

TRANSMITTAL LETTER FOR BOARD MEETING OF OCTOBER 3, 2013

COMMITTEE ON STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

Mr. David St. Pierre, Executive Director

..Title

Ordinance O13-002 An ordinance to adopt the Watershed Management Ordinance with an effective date of May 1, 2014

..Body

Dear Sir:

The Watershed Management Ordinance (WMO) is a comprehensive regulatory ordinance applicable to development and redevelopment projects in suburban Cook County. The WMO sets forth regulations addressing erosion and sediment control, drainage and detention, isolated wetlands, floodplain, and riparian areas. Work began on the WMO in 2007 with the assistance of an Advisory Committee comprised of representatives from municipalities, agencies, and non-governmental organizations. In 2009, the District released a draft WMO for public comment. At the request of the municipal conferences, an Economic Impact Study (EIS) was conducted. At the conclusion of the EIS, staff began working with the Advisory Committee to modify the WMO with consideration of the findings of the EIS. The WMO was released for public review on June 28, 2013.

The public review period for the WMO concluded on August 9, 2013 and included a public meeting hosted by each municipal conference. Subsequently a Study Session was held on September 11, 2013 where staff's recommendations in response to comments received during the public review period were presented to the Board of Commissioners for consideration. The attached WMO incorporates staff recommendations made at the September 11, 2013 Study Session. One provision of prime importance discussed at the study session involved the allowable release rate for detention of a 100-year rainfall event. Previously, the draft WMO called for a 0.30 cubic feet per second per acre (cfs/acre) release rate for the first 5 years after the effective date of the WMO followed thereafter by a release rate of 0.15 cfs/acre. The WMO has been revised to reflect that efforts will be made to develop watershed specific release rates and that the release rate after 5 years will be either the watershed specific release rate or no less than 0.15 cfs/acre.

Prior to the effective date of the WMO, staff will work with municipalities to compile an existing development plans list, update the Technical Guidance Manual with assistance from the WMO Advisory Committee, initiate the process for authorizing willing and qualified municipalities to administer the WMO, create permit forms, and conduct training for staff, municipalities, developers, and consulting engineers. A separate Ordinance establishing the permit review fees will be presented to the Board of Commissioners for authorization in early 2014.

Staff anticipates the need to make non-substantive changes to the WMO over the next several months. Staff will present to the Board any such amendments to the WMO no later than February 28, 2014.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the Executive Director recommend to the Board of Commissioners that it approve and adopt the attached Watershed Management Ordinance, which will be effective May 1, 2014.

Requested, Catherine A. O'Connor, Director of Engineering, WSS:JPM

Recommended, David St. Pierre, Executive Director

Respectfully Submitted, Michael A. Alvarez, Chairman Committee on Stormwater Management

Disposition of this agenda item will be documented in the official Regular Board Meeting Minutes of the Board of Commissioners for October 3, 2013

Attachment