

MINUTES
UPPER ALLEN TOWNSHIP STORMWATER AUTHORITY
June 18th, 2025 - 6:00 P.M.

STORMWATER AUTHORITY BOARD

James G. Cochran, Chairman
 Richard A. Castranio, Jr., Vice Chairman
 Kenneth M. Martin, Secretary
 Eric Y. Fairchild
 Phil J. Walsh

TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS

Tim Wendling, Asst. Twp. Mgr.
 Josh Bonn, Solicitor
 Jason Reichard, P.E., Twp Engineer
 Jen Boyer, Comm. Dev. Director
 Alexis Minana, Recording Secretary

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Cochran called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The pledge of allegiance was recited. Mr. Wendling performed roll call—all authority members were present.

CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Cochran announced that this meeting would be livestreamed via Zoom for those who wish to attend virtually. A video recording will be made available on YouTube after the fact.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

CONSENT AGENDA

The consent agenda consisted of: the meeting minutes from May 21st, 2025; staff reports to include the engineer's and solicitor's reports; and bills in the amount of \$46,718.92. Mr. Walsh made a **MOTION** to approve the consent agenda, which was **SECONDED** by Vice Chairman Castranio.

Mr. Fairchild asked about mowing the basin at Mayfield and Wineberry. He asked about mowing schedules but was also interested in learning more about rain gardens and their potential use in the Township. Mr. Reichard stated that the basin in question is on a 2x per month schedule but that the mowing schedule has been delayed due to all of the rain. The goal is to keep vegetation under 10 inches. Mr. Reichard went on to explain that most of the Township-owned stormwater basins have already been converted to rain gardens in some form. In many cases, we've incorporated amended soils and plantings that are suited to wet conditions. As a result, these areas function as rain gardens or water quality basins.

Regarding maintenance, these basins should generally only be mowed once—at most, twice—a year. It's important to allow the plant species in each basin to complete a full germination cycle, which may affect the ideal mowing frequency depending on what's planted. Ideally, the

vegetation should be allowed to grow tall throughout the season and then be mowed in the fall, maintaining a once-per-year schedule to support long-term ecological function and water quality goals.

Regarding Mayfield and Wineberry specifically, Mr. Reichard explained that only recently did the Township realize it was its own to maintain. There is steep grading that Public Works crews had to deal with. They have since cleared the basin and it is in good shape for future upkeep.

Mr. Fairchild asked about the Bumble Bee Hollow Road culvert replacement and bank stabilization project. According to the engineer's memo, C.S. Davidson is finalizing the H & H design and recommend installing a 40'x5'x3.5' concrete box culvert to provide the required hydraulic capacity and avoid conflict with an existing sanitary sewer lateral. Regarding the project cost, Mr. Reichard projected the total cost to be approximately \$262,000—slightly higher than what was initially mentioned at the Public Improvements Committee on June 17th. This amount includes a portion for the retaining wall, estimated at just under \$50,000, as well as incidental costs associated with the construction and installation of the culvert.

Mr. Fairchild asked how this project compared to a culvert replacement on McCormick Road which cost around \$60,000. Mr. Reichard explained that that the type of culvert proposed for this project is significantly different from what was used previously on McCormick Road. There, a large plastic circular pipe was installed, which is a much more cost-effective option. In contrast, the current project involves a reinforced concrete box structure—similar to what was recently bid out for Bridge 105 on McCormick Road, which also cost several hundred thousand dollars.

Mr. Fairchild asked about Spring Run and Nittany Drive. Mr. Reichard explained that that the culvert in question is located directly across from the entrance to the Township park, where two major stormwater pipes converge—one from Nittany Road and another from Spring Road. The existing pipe at the convergence point is severely deteriorated, with large sections visibly missing. Preliminary analysis indicates both contributing pipes may be undersized for the volume of water they convey, though final determination will be left to the engineers.

The contributing drainage area encompasses approximately 200 acres, and there are currently no stormwater management facilities—such as basins—controlling runoff from the developed areas, aside from inlets and piping. The existing culvert is 64 inches wide by 45 inches tall and is estimated to be undersized by 100%. To accommodate a 100-year storm event, two culverts of that size would be needed.

A pre-application meeting with DEP is scheduled for July 17 to discuss culvert replacement options. DEP typically discourages the use of double-pipe barrel sections for stream crossings and has denied similar proposals in the past. The preferred alternative from DEP is a reinforced concrete box culvert, which has an initial estimated cost of around \$270,000. However, the Township is hoping to reduce costs by proposing a double-pipe solution, similar to what was ultimately approved for a project on Hawthorne two to three years ago after cost justifications were provided. The Township is seeking preliminary feedback from DEP before proceeding further with detailed design work in an effort to save costs.

Mr. Fairchild noted that payments to homeowners involving easement agreements with the Township have started to go out.

OLD BUSINESS

Chairman Cochran asked for an update on Cedar Run. Mr. Reichard stated that the Township is beginning to initiate Phase 2 of the Cedar Run project. He noted that, as previously mentioned, the primary focus has been on getting the stormwater portion of the project underway. That portion now has clear direction with the contractor in place.

In approximately three weeks, work will begin in the Webercroft neighborhood, starting with sanitary sewer improvements. That phase is expected to take about one month to complete. Once finished, the contractor will transition to the stormwater infrastructure improvements within the same neighborhood, which are anticipated to take an additional three to four weeks of construction.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Fairchild mentioned a Penn Live article which reported on e. coli and other pathogens being found in high quantities in the Susquehanna River and in Lower Allen. He wondered if the Yellow Breeches was similarly polluted and wanted to know when it would make sense to warn residents. Chairman Cochran noted that this was really a sanitary sewer issue and should be addressed at the BOC.

Mr. Martin made a **MOTION** to adjourn the meeting at 6:14 pm, **SECONDED** by Mr. Walsh. The motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned.