



CITY OF WASHINGTON, ILLINOIS
Public Works Committee Agenda Communication

Meeting Date: December 2, 2019

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Agenda Item: City Code Amendment – Storm Water Discharge Rates

Explanation: One of the engineers the City of Washington is utilizing to provide temporary technical assistance recommended an addition to Chapter 53 of the City Code (Storm Water Runoff Control) recently while reviewing construction plans for a detention basin. Namely, it would be within 53.004 (4) pertaining to the design criteria of the storm water drainage system and the calculation of storm water discharge rates using the rational method. The suggested code amendment would add the following after the first sentence of that paragraph:

“Rainfall data shall be from the Illinois State Water Survey, Bulletin 70, Current Edition.”

This would accommodate the current version and any future revisions. The most recent report was updated in March 2019 and it increased peak flow rates in central Illinois by about 10%. This would increase the required detention on sites to conform to current average rainfall events, which have intensified over the last 40 years. It would also increase allowable outflow rates because the historic two-year event now has more years of data with which to base modeling. The original Bulletin 70 was published around 1983 and the updated writing includes decades of observed rainfall data, which shows a general rise in peak flow rates for all storm events.

Fiscal Impact: No City fiscal impact.

Action Requested: Staff requests a recommendation to proceed with the approval of a code amendment ordinance at an upcoming City Council meeting.