

BOARD OF ALDERMEN

ITEM NO. E(4)

AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT

MEETING DATE: Tuesday, October 26, 2004

TITLE: Stormdrain labeling for the Town of Carrboro

DEPARTMENT: PLANNING	PUBLIC HEARING: YES __ NO _X_
ATTACHMENTS: A. Resolution	FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: Noah Ranells, 918-7326

PURPOSE

The purpose of this item is to provide the Board of Aldermen with information regarding a proposed stormdrain labeling program for the Town of Carrboro. A resolution has been prepared to authorize staff to proceed with the storm drain labeling program.

INFORMATION

The NPDES Phase II Stormwater permit submitted to NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) by the Town of Carrboro in Spring 2003 included a stormdrain labeling program as one of the goals of the permit. A stormdrain labeling program involves marking various devices through which stormwater flows with the goal of increasing watershed awareness, reducing stormwater pollution, and encouraging reporting of malfunctioning stormdrain devices.

Staff discussions between the Planning and Public Works Departments have occurred from February to October 2004. A survey of other NC municipalities was conducted by Planning Department staff in mid 2004 to provide perspective on current stormdrain labeling efforts as well as prior experiences of other local governments. In August, the Environmental Advisory Board (EAB) was presented with items of the NPDES Phase II stormwater permit that included the EAB as a "team member" and discussed stormdrain labeling options at the October meeting. Considering input from the EAB and staff, information gathered, and needs of the Town of Carrboro for overall management of stormdrain related activities and fulfillment of the Stormwater Permit, a plan has been developed.

Proposed stormdrain labeling program

Existing Development

Oval decals measuring 5 3/8 inches by 3 3/8 inches with weather resistant durable coatings are recommended. In addition to a “Dump no waste” message, these decals can include watershed specific messages such as “Drains to Morgan Creek” and “Drains to Bolin Creek” to further watershed awareness. A locally relevant Spanish language message can also be included (e.g. “No eche basura, Descarga al arroyo” or “No tire desechos, proteja su agua”). “In addition, staff recommends unique identification of each device be included in the decals to facilitate stormdrain management and timely response to malfunctioning devices. A contact number will be visible on the decal to provide for reporting of stormdrain malfunction. An appropriate logo may be a frog, turtle, or salamander given their presence in our creeks.

Future Development / Repairs

Whenever cast iron devices are used through which water actually flows, the recommended message and graphic is “Dump No Waste – Flows to Jordan Lake” associated with a fish logo. Cast iron curb inlets, combination inlets, and open throat catch basins are included in this category. These devices are currently available with the recommended message and logo from local stormdrain device providers. Decals used for existing development will also be used on future development devices.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is a minimum fiscal impact (\$5-10 per unit above previously non-labeled units) for cast iron products, however, cast iron product manufacturers and associated distributors have responded to the Triangle Area by producing and stocking castings with the generic label of “Dump no waste – Drains to Jordan Lake” message. Staff recommends requiring all new developments to implement the proposed Town Standard change to address new construction approvals and will further implement this Standard with any future Town generated infrastructure improvements

The decals and adhesive will cost ~\$3,750 for Morgan and Bolin creek stormdrain devices within the Town of Carrboro jurisdiction. Purchase of full amount of decals may allow for maximum volume discounts. Decals will be made available to local organization and school groups with specific instructions for placement by Public Works staff. In addition, Public Works street maintenance staff may undertake decal placement on a staff availability basis to allow for a more timely completion of the labeling project.

ADMINISTRATION’S RECOMMENDATION

The Administration recommends that the Board consider the stormdrain labeling program and recommend allocating funds in FY06 to allow for implementation by Public Works and Planning staff.