

**Open Work Session**  
**Stormwater Management Update**  
**May 15, 2018**

Mr. Dallas Baker, Director of Public Works, came before Council. He said, since their last update, they have held public drainage meetings, which he thinks everybody here is aware of, and they had four of them throughout the County over the course of March. He said they received 39 written comments, and they have followed up with everyone who left contact information by calling at least twice. He said some folks have not returned their calls, but they have gotten in touch with the majority of the folks. He said they asked folks for written comments, and also asked them to identify locations in the County where they are experiencing drainage problems so they could get an idea of where the best locations would be to do regional studies, and also to see where locations have been clustered. He said, as Council can see, down in the Bivalve area there are a lot of drainage concerns, as well as the Eastside of the County, and then some are located centrally in the Salisbury region. He said, in their calls to the citizens, one of the first questions they asked was where they are located to try to get a sense of what their drainage issues were and whether it is a State Road or a County Road. He said they found that the majority of the concerns were located on private drainage areas, which is something Councilman Dodd was speaking about earlier. He said the folks who were experiencing issues with the State or City were immediately directed to the appropriate agencies within those Governments. He said they also asked citizens what they felt the cause of the flooding was. He said they broke that down, and the majority of citizens felt it was that their ditches needed cleaning. He said some folks saw some issues from a development sheathing flow under their property, some experienced tidal flooding, which, again, was more down in the Bivalve area, and then there were folks who just saw the branches overflowing when they had heavy rain. He said, again, the majority of folks felt their ditches needing to be cleaned out was what was causing the majority of the flooding issues. He said this information helps him understand, moving forward, how they can get the most bang for their buck, which is going to be addressing private drainage issues on ditches that need cleaning out, and looking for ways to help citizens get these issues addressed. He said that leads him into the Urban Service Districts for drainage. He said, currently, when the County has Urban Service Districts for street lighting, water mains, and things of that nature, basically, the community will tell them via petition "We want street lights," for example. He said the County then gives them a cost for how much it is going to cost, everybody agrees to the cost, the lighting company comes in and installs the lights, and then the cost for those lights is passed on via their tax bills. He said the hiccup in that process with drainage right now is, if a community came to him and said they want their private drainage cleaned out and made public, either because the Home Owners Association (HOA) went defunct, or for whatever reason, the problem is how the County would fund those private ditch cleanups. He said, for example, there are two subdivisions he thought of, based on some of the calls he received, that could be potential candidates, and those are Kilburnie and the Hollywood Subdivisions. He said, in those cases, if the County were to hire a contractor to go in and clean their ditches out, a lot of the issues stemming from these private drainage concerns with these ditches is that there is not enough room for Public Works to get their equipment in there. He said most of their equipment is very large scale for operating on the roads, and they do not have really small scale equipment to be able to get in and clean out, and they also do not have the manpower to be able to get in and clean out these smaller ditches. He said the thought was to hire a contractor who would go in and clean these ditches out, and then have that cost passed onto the homeowners. He said the question would be how that is then funded because the contractor is going to want his money up front. He said he has been having discussions with the Department of Finance regarding whether it is something they could forward fund, or would they put money in the budget that gets kind of a revolving fund, or would

they go out and obtain a private loan from a bank that is then paid back by the tax payments at the end of the year. He said that is what they are working through right now to try to figure out how to finance this type of situation. He said, once they have that process in place, they will be presenting this to the homeowners. He said, again, it is something everyone would have to be on board with following the same procedures they do for street lighting, which he believes is that 50 percent of the community has to be willing to support the cost of getting their ditches cleaned out. He said that is what they are moving forward with right now to try to address some of these private drainage issues. He said, again, he thinks it gets them the most bang for their buck. Mr. Kilmer asked if the County would go in there to determine what their needs are, or would they rely on the HOAs to say what they need. He then said the County employees have a little more expertise, he would imagine, to which Mr. Baker responded, the thought would be to potentially bid out and supply a contractor to go out and take a look at the drainage system. He said the County would provide them with the drawings they have on file showing what the drainage system is supposed to look like, and then the contractor would examine the site to see what it looks like now, and then give the County an estimate for getting these ditches cleaned out, getting the swales cleaned out, and getting rid of any excess vegetation.

Mr. Joe Holloway said there is no doubt there are some issues, and they have had drainage issues, but he is looking at this and thinking maybe Mr. Baker is putting the cart before the horse. He then asked, if the County is not doing their job on keeping the ditches clean first, how can they approach these areas? He said it is his understanding the County does not even have a ditch crew anymore at County Roads. He then asked Mr. Baker if that is correct, to which Mr. Baker responded, they have two inmate crews, and, at best, they get four inmates for each crew. He said, since the days when they used to have the inmate ditch crew where they would have about twelve inmates, they have seen the numbers dwindle down. He said he knows they just had a new warden come on board at Corrections, and he is going to reach out to her to have a discussion and ask what the issues are regarding the amount of inmates they are getting, and whether they need to reach out to ECI to try to get additional inmates, but this is something they are aware of and are looking at. Mr. Joe Holloway said he, as well as a lot of other Councilmembers, have heard complaints from a lot of folks that even along the County Roads things have not been taken care of. He said it is not necessarily things that an inmate crew would take care of, but things that County employees could take care of with equipment. He then asked if they need to address those issues before they start talking about Urban Service Districts. He said they need to make sure the County is doing their part to clean out these neighborhoods before creating an Urban Service District to keep these ditches clean because those neighborhoods then would have theirs cleaned, but, when it gets to the County's portion, or the State for that matter, as they have an issue on Mt. Hermon Road, it really does not do any good. Mr. Baker responded, the short answer to Mr. Joe Holloway's question is yes. He said both issues can be addressed, and it does not have to be one or the other. He said they are out actively cleaning ditches, and he has a couple of slides he will show Council of some of the work on the County end they have been doing. He said, again, this goes back to what they have been hearing from the citizens, which is that they are private ditches. He said, in the example of Kilburnie, the ditches are private, and it is not that the County has not cleaned them, but it is that it has never been the County's responsibility to clean behind citizens' houses, and that is where they are seeing the largest percentage of the problems. He said there were a few that needed some cleaning out on County Roads, and they certainly went out there and are addressing those now. He said over half of the folks said the problem was with private ditches not being cleaned, and that is what they are looking to do. He clarified, he is not saying they should do this first, and then go clean out the County ditches, but he is saying, while they are cleaning out the County ditches, they can help these folks get the tools they need. He said there are a lot of citizens who are saying they want to get them cleaned out, but nobody is putting money into their HOA. He said he talked to one man who said it was \$40 a year for his HOA, and he said he is lucky if

he gets a third of the folks in his community to even put that up. He said he talked to a lady out in Hollywood who herself was actively soliciting contractor quotes and sending letters out to her neighbors telling them how much it was going to cost, and, if they all get together to pitch in a little bit of money, they can get these drainage issues resolved. He said they were finding that the folks who were immediately next to the ditch had a vested interest in it, but the folks who were four or five houses away and their house was not getting flooded did not care. He said they had no buy into it, so, again, that is where the thought came in of the Urban Service District being extended to those cases for the folks who are not experiencing a problem with a County ditch, but are experiencing problems with what is behind their house, and trying to find solutions for them.

Mr. Joe Holloway asked if Public Works is down on staffing from what they were before the time of the recession, to which Mr. Strausburg, Director of Administration, responded from the audience, yes. Mr. Joe Holloway said he understands what Mr. Baker is doing, and he is fine with that approach, but they have to get the County's end of the problem addressed before they start moving into this. He said people get real touchy when they talk about charging them more money, and people think their County taxes should take care of that, to which Mr. Baker responded, their County taxes are taking care of County Roads and ditches, but their County taxes are not taking care of their private ditches. Mr. Joe Holloway said they are not taking care of the County ditches because the County does not have the staffing to take care of them like they should be, to which Mr. Baker responded, they would certainly be able to take care of more if they had more staff, but that would not address the private ditches. He said, if he had double the staff, he would still not be able to help Kilburnie. Mr. Joe Holloway said, if he gets a neighborhood that he has put into an Urban Service District draining, the water drains to the County, or the State for that matter, and has nowhere to go, so it is really not going to do much good.

Mr. Dodd said they talked about one of the developments at the last Work Session, and one of the biggest complaints was that the residents were saying it was not fair for them to pay their HOA fees and then nobody else is paying theirs, so they are carrying the load for them. He said there has to be some way to enforce that, or there is need to have an HOA. Mr. Joe Holloway said an example is Nottingham Woods which, from his understanding, has about 100 percent participation in their HOA, and, if they do not pay, they take action. He said it is always up to the HOA, and whoever is leading it, to see how active they are and collect that money. He said he finds it really amazing that they have that many homes in Nottingham Woods and they have 100 percent participation. He thinks that is great, and it reflects on the way the neighborhood looks.

Mr. Dodd said Councilman Joe Holloway had mentioned the area on Mt. Hermon Road, and he thinks it is the same area that he watched flooding. He said he contacted Mr. Weston Young, Deputy Director of Administration, and was told that was a State Road. Mr. Dodd said he did see a State truck go out there. He then asked if that has been rectified, to which Mr. Baker responded, he is not familiar with the specific location Mr. Dodd is referencing, but, if he lets him know, he can certainly follow up on that. Mr. Joe Holloway said it is near Atkins Market.

Mr. Dodd said they tell people not to drive through flooded areas on the roads, and, if the County is not correcting the problem by blocking the road, they are setting themselves up for a disaster, to which Mr. Baker responded, absolutely. Mr. Dodd said they never know what is going to wash away, or what is under there. Mr. Baker said he will check into this and let Mr. Dodd know, to which Mr. Dodd responded, he appreciates it.

Mr. Davis said it was mentioned by Mr. Baker that he does not have the equipment to dig out ditches because their equipment is too big, to which Mr. Baker responded, for the smaller areas, such as behind Kilburnie or between some of the smaller ditches in Hollywood. He clarified, those neighborhoods are just two low-hanging fruits he likes to point to. He said the County's equipment includes Gradalls that are 15 feet wide, and they have excavators and things such as that. He said they are looking into acquiring a mini excavator to try to fit into some of these smaller areas to try to help out, but one of the challenges they face is that they also have to haul out any material they remove for sediment erosion control. He explained, if they are digging out 30 to 40 feet deep into a ditch with an excavator, they are taking a scoop, turning around and driving it back out to the dump truck, dumping it off, and turning around and coming back, and it is a slow process. Mr. Davis said he looked at Mr. Baker's plan, and part of the problem on the Westside is that there is a long stretch on Delaware Avenue that no one lives on. He then asked how Mr. Baker would address that as they cannot go out and tax it because no one lives there, but it is a major portion that is causing most of the problem. Mr. Baker asked if Mr. Davis is talking about Coty Cox, to which Mr. Davis responded, yes, on Delaware Avenue just before it gets into the City. Mr. Baker said he actually has a talking slide on Coty Cox coming up in his presentation.

Mr. Cannon asked what the distinction is between the properties on the tax ditch rolls and this Urban Service Plan Mr. Baker has presented, to which Mr. Baker responded, in some cases, there is overlap. He said, in the example of Kilburnie, they drain to the Horsebridge tax ditch, so he believes they are assessed a portion of that, but it is the HOA's responsibility to get the water from their private network into Horsebridge. He said they have received several calls from that subdivision. Mr. Cannon said he was not on Council when tax ditch rolls were established. He then asked Mr. Baker if he would say this whole conglomerate of tax ditch properties are similar to what he is proposing here, but on a broader scale, to which Mr. Baker responded, he would say it is a little bit smaller and more localized scale. He said it is a similar concept whereas, instead of having several farmers getting together and cleaning out their ditches, typically, from what he has seen, most farmers have the larger equipment similar to what Public Works has, and he would be looking more towards some of these smaller landscaping companies that have smaller equipment that can get into these areas behind fences and in between fences and sheds to get them cleaned out. Mr. Joe Holloway asked if all of Kilburnie is taxed on the Horsebridge tax ditch, to which Mr. Baker responded, yes, he believes all of Kilburnie drains into the Horsebridge tax ditch. Mr. Joe Holloway said, basically, when Mr. Baker is talking about an Urban Services District, he is talking about an additional tax ditch and an additional cost. He said not only are they on the Horsebridge tax ditch, but, if they create an Urban Services District for that neighborhood, they would then have another tax. He then asked if they would have two ditch taxes, to which Mr. Baker responded, they potentially could. He said their drainage does not get to Horsebridge because they have not taken care of their own internal network. He said the folks who run Horsebridge have been taking care of Horsebridge. He said it drains not only the folks who run it, but other folks. He said, if they went out there, they would see a wide area that is able to take the flow, but, if they go out to Kilburnie, they would see a lot of trees and debris. He said folks have been dumping their leaves behind their houses, and that is not the responsibility of Horsebridge. He said, if they all collected their HOA fees and paid to get those ditches cleaned out, they would not be looking at this additional cost. He said the County can certainly back off and tell them, since they already pay for one, they are not going to tax the other one, but it is on them. He said the citizens are telling him they need help because the folks who are supposed to be paying are not, so it is not so much that they would be paying an additional tax, but, basically, trying to give the HOAs a method to get these cleaned out because they do not have teeth now. Mr. Joe Holloway asked what the bylaws are of the tax ditch associations, and do they, basically, just do the tax ditch and none of the fingers off of it, to which Mr. Baker responded, not that he is aware of. Mr. Joe Holloway said he is not sure how that works either, and he will check into it.

Mr. Taylor said, with what they are discussing, he is just wondering if the tax ditch associations near that particular location could be expanded to include those other areas, and/or could the tax ditch idea be used in other subdivisions where there is low participation in terms of dollars. He said they would have the ability to impose the fee on the tax bill, and that solves the collection problem. Mr. Baker said that is entirely possible, but they have found out through most of the folks who maintain these tax ditches that they do not have the smaller equipment to get into these tight spots, to which Mr. Joe Holloway responded, none of the ones who maintain it have equipment, and most of them hire contractors.

Mr. Cannon said the purpose of his question initially was to find out what the solution to this is, and whether it is creating Urban Service Districts as Mr. Baker is suggesting, or is it expanding what they already have as far as the public drainage associations are concerned, to which Mr. Baker responded, his recommendation is for the Urban Service District because that way it is more localized to the folks who are impacted by it. He said not everybody in the tax ditch needs to have their drainage cleaned out. He said tax ditches serve very large communities, so he does not know how the managers of the tax ditches would handle encountering an additional \$30,000 in cost to go in and clean out a subdivision, or how they would divide that, or if they would even have the ability to divide that to a specific group. He said, if they are in one location and need that cleaned out, but another location does not, it is not fair to make the folks pay for something the other folks have not been doing. He said he does not know if they have that ability or not, but it is certainly something they can look into. Mr. Joe Holloway said some of these neighborhoods also do not drain into a tax ditch, so they would not be able to hook up to a public drainage association, and there would not be a public drainage association available for them to piggyback off of. Mr. Kilmer said Centennial Village contacted him about this a couple of years ago because people were not paying and drainage was an issue, and they talked about forming a tax ditch. He said he talked to Mr. John Redden, who was there at that time, and he said a tax ditch process takes years to go through. He said Texas Road went through it, and it took a couple of years for them. He said there was not a process to do it more quickly or more localized, so having an easier process for people if they want that option would probably be easier than going through what apparently is a long and complicated process to form a tax ditch association. He said, if it is something an HOA could request and do locally and more quickly, that would probably be a lot easier as an option. He said this also would not force anybody, but it would be an option. Mr. Baker said that raises a good point. He said the thing with the Urban Service District is it is something the community approached him on, and it is not that the Government said they are going to fix this and the folks are going to pay more money. He clarified, the community has to get a petition that has at least 50 percent of their community saying they want this. He said they then give them a price, and ask if they still want it. He said there are multiple checks where the community can say they want the help, or, if they do not like the cost, they do not have to do it. He said it is not a mandate or a tax, but it is the County trying to find ways to help them because they are asking for the help. Mr. Joe Holloway said he can relate back to the middle 1970s when the Horsebridge tax ditch was formed, and there was a lot of contention. He said neighbors were really mad at other neighbors. He said forming a tax ditch is not a pleasant thing to go through, and Council would probably have a room full of people at every meeting if they got started on that, so that would be kind of a bad option to follow right now, even though it is a possibility there are some areas that might need them.

Mr. Baker said, moving onto what the County can do about their own roads, he wants to show Council some examples of the work they have been doing. He referred to a slide showing Williams Mill Pond Road where there has been a drainage issue with water on the roads, and with some neighbors' properties flooding, and said they are actually constructing a new swale to go out to the local branch. He said, on Douglas Road, there was a low point on the road that was sending water into a resident's

garage that would then get behind several houses into a low point in the middle of the block. He said they have constructed a valley gutter to help raise the entrance to his driveway to channel that water further down the road along the natural path that takes it down to Riverside Drive and, eventually, out to the river, so that way his house is no longer flooding. Mr. Cannon asked if this is similar to what was happening on South Kaywood, to which Mr. Baker responded, yes, but on a smaller scale. He said, when the gutter was built out there on South Kaywood, that was what the intention was. Mr. Cannon asked if the County should be taking corrective measures for South Kaywood, to which Mr. Baker responded, that was a different issue. He clarified, it was not so much that there was water getting directed off the road, but it was just that the whole system had flooded because of the 8 inches of rain. Mr. Dodd asked if the issue was also a swale in the back, to which Mr. Baker responded, there was also a swale in the back that had not been cleaned out, and the neighbor had built a driveway over the top of the swale and put a six-inch pipe, at most, through that, so there were multiple issues in South Kaywood.

Mr. Baker, referring to his presentation, said, on Coulbourne Mill Road, in the upper right picture, Council can see the amount of water and ponding that entrance is experiencing, and in the lower right picture Council can see where they are actually building another ditch. He said that is in the process of being constructed, and is eventually going to tie into this intersection to take that water off and help to drain it. He said he does not have pictures, but they have cleared some pipe obstructions out on Levin Dashiell Road that were causing flooding where some beavers had dammed a pipe up. He said they also had a lot of ponding water on Taylor Road, and that was corrected after the road was repaved and regraded. He said, again, the County is working on their to-do list to take care of its own house.

Mr. Baker said, in regards to one of the hotspots that started this, Pratt Road, they have received the drainage study, which is currently under review. He said there are over 100 pages involved with that study, so it is taking a little bit to go through all of the calculations. He said some of the improvements that are being suggested are a bypass of Pratt Road taking it from the pond that serves Hunters Mill, around Pratt Road behind the properties, and then having that empty into the existing swale. He said they are also looking at, potentially, adding in a second crossing at Pemberton Drive from the Pratt Road swale to what runs into the middle of Nithsdale, and then shoring up the area behind the houses in Nithsdale where they saw a lot of the erosion and channelization occur, so it is a systemic approach. He said there are other suggestions, but these three kind of highlight some of the more dramatic improvements they are talking about out there. Mr. Cannon asked if Mr. Baker can give Council a PDF of the study, to which Mr. Baker responded, if it is okay with Council, he would like to forward that after his comments have been addressed because there are some things in the study that they read and felt did not make sense, so they are waiting on clarification. He said the intention is to, certainly, present that report in its entirety, but he would just like to get those questions addressed first.

Mr. Joe Holloway said Mr. Baker mentioned earlier that when cleaning out ditches, they have to get the debris in a dump truck. He said they have talked about people putting leaves in ditches, and he knows expanding ditches is different than cleaning out the bottoms of ditches. He then asked, on private properties, if somebody went in there with a small excavator to clean the ditches, does that step into a different territory, to which Mr. Baker responded, there are more stringent regulations if they are building something new or expanding. Mr. Joe Holloway then asked, when they dip the bottom of a ditch so it has more flow, do they have to move that material, or can they put it along the side of the ditch, to which Mr. Baker responded, no, they have to take all of it out. Mr. Joe Holloway asked, if it is 300 feet back in the woods, or it is a private contractor, for that matter, would they have to remove the material, to which Mr. Baker responded, yes, and that presents a lot of the challenges. Mr. Joe Holloway said that changes the whole picture, to which Mr. Baker responded, the work done with inmate crews

back in the 1960s and 1970s did not have its hands tied with the environmental regulations they have now, whether it is taking everything they dig out of the swale out, or whether it is not being able to work in a wetland, even though there is a tree that fell down and is blocking a ditch, but they are told it is a wetland so they cannot go in there and clear it. He said the regulations are what they are, but sometimes those environmental regulations hinder them, and those come from the State and Federal levels. Mr. Dodd said Mr. Baker showed pictures of swales that were dug out. He then asked if they are putting anything in there, such as riprap or grass, to anchor the soil down so it does not erode away, to which Mr. Baker responded, typically, the velocities they see through there are not eroded unless they have large storms. He said they certainly do riprap around the pipe entrances, but they do not typically do that. Mr. Dodd said they know it is going to fill back in. Mr. Baker then referred to a slide showing where the side slopes, and said they are not going to be able to get grass seed on the bottom of that. He said they find when they go back six months later, vegetation is growing on it. He said the important thing is to not kill what is growing there, which a lot of times is what they will see on private swales where people spray weed killer, and then the soil starts sloughing in. He said they let the vegetation grow, and it will fill up with weeds before the end of the summer. He said weeds will take root and hold it in place. He said they do riprap the edges around the pipes and things like that for protection.

Mr. Baker showed a slide showing Coty Cox and said there are seven pipe crossings between Billie Jean Jackson Park and West Road, and they are getting quotes right now to get surveys of all of those pipe crossings to make sure the pipes are at the correct elevation. He said they want to make sure there is not a certain pipe that is higher than another. He said Mr. Lee Outten and himself have also gone out there and walked behind the houses, and there is a significant amount of debris in that channel, so they are looking at ways to try to get that cleared out. He said they found, in some cases, there is actually a paper alley that runs right along the edge of the banks that is wide enough that they could get their Gradall out there to start scooping stuff out and getting that area cleaned out. He said they would probably have to go out there with a boom axe and get some of the mud out so they could get the equipment back there, but that is what they are looking at doing. He said they would certainly communicate with the homeowners ahead of time because, just because they have a paper street, that does not mean it will not disturb them if they see a Gradall rumbling around in their backyard, so they will reach out. He said, right now, they are doing the preliminary legwork to see what it is they need to get done. He said, as Council knows, Coty Cox weaves in and out throughout the City and the County, but they are certainly looking on the County's end, and will coordinate with the City to see if they want to do something similar. Mr. Cannon said Councilman Davis is 100 percent correct when he says this is a high priority because that has been a problem forever, to which Mr. Baker responded, yes it is. He then said one specific example Councilman Davis brought to his attention at the March 15<sup>th</sup> meeting was the two pipes, as seen in the upper right corner, over top of what used to be an old driveway, he is assuming. He said those are actually overflow pipes. He said what is hard to see is, if they look at the lower right picture, there is a pipe under the water that passes that flow for Coty Cox. He said that is not to say it is undersized, or the correct size, because, looking at this picture, it does look like it is smaller. He said he will caveat all of this by saying this is in the City, but, looking at this arrangement, he is not sure what the purpose of the driveway is. He said it seems to him it would make more sense to rip all of that out and let the flow go naturally. He said maybe they are using it for maintenance with Westbrook Commons, but, if that whole section was pulled out and a larger pipe was put in place, it is mostly earthwork and pipe. He said it is not like they would have to tear up asphalt to get in there and do that work. He said this is something they will approach the City with, and ask if it is something they can look at getting done. He said, again, before they do that, if they get their survey work, they can ask what elevation that new pipe needs to go in at. He said they are looking at the Coty Cox drainage area, and it was made very clear to them from one of the meetings that it is one of the hotspots.

Mr. Joe Holloway said he knows Mr. Baker has been working on this for a long time. He then asked if anything has ever come up about a law against dumping to prevent people from filling in ditches with leaves and dirt, to which Mr. Baker responded, it has. He said the challenge comes when they are dumping on private property. He said they certainly can tell folks not to dump in County ditches, and they have put signs up about illegal dumping and about not dumping leaves in County swales. He said, on the private ditches, code enforcement, he thinks, has some authority to address if they are throwing garbage, but, if somebody is dumping leave clippings, it gets a little more esoteric because they have to start relying on whether they are impeding drainage and usage, and things like that. He said this is where they are hoping to have the education side work out. He said he has an engineer on staff now, and they are working on developing a draft of a flyer about ditch maintenance to send out with tax bills to try to educate the public about not killing the grass in their ditches, not to dump leaves in there, and that they can bring those things to the landfill for free. He said they do not even need a household sticker as they can just bring it out to the brush pile. Mr. Cannon asked if there are other Counties that set up punitive measures if people do those types of things, to which Mr. Baker responded, there are some Counties on the Western Shore. He said he believes Prince George's and Frederick Counties have some legislation, basically, about ditch enforcement if someone is impeding the drainage, and that is some of the example legislation they are trying to tailor to give themselves some teeth to prevent folks from dumping trash behind their houses. Mr. Cannon said the County does not want to be heavy-handed as a Government Agency, but some people have to accept certain responsibilities that come with the property, especially if it begins to impede the privileges of their neighbors, and compromise their neighbor's properties as well. Mr. Joe Holloway said one of the major important parts about drainage is that people think it is just about flooding the streets and yards, but this really has a larger effect on septic systems, and bigger costs, at some point in time, for a homeowner. He said septic systems can fail because of this, especially when they take an area such as Kilburnie. Mr. Baker said it is the same way with Hollywood. He said one of the comments from those drainage meetings was, when they had the August storm, someone lost the use of their septic system for two days because of the flooding she experienced in her backyard. Mr. Cannon said that is a good point.

Mr. Joe Holloway said they are in the budget season. He then asked, without putting Mr. Baker on the spot, would extra funding to the County Roads for another crew help alleviate some of the issues the County has, to which Mr. Baker responded, they could certainly use additional people.

Mr. Kilmer said, in a couple of areas, Mr. Baker was talking about the work the County is doing. He said he has heard concerns about the drainage on Levin Dashiell Road and Pemberton Drive. He then asked if they are looking at putting ditches in areas where there are not ditches. He said, in both of those areas, there was flooding across the road, especially Levin Dashiell Road. He said, after a heavy rain, it just flows off the field into the road. He then asked if they are looking at building new ditches along roads like that as he knows Mr. Baker has heard about the problems on Pemberton, to which Mr. Baker responded, yes. He said, in the cases he showed for both Colbourne Mill and Williams Mill Pond, both of those were new ditches that were constructed, so they are looking at that. Mr. Kilmer asked if Levin Dashiell and Pemberton are on that list to look at, to which Mr. Baker responded, Levin Dashiell is not on the list, and neither is Pemberton, but it is something they can certainly continue to look at. He said the Levin Dashiell issue, on their end, was really just getting that beaver dam out of the way, and things seem to be draining better out there. He said, if there are still problems, they can certainly look at it. He said, in regards to Pemberton, it is something they actively look at. He said they receive a lot of calls, and it is something they continue to keep an eye on. He said the soils out there are very good, and a lot of the water that comes off Pemberton is going into the ground, except in the three big storms they had in



the last two years. He said that seems to be the case with Pemberton in that area. Mr. Kilmer said he would certainly encourage taking a second look at both of those areas. He said, with Levin Dashiell, it is further down Nanticoke Road, and not a beaver dam area. He said, again, it is after a rain, and not even necessarily a super heavy rain, but there is a lot of pooling on the road. He said he is not sure what can be done other than working with the farmers down that way, but there is only a little bit of a ditch coming off Nanticoke Road and it just kind of stops after 30 or 40 feet, so maybe they can try to have more of a ditch. He said access to the field may be an issue too. He said he knows there is someone who is very concerned about Pemberton, so anything that can be done to look again at ways to alleviate those concerns would be very good, to which Mr. Baker responded, he will do that.

Mr. Dodd gave Mr. Baker directions to the area of Mt. Hermon Road he was talking about earlier that may be a State area. He said there are two locations on Mt. Hermon Road, and, if Mr. Baker goes out there, to let him know because he will go out there with him, to which Mr. Baker responded, absolutely.

Mr. Cannon said they will meet again in a couple of months, to which Mr. Baker responded, yes, and he will go through the Pratt Road study and forward that on to Council. He said they will keep making strides on Coty Cox, keep cleaning out ditches, and things like that. He said he will also continue working towards the answer of how to fund some of these private ditch cleanups, and keep moving forward. Mr. Cannon asked if Mr. Baker was looking for a consensus from Council on his proposal on the Urban Services Districts. He then asked where Mr. Baker expects to take that from here, to which Mr. Baker responded, it was mostly just to introduce the issue to Council, and let them know what his thought process was. He said they really have to answer the question on their end of how this would get funded before presenting it to Council, so he just wanted to introduce the issue, and let Council know what they are looking at. He said he does not want to go chasing something down a rabbit hole that is not going to bear any fruit. Mr. Cannon said it seems like a feasible option to consider, he would think. Mr. Baker said their thought was that the benefit on the County's end is that this is something the citizens can request, and it does have to meet their consensus to move forward with it. Mr. Cannon said he appreciates the work Mr. Baker has done because Council knows the issue initially was a couple of years ago. He said, in this more recent period of time since Mr. Baker has come on board, what he has done with this issue, he thinks, is absolutely phenomenal. He said Mr. Baker has held the meetings in the different quadrants of Wicomico County, and he thinks it was, certainly, more than just lip service, as he did listen to what the citizens said, and he has put together a great presentation today. He said Mr. Baker is making some very sensible recommendations, and very much so from four or five months ago, and he is very pleased with what Mr. Baker has done with this because he knows, in the meantime, Mr. Baker still has a Department to run, to which Mr. Baker responded, they are trying to pave a couple of roads out there. Mr. Cannon said, seriously, for taking this on as he has, he compliments him for the work.

Mr. Joe Holloway said he has one more thing. He said they have talked about neighborhoods. He then asked, as far as going to an Urban Service District, how would that work when there are only one or two homes affected by this kind of thing, to which Mr. Baker responded, that is where he thinks the inmate crews might play in better. He said, again, going back to the fact they have not been getting a lot of inmates recently, his thought process was, if they only get four a day on a regular basis, maybe they can make arrangements with the Department of Corrections asking if, for a two-week period, they can get a dozen inmates coupled with some of the County crews to go out and clean some of these areas. He said there are houses, particularly down in the Bivalve area, where there are one or two folks draining to a ditch that needs to get cleaned out, and the Urban Service District just would not make financial sense. He said they cannot take that price tag and divide it between one or two homes and have it work out. He said he thinks, in those cases, they are going to have to see some type of ditch cleaning crew go

through there. He said it is just a matter of trying to figure out what resources they have that they can leverage against those issues, and it might be, particularly in Bivalve, that some of the problems are tidal, and some of their ditches have filled up with sediment over the years, and trying to find some way to get in there. He said, with the soil conditions out there, even with the mini excavator, it is still just going to sink. He said he is aware of that condition, and he is actively kicking around ideas and shooting holes in them, and trying to figure out ways to solve that condition. Mr. Joe Holloway asked, in the tidal areas, if they clean the ditches out, would the water come in that much faster, to which Mr. Baker responded, yes. He said, fortunately, the citizens that are under tidal problems are aware of that, and are not expecting the County to fix the tide.

Mr. Dodd asked if Mr. Baker is documenting all the ditches and whether they are named or numbered, to which Mr. Baker responded, they are not named. He said Mr. Frank McKenzie has a very good GIS map of all of the little ditches and swales. He said he does not know that it is 100 percent, but, when looking at it, it looks to be 99 percent because it looks like someone's arteries. Mr. Dodd said it would be nice if they could document all the ditches and what progress has been made. Mr. Joe Holloway said, in the agricultural community, they have what is called redlined ditches, which is more of a drainage ditch, and other ditches finger off. He said a lot of those are called branches, and they have names. He said some of them have names on maps. He said they designate them that way for some reason. He said he guesses there is more of a flow to them. There was no further discussion.



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John T. Cannon, President



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Larry W. Dodd, Vice President, District 3




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Ernest F. Davis, District 1



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Marc Kilmer, District 2



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John B. Hall, District 4



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Joe Holloway, District 5



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Matt Holloway, At-Large



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Laura Hurley, Council Administrator