

January 26, 2022 testimony Takoma Park City Council by Paul Chrostowski

Good evening,

I am here on behalf of Takoma Stormwater Solutions to urge you to fund a strategic plan for stormwater resilience in the face of climate change. You have heard from your constituents how seriously the lack of strategic and holistic stormwater and flood management is viewed. With 200 respondents and more coming in, our city-wide survey found that 79% of those surveyed have had stormwater problems for more than 5 years and 40% have spent over \$5,000 to manage stormwater. Scientific projections done for the city by Drexel University show that these problems are only going to become worse in the future due to climate change.

Takoma Stormwater Solutions, in collaboration with experts and stakeholders throughout the city has developed and circulated a strategic plan proposal. This plan development and the assistance of Takoma Stormwater Solutions has been undertaken at no cost to the city and no expectation of financial gain by its members. The plan is holistic in that it deals with rain and snowfall, surface water, and groundwater on public, private and institutional property. It is inclusive in that it enlists a joint effort by the council as the stormwater board, city staff, city committees, non-governmental entities, and consultants to address the issue. Further it aims to involve as many stakeholders as possible through public outreach efforts. The plan is efficient in that it builds upon work that has already been conducted, leverages approaches developed throughout the region and proposes a traditional engineering pilot study approach which will involve a small effort initially that can be expanded later based on what has been found to work.

Given the current availability of ARPA money and the inclusion of infrastructure as appropriate for ARPA funding, we are asking you, the council, to give this proposal serious attention. Unlike many technical proposals dealing with water management, this proposal involves matters of policy and politics. The ultimate goal of this plan is to eventually provide sufficient stormwater management services to every affected property and business owner in Takoma Park and to build resilience in the city through adaptation to increased threats of climate change. Let's work together to make this happen and position Takoma Park in the forefront of the resilience movement.