



## **Operations Committee - Board of Representatives**

Virgil de la Cruz, Chair

Sean Boeger, Vice Chair

# **Committee Report**

**Date:** Thursday, March 3, 2022  
**Time:** 6:30pm  
**Place:** This meeting was held remotely

The Operations Committee met as indicated above. In attendance were Chair de la Cruz and Committee Member Reps. Coleman, Sherwood, Tomas, and Watkins. Absent or excused were Reps. Baxter, Boeger, Ley, and Stella. Also present were Reps. Adams, Curtis, and Sandford; Matt Quinones, Director of Operations; Tyler Theder, Stormwater Management; Thomas Turk, Highways Dept.; Lou Casolo, Engineering Dept.; Bill Brink and Ann Brown, WPCA; Paul Newman, Parks & Recreation Commission; and three members of the public.

Chair de la Cruz called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

<b>Item No.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Committee Action</b>
11. <a href="#">031.001</a>	REVIEW; Administration plans to Develop Short and Long Term Plan to Mitigate the Impact of Severe Storm and Rain Events as expressed in <a href="#">Resolution 4113</a> . 12/08/21 – Submitted by Rep. de la Cruz 12/20/21 – Held by Committee 9-0-0 1/31/22 – Held by Committee	<b>Held 5-0-0</b>

The [attached](#) presentation was reviewed and there was discussion. Some points included:

- Source material for the presentation comes from the WestCOG hazard mitigation plan (<https://westcog.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/HMP-Annex-Stamford.pdf>) of August 2021.
- There are several water bodies flowing through Stamford and the southern area is very vulnerable for natural hazards because of it being at or close to sea level.
- The majority of Stamford's watersheds drain into Long Island Sound.
- Certain elements in the resolution have been underway and will continue to be worked on, such as keeping rivers and streams free of obstructions and debris, and cleaning and repairing catch basins.

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<sup>1</sup> Video Time Stamp: 00:01:30

Some ideas moving forward:

- More signage on flood-prone streets.
- Free parking at city garages during extreme rainfall events, the same as with snowfall events.
- Public outreach via press releases, mobile message boards, and social media.
- Targeted outreach to residents in flood-prone areas in advance of a known upcoming rainstorm.
- Having personnel in place in coordinated areas ready for the storm.
- Capital based improvements should target the areas that continually have flooding problems.
- A city-wide hydrologic analysis should be conducted to determine how the infrastructure works/performs during threshold precipitation events.

WPCA:

- The WPCA operates Stamford's hurricane barrier and the three major storm water pump stations, which protects the South End from flooding, however, it is subject to high wastewater flows from extreme water events. There are also issues with property owners having illegal sub pumps and roof leaders.
- Long term initiatives include performing a resiliency study of WPCF; evaluating future flows to storm water pump stations; and determining adequacy of the hurricane barrier.
- Short term initiatives include beginning design improvements to Cummings Park and West Beach storm water pump stations; and performing a hydraulic analysis of WPCF.
- Ongoing actions include an infiltration and inflow (I/I) removal program; and replacing electrical equipment and emergency power generator at Greenwich Avenue pump station.

Status of the resiliency study: The Land Use Bureau has \$50,000 set aside and has applied for a \$150,000 FEMA grant. There has been no answer yet, but Stamford is still in consideration. Reps. Watkins and de la Cruz emphasized the need to conduct the resiliency study as soon as possible.

The Operations Department acknowledges this is a very big and evolving issue and will continue to update the Committee.

A motion to hold Item #1 was made, seconded, and approved by a vote of 5-0-0 (Reps. de la Cruz, Coleman, Sherwood, Tomas, and Watkins in favor).

- <sup>2</sup>2. O31.004      REVIEW; Perna Lane Area Sewer Project: Project Status; Alternatives to Facilitate Implementation in a Cost Effective and Timely Manner; Availability of Infrastructure and Water Quality Improvement Funding to Facilitate Project and Connections to Individual Homes; and Feasibility of Project Financing to Include Connections to Individual Homes.      **Held 5-0-0**  
02/02/22 – Submitted by Reps. Ley, Morson, and Nabel

Chair de la Cruz stated that Rep. Ley requested this item be held until next month due to her unavailability at tonight's meeting.

A motion to hold Item #2 was made, seconded, and approved by a vote of 5-0-0 (Reps. de la Cruz, Coleman, Sherwood, Tomas, and Watkins in favor).

- <sup>3</sup>3. O31.005      REVIEW; Implementation/Revival of a City-Wide Adopt-a-Spot Program.      **Held 5-0-0**  
02/09/22 – Submitted by Reps. Sandford, de la Cruz, and Mays

Rep. Sandford reviewed his research into this item and there was discussion.

- The program was never officially ended, but seems to have fallen off the radar over the years.
- There are still some spots around the city that appear to be taken care of, but it is unclear who manages those.
- Other towns have non-profits in charge of the programs.
- This would have a positive impact on the community.
- Stamford has several street islands that are State property.
- Mr. Quinones suggested putting together a working group that includes various commissions and departments to iron out any issues and limit the scope of the program.
- Mr. Newman said the Parks & Recreation Commission would be happy to help in any way it can. Many of these traffic islands are considered parkland and that needs to be researched.
- A public record needs to be established for the program.
- Rep. Sandford will continue researching the program and have more information at the next Committee meeting.

A motion to hold Item #3 was made, seconded, and approved by a vote of 5-0-0 (Reps. de la Cruz, Coleman, Sherwood, Tomas, and Watkins in favor).

Chair de la Cruz adjourned the meeting at 7:57 pm.

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<sup>2</sup> Video Time Stamp: 01:00:15

<sup>3</sup> Video Time Stamp: 01:01:20

Respectfully submitted,  
Virgil de la Cruz, Chair

This meeting is on [video](#).