



## Environmental Quality & Public Works Committee

October 22, 2024

### Summary and Motions

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Chair Sheehan called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m. Committee Members, Vice-Mayor Wu and Council Members Fogle, Lynch, LeGris, Monarrez, Gray, Worley, F. Brown, and Sevigny were present. Council Member Reynolds was present as a non-voting member.

#### I. Approval of August 20, 2024 Committee Summary

Motion by Sevigny to approve the August 20, 2024 Environmental Quality & Public Works Committee Summary. Seconded by LeGris. Motion passed without dissent.

#### II. Annual Snow Removal Plan

Rob Allen, Director of Streets and Roads, presented the 2024-25 Snow Plan Update and reviewed the salt expense comparison between fiscal years. He said 8,800 tons of salt are on hand for the 2024-25 winter season. Allen displayed a map to show the route rankings throughout the city and said service levels are 1-3 depending on accumulation. The Snow Route Optimization Study was completed this year and LFUCG went from having 16 previous zones to 11 current zones. He spoke about the baseline scenario presented by University of Kentucky and out of the 3 options presented, “medium change” was selected as the most desirable scenario. He reviewed changes for the 2024-25 school year noting that some routes have been added after consulting with Fayette County Public Schools (FCPS).

Sidewalk snow removal is performed primarily by the Division of Environmental Services, Parks, Fire, and Facilities and over 84 miles of sidewalks are serviced with full completion of the plan. He provided an example to show how routes are prioritized and said the snow plan is designed to be completed within 48 hours. Looking ahead, the condemned salt barn is being replaced with a new salt dome on the old landfill. The new dome will have a storage capacity of up to 4,500 tons and this will bring the storage capacity to 11,500 tons of salt under one roof.

When asked if all those invited to the stakeholder meetings were in attendance, Allen said he is not sure if all attended, but they have all provided input and participated. Speaking about communication with FCPS, Allen said they coordinate on a regular basis and FCPS communicates when bus routes have been amended. Allen confirmed if parents have questions, they would direct calls to LFUCG. No action was taken on this item.

#### III. MS4 Stormwater Quality Update

Greg Lubeck, Deputy Director of Water Quality, reviewed the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Program elements. These elements include public engagement, pollution prevention, and monitoring and reporting. The purpose of Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination (IDDE) is to detect and eliminate illicit connections and improper disposal of waste into the MS4 by determining the types and sources of illicit discharges entering the system. The construction site stormwater runoff control program stipulates requirements for construction site operators to implement appropriate erosion and sediment control using best management practices.

He reviewed several case studies including curb inlets, vegetative buffer, silt fence, and construction access. Construction site management and enforcement includes detention basins, retention ponds, private water quality control devices, LFUCG water quality devices, underground detention basins, and critical culvert inspections. He reviewed municipal operations, industrial facilities, and industrial inspections and noted there were 12,151 inspections in 2023.

When asked if there is a way for residents to report issues, Lubeck said the best thing to do is call 311 and the Compliance and Monitoring section will investigate. Lubeck spoke about the water sampling process and the volunteering aspect of water quality measurements, and he mentioned the watershed focus monitoring program where they sample 7 different watersheds. They rely on volunteers because staff alone can't accomplish this. He also cited the last watershed focus monitoring program was a permitting issue and they are working with the state to get a new permit. No action was taken on this item.

#### **IV. Community Outreach Update**

Angela Poe, Public Information and Engagement (PIE) Section Manager, began the presentation with an overview of the PIE program's purpose and structure. The mission is to inform the public about services provided by Environmental Quality & Public Works and engage the public in behaviors that benefit the community. She provided an overview of the FY24 programs which include Geocaching, Art by Nature, Go See Trees, Creek Sweep (litter cleanup), and Compost Workshops. Moving forward, the Community Environmental Academy is returning and will be more accessible. There will be storm drain adoptions and a Pickup and Play pilot funded by Corridors in partnership with Parks and Recreation. The compost program provides alternative organic material disposal options, engaging only those interested in home composting. Poe provided an overview of the FY24 PIE-led events as well collaborative and tabling events. Finally, she spoke about direct community outreach which is aimed at building relationships with traditionally underserved communities. This is a long-term investment for us to show up, listen, and help in ways that are within our scope.

When asked if metal stakes are recycled with the yard signs, Poe said this is done separately so they can be reused or recycled with metal. Poe confirmed councilmembers are allowed to participate in the Community Environmental Academy. Poe spoke about the diversity of staff which consists of college age up to those who could potentially retire. When asked if there are events on the Northside, Poe said Lex Litter Fest took place in Castlewood Park. Currently, there are programs in 5 parks but are deliberately spread out across the city.

Regarding the capacity of the compost workshop, Poe confirmed they try not to make the classes too large because each person in the registered household is encouraged to attend. She will investigate the feasibility of making these workshops available virtually. This program's success is due to participants investing in the education piece before they get the voucher. When asked about outreach, Poe said mailers and social media are a useful way to get the word out. Poe requested the Council to communicate with her if they have connections to active neighborhood associations or faith-based groups. No action was taken on this item.

#### **V. Items Referred to Committee**

Motion by Sheehan to remove from the list of committee referrals: Item #2 – Explore Lexington's Sustainability Options. Seconded by Gray. Motion passed without dissent.

The meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.