating vegetative stabilization measures immediately is infeasible, alternative stabilization measures must be employed as specified by the City; and
 9. Utilize outlet structures that withdraw water from the surface, unless infeasible, when discharging from basins and impoundments.
- F. The SWPPP shall be amended whenever there is a change in design, construction, operation, or maintenance that has a significant effect on the discharge of pollutants to state waters and that has not been previously addressed in the SWPPP. The SWPPP must be maintained at a central location onsite. If an onsite location is unavailable, notice of the SWPPP's location must be posted near the main entrance at the construction site.

Sec. 10-4-9. STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN; CONTENTS OF PLAN. (9VAC25-875-510)

- A. A stormwater management plan shall be developed and submitted to the City. The stormwater management plan shall be implemented as approved or modified by the City and shall be developed in accordance with the following:
 1. A stormwater management plan for a land-disturbing activity shall apply the stormwater management technical criteria set forth in this ordinance and Article 4 (9VAC25-875-670 et seq) of Part V of the Regulation to the entire land-disturbing

activity. Individual lots in new residential, commercial, or industrial developments, including those developed under subsequent owners, shall not be considered separate land-disturbing activities.

2. A stormwater management plan shall consider all sources of surface runoff and all sources of subsurface and groundwater flows converted to surface runoff.
- B. A complete stormwater management plan shall include the following elements:
1. Information on the type of and location of stormwater discharges, information on the features to which stormwater is being discharged including surface waters or karst features if present, and predevelopment and post-development drainage areas;
 2. Contact information including the name, address, telephone number, and email address of the owner and the tax reference number and parcel number of the property or properties affected;
 3. A narrative that includes a description of current site conditions and final site conditions or if allowed by the VESMP authority, the information provided and documented during the review process that addresses the current and final site conditions;
 4. A general description of the proposed stormwater management facilities and the mechanism through which the facilities will be operated and maintained after construction is complete;
 5. Information on the proposed stormwater management facilities, including (i) detailed narrative on the conversion to a long-term stormwater management facility if the facility was used as a temporary erosion control measure; (ii) the type of facilities; (iii) location, including geographic coordinates; (iv) acres treated; and (v) the surface waters or karst features into which the facility will discharge;
 6. Hydrologic and hydraulic computations, including runoff characteristics;
 7. Documentation and calculations verifying compliance with the water quality and quantity requirements of these regulations, including identification of specific regulation sections under which such compliance is based;
 8. A map of the site that depicts the topography of the site and includes:
 - i. All contributing drainage areas;
 - ii. Existing streams, ponds, culverts, ditches, wetlands, other water bodies, and floodplains;

- iii. Soil types, geologic formations if karst features are present in the area, forest cover, and other vegetative areas;
 - iv. Current land use including existing structures, roads, and locations of known utilities and easements;
 - v. Sufficient information on adjoining parcels to assess the impacts of stormwater from the site on these parcels;
 - vi. The limits of clearing and grading, and the proposed drainage patterns on the site;
 - vii. Proposed buildings, roads, parking areas, utilities, and stormwater management facilities; and
 - viii. Proposed land use with tabulation of the percentage of surface area to be adapted to various uses, including planned locations of utilities, roads, and easements;
9. If an operator intends to meet the requirements established in 9VAC25-875-580 or 9VAC25-875-600 through the use of off-site compliance options, where applicable, then a letter of availability from the off-site provider must be included; and
 10. Payment of a fee (or fees) with the stormwater management plan submission, the fees and the required fee form in accordance with Section 10-4-19 of this ordinance and the City Design and Construction Standards Manual (DCSM).
- C. All final plan elements, specifications, or calculations of the stormwater management plans shall be appropriately signed and sealed by a professional who is licensed to engage in practice in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Nothing in this subsection shall authorize any person to engage in practice outside their area of professional competence.

Sec. 10-4-10. POLLUTION PREVENTION PLAN; CONTENTS OF PLANS. (9VAC25-875-520)

- A. A plan for implementing pollution prevention measures during construction activities shall be developed, implemented, and updated as necessary. The pollution prevention plan shall detail the design, installation, implementation, and maintenance of effective pollution prevention measures as specified in 40 CFR 450.21(d) to minimize the discharge of pollutants. At a minimum, such measures must be designed, installed, implemented, and maintained to:

1. Minimize the discharge of pollutants from equipment and vehicle washing, wheel wash water, and other wash waters. Wash waters must be treated in a sediment basin or alternative control that provides equivalent or better treatment prior to discharge;
 2. Minimize the exposure of building materials, building products, construction wastes, trash, landscape materials, fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides, detergents, sanitary waste, and other materials present on the site to precipitation and to stormwater; and
 3. Minimize the discharge of pollutants from spills and leaks and implement chemical spill and leak prevention and response procedures.
- B. The pollution prevention plan shall include effective best management practices to prohibit the following discharges in accordance with 40 CFR 450.21(e):
1. Wastewater from washout of concrete, unless managed by an appropriate control;
 2. Wastewater from washout and cleanout of stucco, paint, form release oils, curing compounds, and other construction materials;
 3. Fuels, oils, or other pollutants used in vehicle and equipment operation and maintenance; and
 4. Soaps or solvents used in vehicle and equipment washing.
- C. Discharges from dewatering activities, including discharges from dewatering of trenches and excavations, are prohibited unless managed by appropriate controls in accordance with 40 CFR 450.21(c).

Sec. 10-4-11. EROSION CONTROL PLAN; CONTENTS OF PLANS (9VAC25-875-550)

- A. An erosion control plan shall be filed for a development and the buildings constructed within, regardless of the phasing of construction. The erosion control plan shall contain all major conservation decisions to ensure that the entire unit or units of land will be so treated to achieve the conservation objectives in 9VAC25-875-560. The erosion control plan shall include:
1. Appropriate maps;
 2. An appropriate soil and water plan inventory and management information with needed interpretations; and
 3. A record of decisions contributing to conservation treatment.

- B. The person responsible for carrying out the plan shall provide, on the City's Application for Land Disturbing Permit, the name of an individual holding a Responsible Land Disturber certificate who will be in charge of and responsible for carrying out the land disturbing activity.
- C. If individual lots or sections in a residential development are being developed by different property owners, all land-disturbing activities related to the building construction shall be covered by an overall erosion control plan or an "Agreement in Lieu of a Plan" signed by the property owner.
- D. Land-disturbing activity of less than 10,000 square feet on individual lots in a residential development shall not be considered exempt from the provisions of the VESMA if the total land-disturbing activity in the development is equal to or greater than 10,000 square feet.

Sec. 10-4-12. TECHNICAL CRITERIA FOR REGULATED LAND DISTURBING ACTIVITIES.

- A. To protect the quality and quantity of state water from the potential harm of unmanaged stormwater runoff resulting from land-disturbing activities, the City hereby adopts the technical criteria for regulated land-disturbing activities set forth in Part V of 9VAC25-875 expressly to include 9VAC25-875-580 [water quality design criteria requirements]; 9VAC25-875-590 [water quality compliance]; 9VAC25-875600 [water quantity]; 9VAC25-875-610 [offsite compliance options]; 9VAC25875-620 [design storms and hydrologic methods]; 9VAC25-875-630 [stormwater harvesting]; 9VAC25-875-640 [linear development project]; and, 9VAC25-875650 [stormwater management impoundment structures or facilities], which shall apply to all land-disturbing activities regulated pursuant to this ordinance, except as expressly set forth further in this Section.
- B. Locality, state, and federal projects shall be considered grandfathered by the City and shall be subject to the technical criteria of Article 4 of Part V of 9VAC25875 provided:
 - 1. There has been an obligation of locality, state, or federal funding, in whole or in part, prior to July 1, 2012, or the department has approved a stormwater management plan prior to July 1, 2012;
 - 2. A permit has not been issued prior to July 1, 2014; and
 - 3. Land disturbance did not commence prior to July 1, 2014.
- C. In cases where governmental bonding or public debt financing has been issued for a project prior to July 1, 2012, such project shall be subject to the technical criteria of Article 4 of Part V of 9VAC25-875.

- D. Nothing in this section shall preclude an operator from constructing to a more stringent standard at their discretion.
- E. Additional requirements are set forth in the City's Design and Construction Standards Manual (DCSM).

Sec. 10-4-13. LONG-TERM MAINTENANCE OF PERMANENT STORMWATER FACILITIES

- A. The operator, owner or other person associated with the project shall submit a construction record drawing for permanent stormwater management facilities to the City in accordance with 9VAC25-875-535. The record drawing shall contain a statement signed and sealed by a professional registered in the Commonwealth of Virginia pursuant to Chapter 4 of Title 54.1 of the Code of Virginia, stating that to the best of their knowledge, the construction record drawing shows all adjustments and revisions to the Stormwater Management Plan made during Construction, that all required functionality exists, and that this serves as a permanent record of all constructed elements. This document must be reviewed and approved by the City of Harrisonburg prior to acceptance of the Permit Notice of Termination, closeout of the Land Disturbing Permit, and/or release of the project surety.
- B. The City shall require the provision of long-term responsibility for and maintenance of stormwater management facilities and other techniques specified to manage the quality and quantity of runoff. Such requirements shall be set forth in a Stormwater Management / Best Management Practice (BMP) Facilities Maintenance Agreement recorded by the Operator, owner, or their agent in the local land records prior to issuance of the Land Disturbing Permit or approved later date. This Agreement shall at a minimum:
 - 1. Be submitted to the City for review and approval prior to the approval of the stormwater management plan, and prior to recordation, unless specifically authorized by the VESMP Administrator for later submission;
 - 2. Be stated to run with the land;
 - 3. Provide for all necessary access to the property for purposes of maintenance and regulatory inspections;
 - 4. Provide for inspections and maintenance and the submission of inspection and maintenance reports to the City; and
 - 5. Be enforceable by all appropriate governmental parties.
- C. Additional requirements are set forth in the City's Design and Construction Standards Manual (DCSM).

Sec. 10-4-14. MONITORING AND INSPECTIONS.

- A. In accordance with requirements set forth in the Virginia Code and Virginia Erosion and Stormwater Management Regulations, the City shall inspect the land-disturbing activity during construction for:
1. Compliance with the approved erosion and sediment control plan;
 2. Compliance with the approved stormwater management plan;
 3. Development, updating, and implementation of a pollution prevention plan; and
 4. Development and implementation of any additional control measures necessary to address a TMDL.
 5. Compliance with requirements of the Construction General Permit for applicable projects.

Sec. 10-4-15. HEARINGS

- A. The hearing before the city council provided for in Section 10-4-16 shall be held at a regular or special meeting of the city council, subject to the following:
1. A verbatim record of the hearing shall be taken and filed with the state water control board.
 2. Depositions may be taken and read as in actions at law.
 3. The city council has the power to issue subpoenas and subpoenas duces tecum, and at the request of any party shall issue subpoenas. The failure of a witness without legal excuse to appear or to testify or to produce documents shall be acted upon by the city council in the manner prescribed in § 2.2-4022 of the Code of Virginia. Witnesses who are subpoenaed shall receive the same fees and mileage as in civil actions.

Sec. 10-4-16. APPEALS.

- A. Any applicant under the provision of this chapter who is aggrieved by any action of the City or its agent in disapproving plans submitted pursuant to this chapter shall have the right to apply for and receive a review of such action by the city council provided an appeal is filed within thirty (30) days from the date of the action. Any applicant who seeks an appeal hearing before the city council shall be heard at the next regularly scheduled city council public hearing provided that the city council and other involved parties have at least thirty (30) days prior notice. In reviewing the agent's actions, the city

council shall consider evidence and opinions presented by the aggrieved applicant and agent. After considering the evidence and opinions, the city council may affirm, reverse or modify the action. The city council shall make a final decision within forty-five (45) days after the hearing is concluded. The city council's decision shall be in writing and state the date of the decision and the reasons for the decision. Notice of the city council's decision shall be provided to the owner and to any downstream owner who is aggrieved. The city council's decision shall be final, subject only to review by the Circuit Court of Rockingham County, Virginia.

- B. Final decisions by the City under this chapter shall be subject to review by the Circuit Court of Rockingham County, Virginia, provided an appeal is filed within thirty (30) days from the date of any written decision adversely affecting the rights, duties or privileges of the person engaging in or proposing to engage in land-disturbing activities.

Sec. 10-4-17. RIGHT OF ENTRY.

- A. The City or any duly authorized agent thereof may, at reasonable times and under reasonable circumstances, enter any establishment or upon any property, public or private, for the purpose of obtaining information or conducting surveys or investigations necessary in the enforcement of the provisions of this ordinance.
- B. In accordance with a performance bond with surety, cash escrow, letter of credit, any combination thereof, or such other legal arrangement, The City may also enter any establishment or upon any property, public or private, for the purpose of initiating or maintaining appropriate actions that are required by conditions imposed by the City on a land-disturbing activity when an owner, after proper notice, has failed to take acceptable action within the time specified.

Sec. 10-4-18. ENFORCEMENT

- A. If the City determines that there is a failure to comply with the permit conditions or determines there is an unauthorized discharge, notice shall be served upon the permittee or person responsible for carrying out the permit conditions by any of the following: verbal warnings and inspection reports, notices of corrective action, consent special orders, and notices to comply. Written notices shall be served by registered or certified mail to the address specified in the permit application or by delivery at the site of the development activities to the agent or employee supervising such activities.
 - 1. The notice shall specify the measures needed to comply with the permit conditions and shall specify the time within which such measures shall be completed. Upon failure to comply within the time specified, a stop work order may be issued in accordance with Subsection 2 or the permit may be revoked by the Administrator.

2. If a permittee fails to comply with a notice issued in accordance with this Section within the time specified, the City may issue an order requiring the owner, permittee, person responsible for carrying out an approved plan, or the person conducting the land-disturbing activities without an approved plan or required permit to cease all land-disturbing activities until the violation of the permit has ceased, or an approved plan and required permits are obtained, and specified corrective measures have been completed.

Such orders shall be issued in accordance with City procedures. Such orders shall become effective upon service on the person by certified mail, return receipt requested, sent to their address specified in the land records of the locality, or by personal delivery by an agent of the Administrator. However, if the City finds that any such violation is grossly affecting or presents an imminent and substantial danger of causing harmful erosion of lands or sediment deposition in waters within the watersheds of the Commonwealth or otherwise substantially impacting water quality, it may issue, without advance notice or hearing, an emergency order directing such person to cease immediately all land disturbing activities on the site and shall provide an opportunity for a hearing, after reasonable notice as to the time and place thereof, to such person, to affirm, modify, amend, or cancel such emergency order. If a person who has been issued an order is not complying with the terms thereof, the City may institute a proceeding for an injunction, mandamus, or other appropriate remedy in accordance with Subsection 10-4-18.C.

- B. In addition to any other remedy provided by this Ordinance, if the City determines that there is a failure to comply with the provisions of this Ordinance, they may initiate such informal and/or formal administrative enforcement procedures in a manner that is consistent with City policies.
- C. Any person violating or failing, neglecting, or refusing to obey any rule, regulation, ordinance, order, approved standard or specification, or any permit condition issued by the City may be compelled in a proceeding instituted in Circuit Court of Rockingham County, Virginia by the City to obey same and to comply therewith by injunction, mandamus or other appropriate remedy.
- D. Any person violating or failing, neglecting, or refusing to obey any rule, regulation, ordinance, order, approved standard or specification, or any permit condition issued by the City, shall be subject to a civil penalty in accordance with the schedule below, for each violation, within the discretion of the court. Each day of violation of each requirement shall constitute a separate offense.
 1. Violations for which a penalty may be imposed under this Subsection shall include but not be limited to the following:

- i. No state permit registration;
 - ii. No SWPPP;
 - iii. Incomplete SWPPP, including lack of required inspection reports, site activity logs, updated site map and other items required under the Construction General Permit;
 - iv. SWPPP not available for review;
 - v. No approved erosion control plan;
 - vi. Failure to install stormwater BMPs or erosion and sediment controls;
 - vii. Stormwater BMPs or erosion and sediment controls improperly installed or maintained;
 - viii. Operational deficiencies;
 - ix. Failure to remedy deficiencies identified and communicated in an inspection report or by an inspector or the VESMP Administrator;
 - x. Failure to conduct required inspections;
 - xi. Incomplete, improper, or missed inspections; and
 - xii. Discharges not in compliance with the requirements of 9VAC25-880-70.
2. Civil penalties shall be as set forth in the schedule below:

	Land-Disturbance Without a Permit	Standard Violations
1st Inspection	Warning issued	Warning issued
2nd Inspection	\$1,000/day	\$100/day/violation
3rd Inspection	\$3,000/day	\$300/day/violation
4th Inspection	\$5,000/day	\$1,000/day/violation
5th Inspection	\$10,000/day	Revoke Permit/Referral for bond collection

3. The City may issue a summons for collection of the civil penalty and the action may be prosecuted in the appropriate court.

4. In imposing a civil penalty pursuant to this Subsection, the court may consider the degree of harm caused by the violation and also the economic benefit to the violator from noncompliance.
 5. Any civil penalties assessed by a court as a result of a summons issued by the City shall be paid into the treasury of the City to be used for the purpose of minimizing, preventing, managing, or mitigating pollution of the waters of the locality and abating environmental pollution therein in such manner as the court may, by order, direct.
- E. Notwithstanding any other civil or equitable remedy provided by this ordinance or by law, any person who willfully or negligently violates any provision of this ordinance, any order of the City, any condition of a permit, or any order of a court shall, be guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by confinement in jail for not more than 12 months or a fine of not less than \$2,500 nor more than \$32,500, or both.

Sec. 10-4-19. FEES

- A. Fees to cover costs associated with implementation of a VESMP related to land disturbing activities and issuance of general permit coverage and VESMP authority permits shall be imposed in accordance with Table 1 and Table 2. When a site has been purchased for development within a previously permitted common plan of development or sale, the applicant shall be subject to fees in accordance with the disturbed acreage of their site according to Table 1 and Table 2.

Table 1: Fees for review of Stormwater Management Plan and permit issuance

Fee type	Fee to be paid by applicant at time of plan submission	Fee to be paid by applicant following plan approval	Portion of total fee reimbursed to DEQ by the City
General / Stormwater Management - Small Construction Activity/Land Clearing involving construction of one single-family home or one residential duplex structure on an individual lot disturbing greater than or equal to 1 acre and less than 5 acres and covered under an "Agreement in Lieu of a Stormwater Management Plan"	\$200	\$0	\$0
General / Stormwater Management - Small Construction Activity/Land Clearing involving construction of one single-family home or one residential duplex structure on an individual lot within a common plan of development or sale and covered under an "Agreement in Lieu of a Stormwater Management Plan"	\$200	\$0	\$0

General / Stormwater Management - Small Construction Activity/Land Clearing (Areas within common plans of development or sale with land disturbance acreage less than 1 acre.)	\$145	\$145	\$81
General / Stormwater Management - Small Construction Activity/Land Clearing (Sites or areas within common plans of development or sale with land disturbance acreage equal to or greater than 1 acre and less than 5 Acres)	\$1,350	\$1,350	\$756
General / Stormwater Management - Large Construction Activity/Land Clearing (Sites or areas within common plans of development or sale with land disturbance acreage equal to or greater than 5 acres and less than 10 acres)	\$1,700	\$1,700	\$952
General / Stormwater Management - Large Construction Activity/Land Clearing [Sites or areas within common plans of development or sale with land disturbance acreage equal to or greater than 10 acres and less than 50 acres]	\$2,250	\$2,250	\$1,260
General / Stormwater Management - Large Construction Activity/Land Clearing (Sites or areas within common plans of development or sale with land disturbance acreage equal to or greater than 50 acres and less than 100 acres)	\$3,050	\$3,050	\$1,708
General / Stormwater Management - Large Construction Activity/Land Clearing (Sites or areas within common plans of development or sale with land disturbance acreage equal to or greater than 100 acres)	\$4,800	\$4,800	\$2,688
Resubmission of withheld Stormwater Management Plan, each instance	\$300	\$0	\$0
Resubmission of Stormwater Management Plan needing minor revisions, each instance	\$100	\$0	\$0

Table 2: Fees for review of Erosion Control Plan

Fee type	Fee to be paid by applicant at time of plan submission
Erosion Control for construction of one single-family home or one residential duplex structure on an individual lot with land disturbance greater than or equal to 10,000 square feet and less than 1 acre and covered under an “Agreement in Lieu of a Erosion Control Plan”	\$0
Erosion Control Plan for land disturbance greater than or equal to 10,000 square feet and less than or equal to 1 acre.	\$300
Erosion Control Plan for land disturbance greater than 1 acre	\$300 plus \$50 for every acre or part of an acre beyond 1 acre of land disturbance
Resubmission of withheld Erosion Control Plan, each instance	\$300
Resubmission of Erosion Control Plan needing minor revisions, each instance	\$100

B. Fees for the modification or transfer of registration statements from the general permit issued by the department shall be imposed in accordance with Table 3. If the general permit modifications result in changes to stormwater management plans that require additional review by the City, such reviews shall be subject to the fees set out in Table 3. The fee assessed shall be based on the total disturbed acreage of the site. In addition to the general permit modification fee, modifications resulting in an increase in total disturbed acreage shall pay the difference in the initial permit fee paid and the permit fee that would have applied for the total disturbed acreage in Table 1.

Table 3: Fees for the modification or transfer of registration statements for the General Permit for Discharges of Stormwater from Construction Activities

Type of Permit	Fee Amount
General / Stormwater Management – Small Construction Activity/Land Clearing (Areas within common plans of development or sale with land disturbance acreage less than 1 acre)	\$20
General / Stormwater Management – Small Construction Activity/Land Clearing (Sites or areas within common plans of development or sale with land disturbance acreage equal to or greater than 1 and less than 5 acres)	\$200
General / Stormwater Management – Large Construction Activity/Land Clearing (Sites or areas within common plans of development or sale with land disturbance acreage equal to or greater than 5 acres and less than 10 acres)	\$250
General / Stormwater Management – Large Construction Activity/Land Clearing (Sites or areas within common plans of development or sale with land disturbance acreage equal to or greater than 10 acres and less than 50 acres)	\$300
General / Stormwater Management – Large Construction Activity/Land Clearing (Sites or areas within common plans of development or sale with land disturbance acreage equal to or greater than 50 acres and less than 100 acres)	\$450
General / Stormwater Management – Large Construction Activity/Land Clearing (Sites or areas within common plans of development or sale with land disturbance acreage equal to or greater than 100 acres)	\$700

- C. The following annual permit maintenance shall be imposed in accordance with Table 4, including fees imposed on expired permits that have been administratively continued. With respect to the general permit, these fees shall apply until the permit coverage is terminated.

Table 4: Permit Maintenance Fees

Type of Permit	Fee Amount
General / Stormwater Management – Small Construction Activity/Land Clearing (Areas within common plans of development or sale with land disturbance acreage less than 1 acre)	\$50
General / Stormwater Management – Small Construction Activity/Land Clearing (Sites or areas within common plans of development or sale with land disturbance equal to or greater than 1 acre and less than 5 acres)	\$400
General / Stormwater Management – Large Construction Activity/Land Clearing (Sites or areas within common plans of development or sale with land disturbance acreage equal to or greater than 5 acres and less than 10 acres)	\$500

General / Stormwater Management – Large Construction Activity/Land Clearing (Sites or areas within common plans of development or sale with land disturbance acreage equal to or greater than 10 acres and less than 50 acres)	\$650
General / Stormwater Management – Large Construction Activity/Land Clearing (Sites or areas within common plans of development or sale with land disturbance acreage equal to or greater than 50 acres and less than 100 acres)	\$900
General / Stormwater Management – Large Construction Activity/Land Clearing (Sites or areas within common plans of development or sale with land disturbance acreage equal to or greater 100 acres)	\$1,400

General permit coverage maintenance fees shall be paid annually to the City, by the anniversary date of general permit coverage. No permit will be reissued or automatically continued without payment of the required fee. General permit coverage maintenance fees shall be applied until a Notice of Termination is effective.

D. The fees set forth in Subsections A through C of this section, shall apply to:

1. All persons seeking coverage under the general permit.
2. All permittees who request modifications to or transfers of their existing registration statement for coverage under a general permit.
3. Persons whose coverage under the general permit has been revoked shall apply to the department for an Individual Permit for Discharges of Stormwater from Construction Activities.

E. Permit and permit coverage maintenance fees outlined under Sec. 10-4-19 may apply to each general permit holder.

F. No general permit application fees will be assessed to:

1. Permittees who request minor modifications to general permits as defined in Sec. 10-4-2 of this ordinance. Permit modifications at the request of the permittee resulting in changes to erosion control and stormwater management plans that require additional review by the City shall not be exempt pursuant to this Section.
2. Permittees whose general permits are modified or amended at the initiative of the department, excluding errors in the registration statement identified by the City or errors related to the acreage of the site.

G. All incomplete payments will be deemed as non-payments, and the applicant shall be notified of any incomplete payments. Interest may be charged for late payments at the

underpayment rate set forth in §58.1-15 of the Code of Virginia and is calculated on a monthly basis at the applicable periodic rate. A 10% late payment fee shall be charged to any delinquent (over 90 days past due) account. The [Locality] shall be entitled to all remedies available under the Code of Virginia in collecting any past due amount.

Sec. 10-4-20. PERFORMANCE BOND (4VAC50-60-104.D and Code § 603.8(A))

- A. Prior to issuance of any permit, the applicant shall be required to submit a reasonable performance bond with surety, cash escrow, letter of credit, any combination thereof, or such other legal arrangement acceptable to the City Attorney, to ensure that measures could be taken by the City at the applicant's expense should they fail, after proper notice, within the time specified to initiate or maintain appropriate actions which may be required by the permit conditions as a result of their land disturbing activity. If the City takes such action upon such failure by the applicant, the City may collect from the applicant for the difference should the amount of the reasonable cost of such action exceed the amount of the security held, if any. Within 60 days of the completion of the requirements of the permit conditions, and upon provider's request, such bond, cash escrow, letter of credit or other legal arrangement, or the unexpended or unobligated portion thereof, shall be refunded to the applicant or terminated.

This ordinance shall be effective from the _____ day of _____, 2024. Adopted and approved this _____ day of _____, 2024.

MAYOR

ATTESTE:

CITY CLERK