

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: JUNE 6, 2006

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER 

SUBJECT: CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF GRANT APPLICATION TO THE CHESAPEAKE BAY LOCAL ASSISTANCE DIVISION FOR AID IN IMPLEMENTING THE CITY'S DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY WATER QUALITY COMPLIANCE PROGRAM

ISSUE: City Council consideration of a grant application to the Chesapeake Bay Local Assistance Division.

RECOMMENDATION: That City Council approve the application for a grant from the Chesapeake Bay Local Assistance Division in the amount of \$1,285.

DISCUSSION: The Chesapeake Bay Local Assistance Division is offering financial assistance through mini-grants to localities to assist with implementation of required compliance evaluations such as best management practice (BMP) tracking and inspections.

The City of Alexandria has long required that development and redevelopment projects implement BMPs to minimize the increase of pollutants and runoff to the City's streams and Potomac River. Post-construction runoff control is necessary to decrease the significant impact to receiving streams. Ongoing maintenance of BMPs is required to assure that they continue to function as designed.

Currently, there are more than 300 storm water BMPs throughout the City. Division of Environmental Quality (DEQ) staff conducts inspections of these facilities to ensure they are being maintained and functioning according to design. A frequently encountered issue is the lack of understanding and awareness about these facilities. Since many of these BMPs are located underground, it is not obvious they exist. In many cases, owners do not know what a BMP is, and are unaware they own one and are responsible for its maintenance. Often a system/facility is installed and the information regarding ownership, operation, and maintenance is not passed along or conveyed when the property changes ownership, or if conveyed, remains unread.

In order to raise awareness about urban BMPs, the DEQ would like to produce and distribute a color brochure that provides information such as:

- Explanation of the purpose of urban BMPs;
- Examples of BMPs in ultra urban environments and types commonly found in Alexandria (sand filters, dry ponds, hydro-dynamic devices);
- Maintenance requirements;
- Links to local resources;
- List of service providers that conduct maintenance services; and
- City contact information.

The grant application is for funding to cover the cost of printing and the distributing the brochure.

FISCAL IMPACT: Application for a \$1,285.00 grant from the Chesapeake Bay Local Assistance Division. No matching funds are required from the City of Alexandria.

STAFF:

Richard Baier, P.E., Director, T&ES

William J. Skrabak, Division Chief, Environmental Quality