

## Stormwater Committee 2/26/26 Meeting Minutes

### **Members In Attendance:**

Fred Nichols - University Police  
Norman Walker - Committee Chair - Facilities - Utilities  
Grace Tinker - Center For Management, Utilization & Protection of Water Resources  
Jim Cobb - Capital Projects  
Mary Elrod - City of Cookeville  
Joshua Edmonds - Residential Life  
DeLayne Miller - Facilities & Business Services  
Joseph Asante Proxy for Dr. Evan Hart - Earth Sciences  
Dr. Michael Natrass - Agriculture  
Aiden Gillis - Student Representative  
Dan Warren - VP of Facilities & Business Services - *Committee Executive Officer*  
Michele Chumley - *Committee Administrative Services*

**Absent Members:** *Link to meeting recording emailed to absent members.*

1. Meeting was called to order, and a quorum was perceived at 11:01 AM by Committee Chair, Norman Walker.
2. Committee Chair, Norman Walker welcomed & thanked everyone for attending and had committee members introduce themselves.
3. Committee Chair, Norman Walker entertained a motion to approve the agenda. Motion was made by Jim Cobb and seconded by Dan Warren. With no objections, motion passed.
4. Committee Chair, Norman Walker entertained a motion to approve the 11/6/25 Meeting Minutes. Motion was made by Dan Warren and seconded by Mary Elrod. With no objections, motion passed.
5. Opening Comments from Committee Chair Norman Walker:
  - a. Norman will be attending a conference called The Cumberland River Compact on March 25<sup>th</sup> in Nashville.
6. Old Business
  - a. RUC issue with cooking oils; secondary containment on loading dock status:
    - i. Norman Walker shared that the containers have left the property and are no longer an issue. He stated that the area outside is looking clean; better. Norman extended thanks to Nick Dolata for changing the handling procedure where the grease is pumped from inside the building.

- b. TDEC requirements at TECH of MS4 area compared to the City of Cookeville requirements (visual walk/analytical monitoring every five years):
  - i. Norman Walker, Committee Chair, followed up on this from the previous meeting's discussion and confirmed that our requirement at TECH is monthly monitoring.
- c. Norman Walker confirmed that the MS4 Annual Report was submitted.
- d. City of Cookeville TDEC MS4 Audit (November) Recap: Mary Elrod shared that the audit was done on the Construction Stormwater section of the six sections within the MS4. They visited two job sites and received a clear report. They were told that there will now be yearly audits instead of one every 2 ½ years, and then there will be a full audit every 5 years.
- e. Permit closed with the City of Cookeville:
  - i. Norman Walker confirmed that the permit is closed for Wilmore Way aka Peachtree.
- f. Status of Open Permits with the City:
  - i. TTU Baseball & Softball Stadium is still open as confirmed by Norman Walker. *Jim Cobb confirmed that it is an old project and will get it closed.*
  - ii. Open and Active permits: Norman confirmed Tucker Stadium and JJ Oakley Innovation & Residence Hall.
  - iii. Norman confirmed that Johnson Hall is less than an acre and does not require one.
- g. Update on Willow Utility Relocation
  - i. Mary Elrod shared that she attended, along with Dan and Jim, the meetings in November and this past week about the Willow Utility Relocation. This spring we will start to see them marking/staking easements and right of ways. After that they will have appraisers out and those reports will be sent to TDOT to then begin purchasing.
- h. Norman Walker confirmed with Mary Elrod that site plans for the new residence hall have been provided to the city.
- i. Grace Tinker provided a brief recap of the Tennessee Nutrient Summit (11/7/25) stating that there were approximately 100 people from a mix of state agencies, utilities, etc. discussing their interest or research regarding nutrients in Tennessee surface waters. Grace also gave a talk at the summit that included some of the data work she is involved in as well as the database that provides live access on their website.

7. Miscellaneous New Business:

- a. Stormwater Outfalls:
  - i. Outfall #1: Norman explained that this is near the President's house and that the existing drain has been extended with the installation of a large drainpipe. The new pipe has been covered

with dirt. The flow path is the same as before. Norman stated that it looks like it will flow and drain just fine.

- ii. Outfall #2: Norman stated #2 is by the apartment complex along 12<sup>th</sup> Street. The water flows and is beautiful/clear. Norman noted that there is trash collecting along the banks and asked whose responsibility that is. Mary Elrod clarified that if it is in the right of way (not too far beyond the sidewalks and power poles) that is the City's responsibility, then beyond that it is private property. *Mary suggested contacting the Water Professionals Club through TTU as they have worked with them in the past.*
- iii. Outfall #4: Norman stated it is lower on Pine Street. He shared that it is overgrown with limbs and leaves as well. *Mary Elrod stated that she believes that is private property, but she will follow up,*

b. Miscellaneous New Business

- i. Mary Elrod shared that they are having a sink hole clean-up on 2/28/26 working with the Water Professionals Club with Tech at the Stevens & Lowe recycling site if anyone would like to attend.
- ii. Norman Walker wanted to share preliminary thoughts on the need to redirect water that comes in behind the steam plant as the technicians there have shared flooding issues. Norman mentioned possibly another drainpipe near the railroad track. Mary Elrod shared the challenges of working with the railroad and if there's another route that would be quicker. Mary shared that they are working on a project with the railroad and you have to submit proposals to the rail authorities first, then when they approve plans go to RJ Corman, designs are then made according to abiding to their stipulations, then designs are submitted to their engineers, keeping in mind that any costs that they incur are passed on to you.

8. Status of Campus Stormwater Projects – Norman Walker

a. Norman Walker shared:

- i. Tucker Stadium West
- ii. JJ Oakley Innovation & Residence Hall
- iii. ACME breaking ground in May

9. Such Other Matters

- a. Norman Walker will send out the information for anyone interested in attending the Cumberland River Compact on March 25, 2026.

10. Committee Chair, Norman Walker entertained a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by DeLayne Miller and seconded by Aiden Gillis. Without objection, motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 11:30 am.