

Resolution on Stormwater

Whereas, Arlington County is implementing the Virginia Stormwater Management Program within its jurisdiction to preserve the general health, safety and welfare of Arlington residents and to protect the quality and quantity of local and state waters from the potential harm of unmanaged stormwater; and

Whereas, Arlington County has, in furtherance of those goals, devoted substantial program and financial resources to improve stormwater management and protect and preserve the quality of Arlington streams; and

Whereas, despite these efforts, the urban nature of Arlington's land use and drainage continues to present substantial challenges to effective stormwater management; and

Whereas, compliance with increasingly stringent federal, state, and local laws and regulations will make stormwater management even more challenging in the decades to come;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Civic Federation supports and endorses the Arlington County's efforts to improve and enhance stormwater management and compliance; and

This clause simply acknowledges the considerable strides made by Arlington County to manage stormwater, particularly given the urban, heavily built-up nature of our County's land.

Be it further resolved that the Civic Federation supports increased stormwater assessment and monitoring, as necessary, to ensure compliance with stormwater requirements and to improve and enhance stormwater management; and

This clause supports Arlington County's expressed intent to increase its monitoring of stormwater discharges, both to establish appropriate baselines for measuring improvement in water quality and to demonstrate compliance with increasingly stringent monitoring required under new federal and state laws;

Be it further resolved that the Civic Federation supports the development and implementation of a new stormwater ordinance by Arlington County as soon as possible and at the latest by the July 1, 2014 implementation date of the 2011 Virginia stormwater regulations, as required by those regulations; and

This clause acknowledges that, pursuant to the recently issued Virginia stormwater regulations, Arlington must begin implementation of its own stormwater management program in July 2014. Development of Arlington's ordinance will require considerable staff time and resources, and the Civic

Federation urges the County to ensure that implementation of the ordinance will begin as soon as possible and especially to meet the July 2014 deadline.

Be it further resolved that the Civic Federation supports the County's efforts to continue and enhance its outreach, education, and technical assistance to Arlington residents to promote sensible water use and reduce stormwater runoff, including its efforts to develop innovative programs to improve stormwater management, including water conservation projects, waterwise landscaping, stream restoration, rain barrels, and other measures; and

This clause acknowledges the considerable creativity shown by Arlington County in outreach, education and technical assistance, and endorses, in particular, the various grass level programs developed and implemented to improve stormwater management at the neighborhood level.

Be it further resolved that the Civic Federation urges Arlington County to complete its ongoing work to update, with full Civic Federation and citizen participation, its Stormwater Master Plan (1996) and Watershed Management Plan (2001) to renew its commitment to best practices in stormwater management and to develop a comprehensive approach to pollution reduction in Arlington streams.

Arlington County has, in the past, established very useful and comprehensive stormwater management plans. These plans are, however, dated and fail to consider all requirements established under recent laws and also do not always adopt current best management approaches for the reduction of or improvement or water quality. Arlington County recognizes the need to update these plans and has committed to do so, in cooperation with local citizens and other stakeholders during 2012-13. This clause supports those efforts.