



County of Albemarle
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MEMORANDUM

TO: Albemarle County Planning Commission

FROM: Kim Biasioli, Natural Resources Manager

DATE: August 16, 2021

RE: Stream Health Initiative – Phase II

BACKGROUND: In 2017, the Board of Supervisors (“Board”) directed County staff to develop strategies for improving stream health in the County; this project is referred to as the Stream Health Initiative.

Phase I (2018-present) focused on development-related issues and strategies for improving stream health and resulted in the development of thirteen specific proposals. In a public hearing on April 21, 2021, the Board voted to adopt an ordinance to amend the Water Protection Ordinance and to address a subset of these proposals; work on others is phased due to staff resource needs and continues in parallel with Phase II.

Phase II of the project has a Rural Area focus. The goal of Phase II is to develop strategies for improving stream health that are supported by the communities, landowners, and organizations that live and work in the Rural Area, using a collaborative and inclusive process. Phase II project updates were provided to the Board on November 18, 2020 and April 7, 2021.

The Phase II public engagement process has been underway since January 2021 and resulted in the development of 16 strategies with potential for further consideration. These strategies were presented and discussed in a work session with the Board on July 21, 2021. Selected strategies will be developed into final proposals.

STRATEGIC PLAN: Natural Resources Stewardship: Thoughtfully protect and manage Albemarle County’s ecosystems and natural resources in both the rural and development areas to safeguard the quality of life of current and future generations.

DISCUSSION: A summary report is provided as Attachment A, which provides a detailed project update on Phase II of the Stream Health Initiative. This includes progress made during the Define Stage (April-June 2021), as well as the overall project timeline, public engagement efforts, and next steps.

Over forty strategies were identified by the Stream Health Work Group. Table 1 (Attachment B) lists strategies determined, through staff analysis and stakeholder discussions, to have potential for further consideration.

BUDGET IMPACT: No budget impacts are associated with this presentation.

RECOMMENDATION: Staff welcomes questions and feedback regarding the Stream Health Initiative – Phase II update.

ATTACHMENTS:

A – [Stream Health Initiative Phase II Project Update](#)

B – [Table 1. Strategies for Further Consideration](#)