

**Project Name** | Grand Marais Stormwater Management Plan

**Date** | 02/01/2018

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**Regarding** | Public Engagement Meeting #2

## Introduction

On December 20, 2017 the City of Grand Marais, Cook SWCD and consultants hosted the first public engagement meeting for the Stormwater Management Plan. The goal of this meeting was to consult with stakeholders on the issues and concerns that should be addressed within the 10-year timeframe of the Stormwater Management Plan. A summary of this meeting can be found on the City's website.

On January 25, 2018 the City of Grand Marais, Cook SWCD and consultants hosted the second public engagement meeting for the Stormwater Management Plan. The goal of this meeting was to discuss possible solutions to alleviating the highest priority issues identified during the first public engagement meeting: flooding in the downtown parking lot and along Village Ditch and water quality in the harbor.

At this meeting, the consultants presented the following information:

- The existing conditions PC-SWMM model and what it informs us about the drainage system
- The available water quality monitoring information to identify pollutants on concern
- The types of solutions available for addressing flooding and water quality issues in the drainage area to Grand Marais
- The cumulative effect (benefit) of implementing these solutions from a flooding and water quality standpoint
- Next steps for the Stormwater Management Plan development process

Following the presentation, meeting participants were asked to provide feedback on the solutions and to identify the type of stormwater management approach and solutions the City should focus on in the timeframe of this Stormwater Management Plan.

## Meeting Participants

As mentioned above the second public engagement meeting was conducted on January 25, 2018. The meeting was held at the Cook County Community Center. The meeting included 8 participants, and 4 staff from the Planning Work Group (City of Grand Marais and Cook SWCD) and the Consultant Team.

## Response Summary

This section presents the feedback provided on the stormwater management approach and the types of Best Management Practices (BMPs) that meeting participants would like to see more of in their community.

## Stormwater Management Approach

- One attendee suggested that the City implement all of the solutions presented at the meeting.
- If the City addresses the flooding, they will address the other issues as well by utilizing a number of stormwater management techniques (infrastructure improvements + Low Impact Development/Green Infrastructure)
- Given that the cumulative impact of implementing all of the solutions doesn't get rid of flooding in the downtown area (minimally reduces the peaks but significantly reduces the duration of flooding), the City should determine how it defines flooding in the downtown parking lot. This will require a decision regarding the level of nuisance the public and business owners will tolerate.
- The group discussed the feasibility of capturing stormwater runoff in an underground storage tank and pumping it to Lake Superior. The group agreed that this was an expensive solution that afforded no additional benefits to the community than flood relief in one specific part of town. The group also discussed the need for treating stormwater runoff through filtration prior to discharging it to Lake Superior.
- The group agreed that distributing green infrastructure throughout the landscape was the best approach since water quality impacts to the harbor and Lake Superior are as much of an issue as flooding in the parking lot.
- The group wanted to see the effect each suite of solutions had on water quality and flooding instead of seeing the cumulative impact of all the solutions. They thought this would help prioritize what the City should implement first. The consultant team informed the group that this exercise was part of the next step to inform an implementation plan.
- One meeting attendee noted that diversions, which are perpendicular to the direction of flow, don't make a lot of sense. Green infrastructure is a better, more natural approach to managing stormwater runoff in Grand Marais.
- Use flooding as the issue that has gotten the public's attention but the priority should be on water quality issues and in protecting and enhancing downstream resources.
- The Stormwater Management Plan should establish a clear path of action by setting goals for the future, establishing policies, identifying a schedule of implementation activities and measuring performance towards achieving the goals.
- Check in every five years to evaluate progress towards achieving the goals.

## Best Management Practices (BMPs)

1. Raingardens
  - a. How will the City get residents to put raingardens in on their property? The consultant noted that many of the raingardens identified on the BMP map are located within the road right-of-way and would most likely be implemented by the City.
2. Bioretention
  - a. *No specific comments on this BMP.*
3. Regional Ponding

- a. *No specific comments on this BMP.*
4. Bank Stabilization
  - a. *No specific comments on this BMP.*
5. Rainwater Harvesting and Reuse
  - a. How do other communities fund and/or incentivize stormwater reuse?
6. Parking Lot Improvements
  - a. What are the maintenance requirements of permeable pavements? Consultant responded by stating that installation and maintenance are critical to their success and that there are a number of successful examples in the Twin Cities. Another participant noted that there are successful examples in Duluth including on UMD Campus and a number of other parking lots. These systems afford greater exchange with the surface air temperature during the day which results in melting of the snow thereby reducing snow removal maintenance needs.
7. Road Improvements
  - a. How will the Hwy 61 road reconstruction project impact flooding and water quality in Lake Superior? The consultant provided an update on the meeting they had with MnDOT earlier in the day. It was noted that the proposed project will not increase the amount of impervious surface, that the alignment and intersections would remain the same, and that MnDOT was receptive to a number of the solutions suggested at the meeting.
  - b. A green median on Broadway was suggested.

Additional Comments:

- How do these BMPs address *E. coli*?
- Cost should be a factor in prioritizing which solutions to implement first. Compare the cost of big infrastructure projects versus giving everyone a rain barrel and getting them to use them.
- Prioritize solutions by considering how a couple of successful projects could build the momentum for residents to be better stewards of the watershed.
- What role will the County play in addressing some of these issues?
- City should provide a one-page information sheet to residents to let them know how construction/building in Grand Marais impacts flooding and water quality and to identify how construction activity could be done better.
- Explore a Memorandum of Agreement with Cook County so that the County enforces stormwater regulations within the municipal boundary of Grand Marais.
- Build support for implementation of the Plan by promoting the message that anything that gets into Lake Superior gets into our bodies. If you are a Lake Superior community, stewardship is an important issue. The unifying force of all the communities along the North Shore is Lake Superior. Protecting the resource protects the health of people living on the North Shore and it protects tourism and the local economy.
- The group reflected on the lack of participating in the public engagement meetings held for the Stormwater Management Plan. They felt that it was a sign of lack of interest and that a significant amount of education and outreach would be needed to get people to participate in implementation of the Plan.