

orals
6-11-19
(submitted by
Councilman
Seifeldin)

**RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF ALEXANDRIA TO URGE THE
AGENCIES TO ~~PRESERVE~~ PRESERVE THE 2015 CLEAN WATER RULE**

WHEREAS, the 2015 Clean Water Rule clarified the term “Waters of the United States,” which defines the extent of waters protected under the Clean Water Act’s suite of pollution prevention, control, and clean-up programs; and

WHEREAS, the Clean Water Act is the fundamental federal law protecting the Waters of the United States from pollution, degradation, and destruction; and

WHEREAS, the goal of the Act is “to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the Nation’s waters;” and

WHEREAS, this goal cannot be met unless headwater, ephemeral, and intermittent streams, and wetlands are considered “Waters of the United States,” because these resources have the potential to impact the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of larger, permanently flowing water bodies; and

WHEREAS, more than 1,000 peer reviewed scientific studies have confirmed that headwater, intermittent, and ephemeral streams and wetlands affect the quantity and quality of water in larger bodies of water downstream; and

WHEREAS, these critical streams and wetlands supply drinking water, protect communities against floods, filter pollution, and therefore provide an extraordinary value for the protection of public health, recreational resources, and economic livelihood; and

WHEREAS, strong federal standards are needed because water does not respect state boundaries and flows from one state to another; and

WHEREAS, the Clean Water Rule finalized in 2015 by the EPA and the Corps reflected input from stakeholders nationwide received during more than 400 meetings and from over one million public comments submitted during a 207-day comment period, the majority of which supported the rule; and

WHEREAS, on December 11, 2018 the EPA and the Corps proposed to replace the 2015 Clean Water Rule with a much narrower definition of “Waters of the United States,” that, if finalized, would exclude ephemeral streams, as well as geographically isolated lakes, ponds, and wetlands from Clean Water Act protections; and

WHEREAS, excluding certain streams and wetlands from Clean Water Act protections puts all of the Nation’s waters at risk because polluting or destroying these resources has the potential to impact the water quality of rivers and larger water bodies downstream.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE CITY COUNCIL OF
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA**

Calls on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to preserve the broad definition of “Waters of the United States,” which includes the Clean Water protections for headwaters, ephemeral, intermittent streams, and wetlands, as defined by the 2015 Clean Water Rule.

Adopted:

JUSTIN M. WILSON, MAYOR

ATTEST:

Gloria A. Sitton, CMC City Clerk

*oral reports/
presentations*
6-11-19

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 11, 2019

TO: Members of City Council, City Manager Mark Jinks

FROM: Councilman John T. Chapman

SUBJECT: City Academy- Graduate Level

Former Councilwoman Joyce Woodson first brought the idea of a citizens academy to Alexandria and since its inception our academy has pumped out dozens of graduates each year, and continues to be one of the best opportunities for residents to find out the ins and outs of the functions of city government. We have graduates who go on to serve on city boards and commissions, civic associations and even on city council.

Thanks to the implementation of this program, we have a much more engaged community. As a graduated of the 2006 city academy class, I have wondered what the next level of learning and engagement for academy graduates could be.

I find that while our academy graduates understand the city and its services better, the curriculum does not have the time to cover information and services of the city's important regional partners. I believe with a city GRAD academy, available to those who have been through the city academy, our residents will begin to understand who our regional partners are, what they do, and how they can become engaged in issues at the regional level.

The City GRAD academy will explore the city's relationships with regional partners such as: Washington Metro Area Transit Authority (WMATA), Northern Virginia Regional Commission (NVRC), Nova Parks, Metro Washington Council of Government (COG), VRE (Virginia Railway Express) and others. The new program could invite in leadership from our regional partners, have site visits and educate participants on how to engage them. Utility partners such as Alex Renew, Washington Gas, Dominion, VA American Water, and Convanta could also be considered. Many of the above organizations have citizens committees and other opportunities for engagement for residents and having our GRAD academy participants educated about the organizations will give Alexandria additional individuals who will be interested and qualified to serve.

I ask for your support in requesting the city manager and staff to come back to City Council at a future date with an overview, which could include a draft curriculum and information on the proposed frequency, as well as the potential fiscal and staff impact for this graduate level of the City Academy, which can be considered in a future budget cycle, with hopeful implementation by FY2022.