



WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

February 7, 2024

WORKING SESSION

I. ROLL CALL

A Working Session of the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners was held at the Administration Building, in the City of Ann Arbor, Michigan, on February 7, 2024.

The meeting was called to order at 05:32 PM by Comm. Somerville, Chair of the Working Session.

Members Present:	Comms. Shannon Beeman, Justin Hodge, Andy LaBarre, Crystal Lyte, Jason Maciejewski, Yousef Rabhi, Caroline Sanders, Katie Scott, Annie Somerville
Members Absent:	None.
Others Present	Greg Dill, County Administrator; Andrew DeLeeuw, Deputy County Administrator; Michelle Billard & Michael Auten, Corporation Counsel; Alize Asberry Payne, Racial Equity Officer; Tina Gavalier & Catherine Jones-Alther, Finance; Crystal Campbell, Public Information Officer; Jason Fee, Facilities Management; Brady Peck, Director of Operations; Terrence Williams, Administration; Guillermo Hernandez, Director of Human Resources; Jimena Loveluck, Public Health Officer; Camellia Khorrami & Akintunde Oluwadare, Equity Office; iJeff Rose, ITS; Ashley Hall, BOC Communications and Operations Manager; Bryce Allmacher, Clerk's Office; and members of the public.

II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

III. REPORT FROM THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

IV. REPORT FROM THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS LIAISON

V. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- A. Evan Pratt, Washtenaw County Water Resources Commissioner, gave a report on the Water Resources Resilience Strategy. Pratt said that costs stemming from weather-related disasters have steadily increased in recent decades. Pratt shared several examples of recent flooding that has impacted local communities. Pratt said that geographical features cause a unique set of problems relating to climate change in

Michigan, he noted that Michigan is likely to experience increasing rainfall and flooding in the coming years. Pratt stated that Washtenaw County's Resilience Plan is unique in its focus on both current and anticipated difficulties arising from climate change.

Pratt said that the Water Resources Resiliency Plan is focused primarily on water detention, which is achieved through three primary methods: large-sized holes for regional detention, medium-sized holes at development sites, and small-sized holes to create raingardens. Pratt shared local examples of each of these types of basins. Pratt stated that there is great appetite in the community for major investments in Storm & Water Infrastructure. Pratt shared with the Board the ways in which they can support Water Resources Resilience, namely, transitioning the ARPA Incentive Program to one that is structurally funded (\$500,000-\$1 million annually), prioritizing a Vulnerability Analysis (\$500,000), and authorizing a Basin Retrofit Program (\$6.5 million-\$9 million).

Comm. Sanders asked about the costs associated with the Tyler Road Project.

Pratt stated that the Road Commission is bearing the majority of financial responsibility for that project and said that the costs will cut into their funds for other projects.

Comm. Sanders asked what residents can do financially to help mitigate the risks of neighborhood flooding.

Pratt stated that in some cases community members will be asked to bear the costs of improvement projects via special assessment, in other cases, public entities will be fully responsible for such costs.

Comm. Sanders asked whether potential homebuyers should contact the Water Resources Office to gauge flood risk.

Pratt suggested that individuals talk to nearby homeowners.

Comm. LaBarre asked about mosquito management in relation to increasing humidity and precipitation as a result of climate change.

Pratt deferred to the Health Department to speak on the health-related risks of an increased concentration of mosquitoes.

Comm. Rabhi asked whether individual homeowners can help support the work of the Water Resources Commissioner's Office.

Pratt said that the County's raingarden program is available to assess the feasibility of installing a raingarden on private property.

Comm. Scott asked about risk mitigation in the area of the new University of Michigan development adjacent to Elbel Field.

Pratt stated that the development is in the floodplain and that the University is installing a fairly sizable water detention basin underneath the site. Pratt stated that the University is still not in compliance with County standards, and is the only entity in the County which refuses to do so.

VI. ITEMS FOR CURRENT/FUTURE DISCUSSION

VII. ADJOURN TO NEXT SESSION

Comm. Hodge, seconded by Comm. LaBarre, moved to adjourn. Voice vote - motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 07:00 PM.

Annie Somerville, Chair of the Working Session
Lawrence Kestenbaum, Clerk/Register

By: Bryce Allmacher, Deputy Clerk
Board Approved: February 21, 2024