
CITY OF FLAGSTAFF

STAFF SUMMARY REPORT

REPORT TO THE WATER COMMISSION

Malcolm Alter, Stormwater Manager

Prepared by

FROM: UTILITIES DEPARTMENT

Date: October 8, 2014

MEETING OF: October 16, 2014

Department Head Signature

AGENDA ITEM: Introduction to, and Consideration of, Revisions to the Stormwater Credit Manual

STATEMENT:

This is proposed to be the first of two meetings with the Water Commission to consider revisions to the Stormwater Credit Manual (SCM). The Credit Manual was adopted by Ordinance No. 2006-17 on July 18, 2006. This first meeting is intended to provide background and history of the SCM and receive input and questions. The second meeting is intended as an action item to formally recommend changes, if any, to the SCM for consideration by Council.

RECOMMENDATION:

This meeting is intended as informational. Input from the Water Commission is appreciated to help develop a draft of proposed revisions to be considered formally at the next meeting.

DISCUSSION:

Referencing the attached SCM, a number of references within the document are old and outdated. You will note that the SCM is labeled as “interim”. Reference is given to the need to complete the City’s Stormwater Master Plan. Although there is no one single Master Plan, the master-planning effort is substantially complete at this time. The SCM was also developed prior to the City’s development of the Stormwater LID Manual, which is now complete. Further complicating the adoption of a “final” SCM, the City has been involved in a lawsuit surrounding the Stormwater Utility. The lawsuit has now been settled. The SCM was originally part of the complaints filed by the plaintiffs in the lawsuit. However, as the case progressed, the SCM was found to be in conformance with law and was not part of the settlement or the case in general. It should be noted that the specific area of concern was the rain-barrel credit of 10%. Although the credit is not proportional respecting the quantity of stormwater retained on-site, the element of conservation must also be considered. In that regard, the rain-barrel credit is appropriate.

The SCM is fully functional in its present form, albeit outdated. More specifically, the credit affected is for the implementation of LID which is not specifically cited in the SCM. However, the general credit for “Stormwater Quality BMP’s” covers LID and credit has been provided accordingly.

Possible outcomes for consideration by the Water Commission include:

- Should the SCM not be revised (“do nothing alternative”)?
- What should the changes be? Should the changes be updating and clarifying only?
- Should we consider changing the credit values?

The development of specific credit values was based on the existing stormwater program and the effectiveness of the stormwater control on our stormwater system. This methodology is explained in detail within the SCM. An examination of the Stormwater Work Program shows that these numbers may change slightly. Staff will assess the program and make the necessary changes for the second meeting with the Water Commission, assuming the Water Commission would like to move forward with revisions.

On the attached SCM, staff has provided some recommendations and thoughts for discussion.

Attachment: Stormwater Credit Manual w/ staff comments