

**Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations**  
**RESOLUTION**  
**Funding for Stormwater Utility Program**  
**(Membership Approved 3/31/05)**

Background:

The following federal, state, and regional agreements address the deteriorating condition of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries and require regulatory or voluntary action to attain specific goals within specified time periods:

- multi-state Chesapeake Bay 2000 (C2K) Agreement,
- state Chesapeake Bay Preservation regulations,
- local implementing ordinance,
- state Potomac River Tributary Strategy,
- state Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit, and
- state/federal Impaired Waters Listing and mandates to reduce pollution (TMDL program).

Much of the cost of implementing the above requirements falls to the local government. The causes of stream degradation are both point source (e.g., sewer treatment plants) and non-point source (e.g., stormwater runoff). If the Chesapeake Bay 2000 Agreement goals for pollution reduction are not met on a voluntary basis by 2010, this may become a regulatory program.

For many years Fairfax County has devoted little funding to its Stormwater Management (SWM) program. As a result, the backlog of capital projects alone is over \$300 million—and as much as \$800 million. Watershed Management Plans are currently being prepared for each of the 30 watersheds in the County, as mandated by the C2K Agreement; recommendations therein approved by the Board of Supervisors will become part of the SWM Program.

The Board of Supervisors established a Stormwater Advisory Committee (SAC) in September 2004 to study and recommend a program to help ensure compliance with regulatory requirements. The results of the Committee's work, and the consultant's recommendations, were presented to the Board at its Environmental Committee meeting on March 28.

**RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS**, federal, state, and regional laws, agreements and regulations now require local action to ensure mitigation of stream pollution, which is caused by many factors including stormwater runoff, ineffective or failing stormwater management facilities, individual carelessness, lack of public education on the subject, and other reasons; and

**WHEREAS**, for many years Fairfax County has allocated minimal funding to address the needs of its Stormwater Management Program, resulting in a lack of inspection, maintenance, and enforcement actions and addressing only critical situations; and

**WHEREAS**, the estimated cost of improving the County's SWM system and program to meet required standards is \$300 million with the addition of up to \$500 million in projects as a result of the Watershed Planning program currently under way; and

**WHEREAS**, the County Executive proposed dedicating one penny of the real estate tax (\$17.9 million) in FY 2006 to the Stormwater Management Program, in addition to the \$12.9 million currently in the budget for this purpose; and

**WHEREAS**, the Stormwater Advisory Committee recommended in its report of March 28, 2005, implementation of a stormwater utility fee, based on the amount of impervious surface on a property, to be implemented in FY 2007 to ensure a long-term dedicated and equitable source of funding to fully meet the needs of the SWM program; and

**WHEREAS**, the estimated fee for an average single-family home property would be approximately \$78.00 in FY 2006 dollars, which would be included in the real estate tax bill;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations (the Federation)

- supports dedicating one penny of the real estate tax in FY 2006 (\$17.9 million) to the SWM program so that the necessary actions can be taken to inventory the County's SWM facilities, prepare a GIS layer for this purpose, and begin implementation of a comprehensive SWM program, as mandated by the Chesapeake Bay 2000 Agreement; and
- supports a public hearing on the recommendations of the Stormwater Advisory Committee to implement a stormwater utility fee effective in FY 2007 because such fee is based on the impact a property places on the SWM system and ensures a long-term dedicated, equitable source of funding for the program that is simple, equitable and easy to administer.

Approved by the Federation membership on March 31, 2005