

Appendix J: Consensus Building Activities

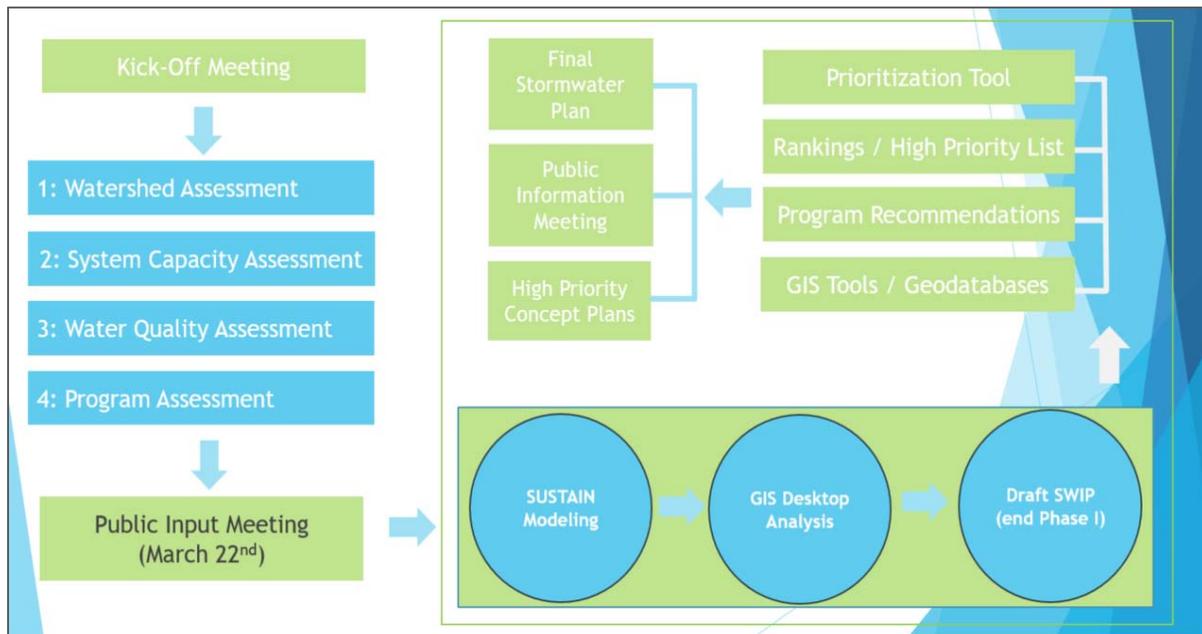
As part of the SWIP, the City conducted multiple Skype meetings and conference calls to coordinate milestones with the study team. This appendix documents the following consensus building activities:

- Two (2) Presentations to the Stormwater Advisory Committee (SWAC);
- Two (2) Public Input Meetings.

Stormwater Advisory Committee (SWAC)

The City of Harrisonburg has a SWAC that helped guide the development of the SWIP over the past year. The first presentation to SWAC was made on March 8, 2017. It began with the introductions of consulting team members, followed by an explanation of the work flow diagram for the study as shown in Figure J-1, below.

Figure J-1. SWIP Work Flow Diagram.



As shown in this diagram, the Phase I SWIP was broken into four categories of citywide evaluations and stormwater assessments. The first SWAC presentation on **March 8, 2017** provided an opportunity to present the results of these initial evaluations and to discuss the planned public input meeting and associated meeting materials.

The Phase II SWIP was focused on identifying, ranking, and prioritizing BMP opportunities to meet the requirements of the MS4 permit, especially as it relates to the pollution reduction gap for Total Nitrogen (TN) that was identified in the plan. The second SWAC presentation on **October 4, 2017** presented the list of BMP opportunities and the prioritization and ranking tools to be used to compare them. SWAC also discussed the second public input meeting and meeting materials.

Public Input Meetings

The initial findings of the SWIP were presented through a first public input meeting on **March 22, 2017**. Using an open house format, the public was invited to arrive at any time between 5:00 and 7:00 p.m. to discuss the City's stormwater program with designated persons from the City and the consulting team, using a series of presentation boards to discuss issues from. In addition, a public comment sheet was utilized to solicit written comments from meeting attendees and comment sheets were accepted after the meeting until April 7, 2017. In reviewing the public comments received, the following observations can be made.

- Through the comments received, the open house format seemed to provide attendees a better understanding of the City's stormwater program and an introduction to the goals for developing a Stormwater Improvement Plan for MS4 permit compliance.
- One of the stations at the public meeting was focused on identifying storm sewer capacity issues and flooding problems citywide. Additional concerns that were raised during the meeting were added to the City's GIS database developed with this study.
- The comment sheet requested input on the prioritization factors for ranking stormwater projects and there was no apparent consensus, meaning that a multi-faceted approach to stormwater compliance is warranted. In discussions with SWAC, it was clear that a high priority would be the unit cost per pound of pollutant reduction crediting (e.g. \$/pound for TN). Other factors are important to a lesser extent.
- Given its apparent cost effectiveness, there was an emphasis during the meeting and afterwards to provide increased opportunities for City residents to assist in meeting the pollution reduction goals by making water quality improvements on their private properties as part of the Stormwater Utility Fee Residential Credit Program.
- There were also discussions about expanding incentives to private homeowners and commercial business for implementing private BMPs for the MS4 program moving forward. This includes grants and/or increasing the current 50% fee reduction cap in the Stormwater utility Fee Residential and Non-Residential Credit Programs.

The second public input meeting on **October 18, 2017** was also an open house format allowing citizens to arrive at any time, and was focused primarily on discussing the specific BMP types and locations included in the SWIP recommendations.

For both public meetings, written public comment forms were requested as well as input after the second public meeting online. Copies of these comments are attached to this report appendix.