

Transcript of Hearing

Date: May 2, 2024

Case: American Lawn and Landscaping (CU 24-10)

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5 requesting a conditional use for a landscape contractor.	5		
6 The subject property is 6412 Damascus Road,	6 WITNESSES DIRECT CROSS REDIRECT RECROSS		
7 Gaithersburg, Maryland 20852, also known as Lot 2,	7 Jeffrey Juneau 22 62 71		
8 Block A in the Etchison Acres subdivision in the	8 Nicholas Driban 73 89 93		
AR Zone (Tax Account 01-03045790).	9 James Witmer 98 166 193		
10	10 Oscar Lyles 206 239 247		
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17 Location: 100 Maryland Avenue	17		
18 County Office Building, Room 200	18		
19 Rockville, MD 20850	19		
20 Phone: 240.777.6660	20		
21	21		
22	22		
2 1 A-P-P-E-A-R-A-N-C-E-S	PROCEEDINGS		
2	2 HEARING EXAMINER: Good morning,		
3	3 everyone. Thank you for joining me. My name is		
4 LERCH EARLY BREWER	4 Katie Byrne. I am the Hearing Examiner assigned		
5 By: Christopher Ruhlen, Esquire			
6 7600 Wisconsin Avenue	•		
7 Suite 700	6 This is a public hearing on		
8 Bethesda, MD 20814	7 Conditional Use and Variance Applications for		
9 (301) 986-1300	8 the Operation of a Landscape Contractor Business		
10 cmruhlen@lerchearly.com	9 in an AR Zone under the U standards set forth in		
11	10 Article 59 Section 3.5.5.		
12	11 The Applicant is American Lawn &		
13 SELZER GURVITCH RABIN WERTHEIMER & POLOTT, P.C.	12 Landscape, Inc. The Conditional Use Number		
14 By: Elizabeth J. McInturff, Esquire	13 assigned to it by our office is CU 24-13.		
15 4416 East West Highway	14 As the Hearing/Examiner, what that		
16 Fourth Floor	15 means is that I will listen to evidence. I will		
17 Bethesda, MD 20814-4568	16 listen to testimony, review evidence, and render		
18 (301) 634-3116	17 an opinion pursuant to the criteria set forth		
19 emcinturff@sgrwlaw.com	18 for conditional uses in Article 59 Section 73.1,		
20			
21	19 and for variances pursuant to the criteria in		
22	20 Article 59 Section 7.3.2. So conditional use is		
	21 7.3.1. Variance is 7.3.2.		
	22 If you disagree with my decision, you		

1 may appeal it to the Board of Appeals within ten 2 days after the decision is issued. At this point, I would like to check 4 in and identify the parties. I will start here on my left. MR. RUHLEN: Christopher Ruhlen with 7 the law firm of Lerch Early & Brewer and we 8 represent the petitioner in this application. MR. JUNEAU: Jeff Juneau, the 10 petitioner. 11 MR. LYLES: Oscar Lyles. 12 MS. McINTURFF: Good morning, 13 Elizabeth McInturff on behalf of Mr. Lyles. HEARING EXAMINER: Thank you. This is 15 a hybrid hearing. I am going to do a little 16 Zoom housekeeping. 17 I believe we have one person on Zoom. 18 Can we check in with that person, get their name 19 to make sure that we can see and hear them?

MR. RUHLEN: That would be my partner. 21
HEARING EXAMINER: Is Mr. Harris going 22

I believe this is Mr. Harris.

to participate at all or is he going to observe?
 MR. RUHLEN: I assume he is observing
 is what I anticipate.

HEARING EXAMINER: Mr. Harris, we don't need to hear from him. We can mute him.

6 We can turn this camera off. Do anticipate 7 anybody joining us through Zoom today?

8 MR. RUHLEN: No.

20

9 HEARING EXAMINER: I will skip through 10 all of the Zoom instructions. The nature of 11 these proceedings is that they are informal, but 12 we do have formalities. What you say and how 13 you testify will be under oath and we will 14 follow this particular order.

Both parties may make opening 16 statements. The appellant will go first with 17 the presentation of their factual case.

18 The opposing party can then proceed 19 with their factual case after completion of 20 appellant's case. Opposing party will have the 21 opportunity for cross-examination.

Any other interested persons may then

1 present a factual case. Do we have anybody else 2 here.

3 MS. McINTURFF: There's a neighbor.

HEARING EXAMINER: After the appellant, and after the opposing party, I will ask if anybody else wishes to speak at the end of that, and it will be at that point or anybody else here in the audience if they wish to speak.

9 There is rebuttal. The applicant will 10 have the last word to provide rebuttal 11 testimony, then any objections to the exhibits 12 and then closing statements by both parties.

Both parties have had an opportunity 14 to look at the list of exhibits. Are there any 15 specific objections to anything that is on this 16 particular list?

17 (No response.)

For housekeeping purposes, I am going 19 to say that all 42 of these documents are going 20 to be deemed admitted and they will be 21 considered as evidence.

This morning we received the

1 petitioner's affidavit of posting, so that the 2 property was posted. It has been notarized. I

3 am going to identify that as Exhibit 43 and it

4 will be part of the record as well.

Cross-examination is your opportunity
to ask questions of witnesses. We want to make
sure that all testimony addresses Section 59
7.3.1 which is the conditional use standard and

9 59 7.3.2, which is the variance standard.

Does anyone have any questions before 11 we begin?

12 (No Response.)

Just so you know, and I have explained 14 this to Cody, I am really bad at turning my 15 microphone on and off. Hopefully, it won't be 16 as big a deal because we only have one person 17 observing on Zoom and they will not necessarily 18 participate.

19 I try to turn my microphone off so 20 that there no feedback because once your 21 microphones come on sometimes that can create 22 feedback on the Zoom side of things.

12

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1 Without any further ado, we can start

- 2 with opening statements and we will start with
- 3 the appellant.
- 4 OPENING STATEMENT OF PETITIONER
- MR. RUHLEN: Thank you very much.
- 6 Chris Ruhlen with the law firm of Lerch Early &
- 7 Brewer. With me today as the petitioner, Mr.
- 8 Juneau, who is the owner of American Lawn &
- 9 Landscape Incorporated.
- 10 Our civil engineer as we said is en
- 11 route. He will be James Witmer with JNM
- 12 Engineering. Hopefully we will have him
- 13 momentarily. We also have Nick Driban with
- 14 Lenhart Traffic Consulting.
- Both Mr. Witmer and Mr. Driban
- 16 assisted in preparing the application.
- We are pleased to have the opportunity
- 18 to discuss the proposed conditional use for the
- 19 landscape contractor use of petitioner's
- 20 property. The location is 6412 Damascus Road in
- 21 Gaithersburg which is also the petitioner's
- 22 personal residence.

10

- 1 As we will explain, the petitioner
- 2 proposes to utilize the existing conditions and
- 3 improvements on the site to continue operating
- 4 the landscape contractor use on the property
- 5 which consists of about 4.62 acres in the AR
- 6 Zone.
- 7 Importantly, no new buildings are
- 8 proposed with this application. Instead, it
- 9 proposes to utilize existing conditions and
- 10 improvements on the property which American Lawn
- 11 & Landscape has used for more than 20 years.
- The planning board has reviewed the
- 13 proposal and recommended that the conditional
- 14 use, the approval of conditions, and that
- 15 followed many months of review and analysis by
- 16 the Planning Department's staff.
- 17 As we will discuss, the petitioner
- 18 agrees with the recommended conditions and
- 19 proposes additional refinements to ensure
- 20 compatibility.
- With regard to our testimony, we will
- 22 plan to first call Mr. Juneau who as the owner

- 1 of American Lawn & Landscape and the resident of
- 2 the subject property will testify with regard to
- 3 the history of business and the related
- 4 improvements, the general objectives of the
- 5 conditional use and the operational aspects of
- 6 his business.
 - We would then call Mr. Driban who will
- 8 testify about trip generation associated with
- 9 the use and vehicular traffic.
- Finally, we would call Mr. Witmer who
- 11 will provide testimony on the application
- 12 materials in the record including the existing
- 13 condition plan, the forest conservation
- 14 exemption, the hydrology and drainage area
- 15 analysis and the proposed stormwater management
- 16 facilities as well as the petitioner's variance
- 17 request to accommodate the proposed conditional
- 18 use activities within the existing buildings.
- Mr. Witmer will also testify as to the
- 20 compliance of the conditional use with the
- 21 standards and requirements of the zoning rights.
- Before we begin, though, a couple of

| | .

- 1 comments that I think will be helpful with
- 2 respect to some of the questions that were
- 3 raised by the Hearing Examiner in the email from
- 4 last Thursday starting with the issue of
- 5 stormwater management.
- 6 Mr. Lyles, the opposition present
- 7 today has testified at the Planning Board about
- 8 his concerns with standing water and flooding.
- o installed with stall stall and installed a
- 9 His property is located to the south
- 10 and downhill from the subject property as we
- 11 will hear. There is a prehearing statement in
- 12 the record that states those issues and claims.
- 12 the record that states those issues and craims.
- We have taken those concerns seriously
- 14 and in an effort to address the stormwater
- 15 issues, and related to the landscape contractor
- 16 use, we have a commissioned hydraulic study of
- 17 drainage patterns on the property and the
- 18 surrounding area.
- 19 This is the hydrology and drainage 20 area analysis in the record at Exhibit 34A.
- 21 Through the testimony today we will
- 22 demonstrate how the property comprises just one

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13

part of a larger drainage area and how the
 overall drainage patterns in the surrounding
 area relate to Mr. Lyles' property as well as
 how our improvements that exists today affect

5 the drainage.

6 Understanding that the subject site is
7 just one part of the drainage area in whole, the
8 petitioner nevertheless commissioned this study
9 to understand potential mitigation that could be
10 provided to remedy impacts that would be
11 proportional to his use and his property within
12 the overall drainage area situation.

To that end while addressing offsite
14 water flows for the entire area would be beyond
15 the scope of this application. The expert
16 testimony related to drainage and hydrology
17 today will address possible mitigation
18 strategies that could be implemented should the
19 conditional use application be approved.

20 We have submitted more specifically a 21 stormwater management plan that also shows how 22 these issues can be addressed and to achieve

1 compliance with the Planning Board's recommended 1

2 condition for providing stormwater management3 and that stormwater management plan is Exhibit

4 34B.

As we explained in the response that
is in the record as Exhibit 39, this is a
voluntary plan that we submitted to show how
effective facilities could be accommodated on

9 site to address the Planning Board's concern.

10 A formal stormwater management plan is 11 not required for the conditional use under 12 Chapter 19, nor was it required at the time of 13 issuance of permits for existing buildings, but 14 if the conditional use is approved, the intent 15 would be to implement those facilities subject 16 to any necessary permits.

We are amenable also to a condition 18 being part of the conditional use that would 19 require the same.

Next, the Hearing Examiner asked about 21 screening for the conditional use and we are 22 also aware that those concerns would come up in

1 Mr. Lyles' prehearing statement.

We share an interest in privacy for the site, and as you will hear from our

4 witnesses, the petitioner intends to install

5 six-foot privacy fence along portions of the

6 rear and the western lot line to help achieve

privacy and address the screening.

8 To the extent that the fencing would 9 be subject to permitting, it has not been shown 10 on the plans, but we would be amenable also to a 11 condition requiring the fencing.

The hearing specifically asked about 13 compliance with the screening requirements in 14 Section 6.5.3 of the Zoning Ordinance and that 15 section also provides a standard cross-section 16 for screening, plantings, and fences, that the 17 proposal for the six-foot fence differs from the 18 cross-section, obviously, but we observed that 19 there was a recent text amendment, ZTA 2311, 20 that became effective on March 4, 2024.

One of the changes in that text 22 amendment was a revision to Section 7.3.1.E.1.B

14

led 1 of the zoning ordinance to make it clear that

2 the Hearing Examiner has the flexibility to

3 approve deviations from Division 6 including the

4 general development standards for screening.

5 As our witnesses will testify, given

6 the sloping grade of the property, the existing 7 mature trees that surround it, and the tree

mature trees that surround it, and the tree

8 canopy shade, we do believe that higher fencing

9 at six feet would provide better screening than 10 what the zoning ordinance section would provide

11 and also would be more viable given the 12 conditions.

We will get into that.

14 HEARING EXAMINER: You will have 15 testimony on all of this?

MR. RUHLEN: Yes.

17 HEARING EXAMINER: Thank you.

MR. RUHLEN: We would be amenable to a 19 condition on the fencing, but I just wanted to

20 give context for that answer.

Finally, there were questions from the 22 Hearing Examiner about building floor area

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1 building coverage. We will also provide that

2 information in our testimony, but we would note

3 that the existing buildings on the property all

4 have permits and they were all subject to zoning

5 review at the time of permit review and

6 issuance.

To the extent that the permit for the central outbuilding was issued retroactively, we presumed that DPS reviewed it under the 10 standards of the 2004 ordinance for the RDT Zone 11 which would have been in effect at the time of 12 its construction.

13 Basically they don't say accessory
14 building coverage is limited to 50% of the
15 primary building footprint as the standards for
16 the AR Zone do now in Footnote C that you
17 referenced, but the RDT standards instead said
18 that no more than 10% of a property's net lot
19 area may be covered by all buildings, principal
20 and accessory.

As we will explain, the coverage of 22 the outbuildings in the primary building are

1 conditional use and variance request submitted

2 by Mr. Juneau.

3 Mr. Lyles will testify today as well

4 as his partner, Tracy Horn, as well as a5 neighbor here today who is going to offer a

6 testimony at the end in opposition to the

conditional use and to the variances.

Mr. Lyles is going to offer testimony today regarding the use of the property and how 10 it is affecting his property currently.

11 Mr. Lyles' testimony is going to 12 center around the fact that his property abuts 13 and shares a boundary with Mr. Juneau's 14 property.

Over the last 25 years, Mr. Juneau has 16 constructed a number of buildings and as you 17 heard largely without permits, stormwater 18 management, or sediment control to those 19 buildings.

That that has taken what was ground 21 cover and made it really impervious cover 22 resulting in a number of issues affecting Mr.

18

1 well below that 10% number.

2 With respect to the question about

3 gross floor area, as I said, we will also get

4 into that. We would also just note that there

5 is no floor area limitation in the RDT or the AR

6 Zone. It is one unit per 25-acre standard.

We have the information and we can provide it, but we just wanted to make sure that

9 we noted what the relevance was for this number.

There are additional questions in the 11 email, and all of those, I think, we will hit as 12 we move through our testimony, so I won't take 13 any more time, but I thought those remarks may 14 be helpful for context.

15 HEARING EXAMINER: Thank you.

MR. RUHLEN: That is the end of our 17 opening statement and we look forward to the 18 opportunity to present our testimony.

19 OPENING STATEMENT OF OPPOSITION

20 MS. McINTURFF: Thank you. Good 21 morning. As noted, I represent Mr. Lyles in 22 connection with his opposition to the

1 Lyles' property.

The stormwater runoff is really the

3 primary concern as we sit here today as we have

shown in the record already through the videos

5 that Mr. Lyles has submitted.

6 There is almost a waterfall effect

7 coming from Mr. Juneau's property in times of

8 storms. This is deeply affecting Mr. Juneau's

9 property that is causing standing water. It is

10 causing drainage issues to the point where Mr.

11 Lyles is concerned about even residing there.

There are a number of issues that Mr.

13 Lyles also has real concerns with the use of Mr.

14 Juneau's property as it is. The structures are

15 not only just abutting his property within the

13 not only just abutting his property within the

16 50-foot line of his property and is at times

17 right on that line as well.

He is, of course, very concerned about 19 that and the harm that this is causing his 20 property. Also it is important to note is that 21 the Planning Board recognized based on a

22 proposed use of Mr. Juneau's property there is

24

- 1 in fact a new non-inherent impact due to the
- 2 existing development especially with depressed
- 3 views, and that is the water runoff coming from
- 4 his property.
- Most of this is going to come out in
- 6 testimony from Mr. Lyles and from Ms. Horn. He
- 7 does appreciate the fact that Mr. Juneau has
- 8 prepared a stormwater management proposal, but
- 9 this is because the Board required him to do so
- 10 during the last hearing to seek the conditional 11 use.
- 12 However, as my client is going to
- 13 explain today, it simply does not go far enough
- 14 to alleviate or even abate the issues that are
- 15 being caused by Mr. Juneau's current use of the 16 property.
- 17 There are, of course, a number of
- 18 other concerns regarding Mr. Juneau's commercial
- 19 use of the property that are causing harm as a
- 20 result of the inherent and non-inherent effects
- 21 of the use including as to the use of the
- 22 property, the peaceful enjoyment, value to
- 1 neighboring properties, and in addition to the
- 2 increased traffic, noise, odors, dust, health
- 3 and safety concerns all of which Mr. Lyles and
- 4 his witness will testify today.
- Thank you very much.
- HEARING EXAMINER: We can go ahead and
- start with your first witness.
- MR. RUHLEN: We would call Mr. Juneau.
- 9 (Whereupon Jeffrey Juneau, sworn.)
- 10 DIRECT EXAMINATION
- 11 BY MR. RUHLEN:
- Q Can you please state your full name
- 13 and address?

A Jeffrey Juneau. I live at 6412 15 Damascus Road, Gaithersburg, Maryland.

- Q Are you familiar with conditional use 17 2024-10 and variance 868.53 which are the
- 18 subject of today's hearing?
- A Yes. I am the petitioner for American 20 Lawn & Landscape.
- Q Can you describe your role with
- 22 American Lawn & Landscape including the existing

1 use of the property?

- A I started American Lawn -- well,
- 3 actually, it was not American Lawn & Landscape,
- 4 but I started as a kid cutting grass.
- It escalated into high school having a
- 6 friend's help. Then into college having some of
- 7 the dorm guys go out and meet me at different
- 8 sites to help out and once I got married to my
- 9 wife, Stephanie, I became full time in the
- 10 landscape business.
- 11 It wasn't until 1996 that we found
- 12 that property out at 6412 Damascus Road being an
- 13 act preserve and it was currently used as a tree 14 farm.
- 15 I continued and renamed my company
- 16 American Lawn & Landscape at that time and I
- 17 have been there ever since.
- Q American Lawn & Landscape is 19 headquartered at 6412 Damascus Road?
- 20 That's correct.
- 21 Q It is the one location?
- A Yes, it is. 22

1 Q You are the owner of that?

- 2 A I am the owner.
- 3 Q You have been there continuously since
- 4 when? How long have you been there? That was
- 1996?

- A 1996 is when we bought the house and I believe we had moved in, in December 1996.
- Q Do you know most of your neighbors in
- 9 the area?
- 10 A I do.
- Q Are you aware of any concerns other
- 12 than the ones that have emerged in the context
- 13 of this case with the use?
- A I have not had anything brought up by 15 any of my neighbors except for Mr. Lyles about 1613 months ago.
- 17 MR. RUHLEN: I don't know if we are
- 18 using screen exhibits?
- 19 HEARING EXAMINER: Yes. I should have
- 20 noted that at the very beginning. Our Zoom
- 21 operator over here will pull up the website and
- 22 every single exhibit that we have is there.

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1	Both parties, anything that you want a
2	reference to, he will go ahead and pull it up,

- 3 and you will be able to see it on both screens.
- 4 MR. RUHLEN: It would be helpful if we
- 5 could go to Exhibit 36. I am going to try to
- 6 not bounce around, but there will be a little
- 7 bit of bouncing around. So I apologize for that.
- 8 Q Mr. Juneau, this is an aerial photo of
- 9 6412. This is your property that is bounded in 10 yellow?
- 11 A Yes, it is.
- 12 Q Can you briefly describe the petition 13 for the conditional use that you are seeking?
- 14 A The primary reason for the petition of 15 this conditional use is to correct any of the 16 existing zoning violations on this property and 17 to continue operating my business at 6412 18 Damascus Road.
- 19 Q When you purchased the property, was 20 it your understanding that a conditional use was 21 required?
- 22 A When I purchased the property, I was

1 very excited because it was in the Act Preserve2 and there were other similar businesses around.

I was under the impression that I did not need to have any type of conforming use or special exceptions on this property.

- 6 Q When did you become aware of the need 7 for that?
- 8 A Once I received letters from the 9 county from just about every agency, then I 10 started taking corrective actions to mitigate 11 and to come in compliance.
- 12 Q Was that in 2022 or 2023?
- 13 A It had to the fall of 2022.
- 14 Q Did before you applied for the
- 15 conditional use, did you also look into
- 16 obtaining a non-conforming use certificate?
- 17 A I did. One of the inspectors or a 18 county agency came out and said "This is the 19 process that you would need to take." I was 20 trying to bring everything up to snuff.
- 21 Q Circle back to something you said.
- 22 Would it be accurate to say that until these

1 notices of violation and the recent complaints

- 2 you have not received complaints about your use
- 3 and activities on the property?
- 4 A I have not had any formal complaints 5 or non-formal complaints.
- 6 Q Using the screen showing your
- 7 property, why don't you orient us to it and
- 8 explain how it is utilized and which part is
- 9 your residence and which part that you have been
- 10 using for the landscape contracting business?
- 11 A May I walk up to the screen?
- 12 HEARING EXAMINER: Absolutely. Can we 13 make it bigger?
- 14 MR. RUHLEN: Perfect.
- 15 A For the last 25 years, we have been 16 utilizing the entrance trailer which is on my 17 property. It is an easement for the other two 18 property owners.
- This was the first building built back 20 in 1998. It housed my company back then. 21 Throughout the 25 years, I built the center 22 section of this building. It was around my 40th

2

1 birthday to house some of my personal stuff.

I bought a Camaro and so I wanted to

8 house it. Didn't have enough room.

4 We put that furniture and other stuff

5 in the center section for our personal use.
 6 It wasn't until between 2012 and 2015

7 that I added the second edition to this area

8 which is now my workshop and an office that is

9 rarely used.

My business is the guys will come in, 11 in the morning, park along the parking hedge

12 here. Get the machines going. Come over to

13 fill them up with fuel. Sharpen the blades

14 inside. Load up the trucks and leave by

15 approximately 7:30 in the morning. They are 16 offsite doing their work during the day.

17 This is the section that I use for the 18 work. This is the section that I have for 19 personal.

- 20 Q Just to clarify. The primary
- 21 residence is where?
- 22 A In the center.

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Q The first outbuilding that was

2 constructed is down in the corner and that was

3 approximately in 1998?

4 A Correct.

Q The second outbuilding was initially

6 constructed later, but somewhere in 2008 to

2012?

13

A Yes. Then this was approximately 2012

9 to 2015, the additional.

10 Q When you did the addition. Since that 11 addition, has there been any construction in

12 that period since? A No.

Q So that was the last? 14

15 A Correct.

HEARING EXAMINER: A quick question 16 17 about the driveway. You said that it is a shared 18 driveway. Who else shares that driveway?

19 A My two neighbors.

20 MR. RUHLEN: We have an exhibit. If

21 we want to bounce ahead, actually.

HEARING EXAMINER: If you are going to

1 personal vehicles.

Q Are you proposing any new buildings in connection with the conditional use application?

4 A I am not. We are going to use the 5 existing buildings for American Lawn and Landscape.

HEARING EXAMINER: You said the people

8 arrive at 6:30?

9 A 6:45.

10 Q On the plan, are you familiar with the 11 area that is shown that would be the conditional 12 use area? Is it the whole property?

A No. It is just the portion of the 14 buildings and the drive down, what is it, the 15 west corner of the property.

Q I want to pause here. I want to ask 17 about some of the materials that have been 18 submitted to the record by Mr. Lyles. You have 19 read over those materials and are you familiar 20 with his concerns?

A I am, and we are trying to address 22 that through this process.

1 get there, that's fine.

MR. RUHLEN: We have an exhibit that

3 will really explain that.

4 HEARING EXAMINER: That's fine.

5 MR. RUHLEN: The answer is the two

6 neighbors, as he just said, but we can put

something on the screen.

HEARING EXAMINER: Thank you.

Q You just explained some of your 10 operations, but let's ask some more questions to 11 understand that. What are the hours of 12 operation that you use?

A The guys usually start arriving around 14 6:45 to 7:10. We try to leave the shop by 7:30 15 in the morning. Most of the work is done off 16 site. We are a commercial landscape contractor 17 for maintenance basically. So condos and HOAs.

Q When the employees are arriving at the 19 site, what kind of vehicles are traveling to and 20 from? Are they all driving their own cars?

21 A What have one company van that brings 22 approximately nine guys and the rest are

Q Were you at the Planning Board Hearing where some of those concerns were also raised?

3 A I was.

Q You have reviewed the opposition's

prehearing statement?

A I have.

Q Can you summarize the primary concerns

8 from those that you are aware of and how you

9 would respond to them?

A Basically, I think the part of the 11 issue, or most of the issue, is the water 12 runoff, but he had some concerns about the 13 trucks idling, the porta-potty or when one of my 14 employees urinated outside of the porta-potty 15 and I think there was oil drums as well that he 16 was concerned about and we are trying to rectify 17 this and I have taken steps to do that.

Q We will get to the stormwater plan 19 more specifically.

MR. RUHLEN: I see Mr. Witmer has 21 joined us. We will be ready for that.

22 Q Why don't we start with a couple of

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1 those issues. The concerns about the trucks

- 2 idling, can you describe your approach to how
- 3 you intend with the conditional use to operate
- 4 to address that?
- 5 A All of my trucks are diesel trucks.
- 6 All of them have, and I don't know if you are
- 7 familiar with EGR? It is a regenerative
- 8 exhaust. You have to add depth to the trucks,
- 9 and so the emittances are minimal and they are
- 10 with compliance with the standards in the United
- 11 States and Maryland.
- We have taken corrective action
- 13 especially during the summer months where we are 13
- 14 not going to start them up before we are ready 15 to leave.
- 16 In the winter months the guys were
- 17 starting them up just to help defrost some of
- 18 the windows and to warm the trucks up because
- 19 you cannot start them and then take off in a
- 20 diesel truck because it has to lubricate the
- 21 engine and so forth.
- I have spoken with my men about the
- 1 urination outside of the porta-jon. We have
- 2 moved all of the oil barrels that were empty
- 3 beside the shop offsite.
- 4 I just collect them. Had somebody
- 5 come in and get them and that is why I collect
- 6 several oil barrels at a time and wait for one
- 7 collection.
- 8 HEARING EXAMINER: A question about
- 9 the oil barrels. What are they used for?
- 10 A Just for the lawnmowers.
- 11 HEARING EXAMINER: That is for when
- 12 you change the oil in the lawn mowers and put
- 13 them in the barrels?
- 14 A Yes.
- 15 HEARING EXAMINER: How many at a time 16 do you need to have on the site?
- 17 A I have them in the shop to use. I
- 18 just have empty oil barrels that are collecting
- 19 and depth barrels for the diesel trucks that we
- 20 have collected and I just had them inside the
- 21 shop and wait until the collection to come pick
- 22 them up. I don't want to just keep paying for

- 1 them to come out every single month.
- 2 HEARING EXAMINER: So I understand the
- 3 process. You have to change the oil in various
- 4 machines and or trucks X number of times?
- 5 A All the trucks go to an offsite
- 6 mechanic, to General Automotive, in
- 7 Gaithersburg. All the maintenance is done on
- 8 the trucks. All the oil changes, filters, and
- 9 everything, are done offsite. This is for the
- 10 machines, the lawnmowers.
- HEARING EXAMINER: How often would you
- 12 fill up a barrel?
- 13 A A 50-gallon barrel will go through
- 14 three to four oil changes. Maybe five.
- 15 HEARING EXAMINER: How often do you
- 16 have to change the oil in the machines?
- 17 A Once a month.
- 18 HEARING EXAMINER: Then those barrels 19 would be sitting around for four to five months
- 20 at a time?
- 21 A But they are inside.
- 22 HEARING EXAMINER: But they are
- 1 inside?

- 2 A Right, but I did collect empty barrels
- 3 and set them beside the shop.
- 4 HEARING EXAMINER: It would be empty
- 5 barrels that you had outside the shop?
- 6 A Correct.
- 7 BY MR. RUHLEN:
- 8 Q This is probably a good point, Mr.
- 9 Juneau, to ask you about fuel storage. I know
- 10 that there are also a couple of fuel tanks
- 11 there. Do you want to speak to your operations
- 12 with respect to those?
- 13 A Yes. Mr. Lyles was complaining about 14 having fuel tanks on site and I took the liberty
- 15 actually this past week to get them inspected 16 again to alleviate any concerns.
- 17 So we had Miller Environmental come 18 and inspect the tanks and give a report.
- 19 Everything was fine. There is no leakage. They 20 are double walled fuel tanks, and as Mr. Miller
- 21 said, there are housekeeping issues.
- Basically, there is some drip from the

Conducted on May 2, 2024 39 diesel tank, but very, very minimal, and the 1 A They have, yes. Are there letters of support that are tests will show that. 2 MR. RUHLEN: The fuel tanks, I think 3 in the record? 4 we have a photo if we want to show them later, 4 A I believe there are, yes. 5 or we can show them now if you want to switch Q Is that Exhibit 30, the letters of 6 exhibits. 6 support, Nelson Nunez, Flip Johnson, Kristin Q Are they affixed to the ground 7 Middleton, are those your neighbors? permanently? A Yes, they are. A No, they are not fixed to the ground. 9 Q I would like to ask some questions. 10 They are not a permanent structure. 10 We can keep on Exhibit 41. Start at the MR. RUHLEN: 41. I saw the mouse to 11 beginning. We will be able to address the bulk 12 go right in the right place. If you go to the 12 of the remaining questions that were in the 13 last or second to last or last slide here, just 13 Hearing Examiner's email from last week. 14 while we are on that question. I think they got 14 Start with the issue of screening. 15 to scanned to the file sideways. There we go. 15 Was there a landscape plan included with your Q Are those pallets under? 16 application? 17 A Yes. We just had two pallets put back 17 A I believe there was. 18 underneath. 18 Q A landscape plan? HEARING EXAMINER: Is that to the 19 A Oh, not a landscape plan. No, I'm 20 machine? 20 sorry. There has not been a landscape plan. 21 MR. RUHLEN: Yes. Q Was one requested when you were 22 Those are not permanently affixed to 22 working with the Planning Department on the 38 40 1 the ground. Are you planning to keep them 1 application? 2 there? A No. 3 A No. I am planning to move them to the Q We could look at these photographs on 3 4 center area where the mulch pile is proposed 4 the screen. Are these photographs representative behind the block wall. of the existing conditions in the rear of the Q Have you reviewed the conditions of 6 property where the conditional use area is? approval recommended by the Planning Board? A Yes. Exhibit 2 is between my property A I have. 8 and Mr. Lyles' property. 9 Q Were those conditions acceptable? 9 Q On Number 2 in the center? 10 A They are, yes. 10 A Right there. Correct. The screening Q If approved with the conditions 11 was put up probably 18 years ago back in 2002? 12 recommended by the Planning Board, you will 12 2004? At the request of Johnny Lyles. 13 ensure that use operates in accordance with Q If you go back, it is also extending

15 A Yes. If approved, we will go by the 16 Board's recommendation.

17 Q While we have been talking about Mr.

18 Lyles' concerns, have you discussed the

19 application with other neighbors?

20 A I have, yes.

14 those conditions?

21 Q Do any of those neighbors that you 22 have spoken with support your application?

I have used some viburnum to screen 20 and some Leyland Cypress as well between mine 21 and Mr. Lopez's property. As you can see to 22 Item 3 is where the vehicles park leaving some

14 them sort of what looks like some other vantage

A This is at the top of the driveway

17 from the shared driveway looking down towards my

15 points too from down the driveway.

18 shop and facility.

PLANET DEPOS

1 big trees to provide shade and some form of

- screening.
- 3 These are the existing conditions Q
- 4 there.

6

- 5 A That is correct.
 - Q You would be proposing a fence in
- 7 connection with the conditional use application
- 8 for additional screening?
- A That's correct.
- 10 Q What are your plans with respect to
- 11 height and where it would run?
- A It would be a six-foot privacy fence 13 and if I may walk back up here again?
- 14 Q Yes.
- 15 A Can you bring back the picture of my 16 lot?
- 17 THE OPERATOR: You can use the one on 18 the left side?
- A Behind the building here on the 20 property line is my corner post right there too, 21 and I bring the privacy fence up to about this 22 point, right here, which would be about 50 feet

1 application, did you get a chance to look at the

- 2 zoning ordinance section with the cross-section
- for landscape screening that references Section
- 4 6.5.3?

6

- 5 A I have looked at that.
 - Q Do you think the zoning ordinance
- 7 cross-section would actually be viable in these
- conditions?
- 9 A It is going to be tight on this 10 western side to do those types of conditions and 11 then on the backside of the property Mr. Lyles 12 has constructed a berm here. So to put 13 screening behind the fence would be tough to do.
- Q Are the sunlight conditions back there 15 adequate?
- A Yes. That is another big factor. In 17 my professional opinion as a landscaper, we 18 don't have enough sunlight to provide screening 19 on the lower west side for evergreens.
- O The zoning ordinance cross-section 21 calls for a four-foot fence, but you are 22 proposing a six-foot fence?

1

- 1 past this building, and it would be way past the
- 2 property line of Mr. Lyles which only joins just
- 3 a small piece back here.
- Then I would bring it up to right
- 5 before the parking area, right here, the
- 6 six-foot privacy fence.
- HEARING EXAMINER: The parking area
- 8 would be outside the privacy fence or inside the
- 9 privacy fence?
- A My recommendation, or my thoughts were 11 to bring it just to here and then just use 12 screening where the cars park, but I could 13 always bring it all the way up.
- HEARING EXAMINER: It would be on the 15 inside. Right now it is going to come up to the 16 trees, and the trees, then you are proposing to 17 serve as the screening for the parking?
- A Correct. The trees are actually on my 19 property. So I could actually bring the fence 20 to the inside and then just leave the trees on 21 the outside.
- In connection with preparing the 22

A That's correct.

- Q Is there an advantage to that height?
- 3 I believe the property all slopes there?
- 4 A Actually, yes, it will help with the screening. They may be able to see the top of the roof, but they won't be able to see anything 7 else.
- MR. RUHLEN: Why don't we go to the 8 9 next slide and let's talk about lights.
- Q There was a question by the Hearing 11 Examiner about lighting in the back. What does 12 this photograph show?
- A We have a main light on the main 14 building and then three small lights over on the 15 second building. I just took a picture of my 16 neighbor, Tony, who actually put up these lights 17 for me and he says that these are about 3,000 18 lumens each. This one is about 4,000 lumens.
- 19 Q They are limited to these three 20 locations?
- 21 A That's it, yes.
- 22 As shown. I'm sorry. Is it three or

Transcript of Hearing

Conducted on May 2, 2024 45 47 1 is it four locations? 1 A That's correct. 2 Q Are there any usage restrictions on A Four, correct. You see Mr. Lyles' 3 house is in the background. So the lights shine the use of this? 4 here. 4 A No. O There is one on the southernmost 5 MR. RUHLEN: If we could go to the 6 building in the center, and then three on the 6 next slide. central building? 7 Q Do you recognize this document? A Correct. 8 A I do. Q Are there any standing pole lights or 9 Q Is this the agreement that goes along 10 anything like that In the back? 10 with the shared driveway usage? 11 A No. 11 A Yes. When we purchased the property 12 Q How do you operate these lights? 12 and home, this is what came with it. A They are all solar, but I can turn the You have reviewed this agreement? 13 13 14 switch off on any one them. 14 A I have. Q They are able to be turned off? 15 15 It doesn't have any restrictions on Q 16 use? 16 A Correct. 17 Q Was there a photometric plan to your 17 A No. 18 knowledge in the application that was submitted That is recorded in land records, too, 18 O 19 or was one required by the Department staff 19 as well? 20 somewhere? 20 A That's correct. MR. RUHLEN: That may be it for the 21 21 A Not to my knowledge. 22 Have you received any complaints from 22 exhibits. Can we forward so I can see. This will 46 48 1 anyone about the lights? 1 be helpful, if we can stop here. Q For the questions about the building A No. Q You are not proposing to add any 3 areas, this is going to be a little complex, but additional lighting? 4 I would like to walk through the existing A That is correct. building floor areas with you. 6 MR. RUHLEN: Unless there are any 6 This slide is a copy of the Maryland 7 Department of Assessments and Taxation which is questions about that, why don't we go to the 8 next slide. 8 a real property search data sheet for your 9 Q This goes to the question about the 9 property. 10 shared driveway. That is the recorded plat for 10 It shows an existing above grade 11 your property. 11 living area of 4,350 square feet. My question 12 A Right. 12 to you is, is that approximately what you O Can you show on the plat where the 13 understand to be the gross floor area of your 14 shared driveway is located? 14 house? 15 A It is highlighted in yellow. A Yes, that's correct. 15 Q That is for the residence itself? Q That is within your property? 16 16 17 A Correct. My property goes on the 17 A Yes. 18 other side of this shared driveway. Q Do you know the approximate floor area 18

20

22

19 of the two outbuildings?

21 in the calculations.

A I provided that for you. It should be

You know that from your permits, is

Q Which neighbors utilize the driveway?

A The Lopezs and the Nunezs.

22 utilize the shared driveway?

There are three residences that

19 20

Transcript of Hearing

Conducted on May 2, 2024 51 that correct? O Do those materials, based on the A That is correct. 2 calculations that we went through together in 2 3 Would you agree that the southern most going through some of those materials, would you 4 building based on your knowledge is 1,980 square agree the coverage of the building excluding the feet? stories, is 2,314 square feet coverage? 6 A Correct. A I believe so, yes. Q It is just one floor, so that would be Q Would you agree that that includes the the floor area? 8 main floor area of the building plus the garage? A That's correct. 9 A Correct. 10 Q The central outbuilding is 1,800 10 O If you were to add the two 11 square feet approximately? 11 outbuildings, 1,908 square feet and 1,800 square 12 A Roughly, yes. 12 feet with the footprint of the residence, 2,314 13 Q Just one single floor. That's also 13 square feet, I think you would also need to add 14 the footprint? It's just one floor; right? 14 the lean to area that is behind the southernmost 15 A Yes. 15 outbuilding, have you approximated an area for Q If you add together, for purposes of 16 that? 16 17 total gross floor area, estimating gross floor 17 A I have. 18 area on the property, 4,350 square feet for the Q Did you come up with about 650 square 19 feet for the lean to? It doesn't have walls, 19 residence; 1,908 square feet for the 20 southernmost building; and approximately 1,800 20 but it is under a roof? 21 square feet for the centrally located building, A It is a roof. It may be slightly 22 yields a floor area of 8,058 square feet; would 22 higher than that, but it is very close. 50 52 1 you agree with that number as the approximate Q For sake of estimating this. Adding amount of floor area? approximately 2,314 square feet for the 3 A Yes. 3 residential footprint; 1,908 square feet for the Q There are no other structures? No 4 southernmost building; 1,800 square feet for the centrally located building, and approximately other enclosed buildings? A There is not. 6 650 square feet for the lean to, that totals 6 Q That is floor area. But for building approximately 6,672 square feet. 8 coverage that would be germane to the Does that sound correct? 9 development standards for the RDT Zone, we would 9 A Yes. 10 look not at gross floor area, but also at 10 Q That would be the coverage. Your lot 11 building footprints. 11 is approximately 4.62 acres in size. That is 12 We have heard that the one-story 12 21,247 square feet. The RDT Zone allows maximum 13 outbuildings, before it would be the same as the 13 coverage of 10%. Would you agree that your 14 footprint, that is 1,908 square feet and 1,800 14 total existing building coverage of 15 square feet for each. 15 approximately 6,725 is less than the 20,124

17 just be the ground floor. Have you looked at 18 how much floor area would be the coverage? 19 Do you have any materials in your

For your house, the footprint would

20 records to show you that, appraiser's materials,

21 or anything like that?

22 A I did, yes.

17 coverage? 18 A Yes. So just to note, by my calculation, 20 the 6,725 square feet represents about 3.3% of 21 the coverage on the lot. 22 MR. RUHLEN: I know that was painful,

16 square feet that you would be permitted for

53	55
1 but thank you for walking through that.	1 my first neighbor was okay with it.
2 Q There were questions about in the	2 Q It gives you an opportunity?
3 email about residential parking, so we can turn	3 A For 22 years.
4 to that very quickly. The residence you said is	4 Q That gives you an opportunity to clean
5 not included in the proposed conditional use	5 it up?
6 area. Does the residence have a garage?	6 A Yes.
7 A It does. Two car garage.	7 MR. RUHLEN: I think that does it for
8 Q Two car garage and you utilize the	8 Mr. Juneau. If there are still some questions
9 garage for parking?	9 from the email, Mr. Witmer will be able to
10 A From my wife's car, yes.	10 answer that.
11 Q I believe that zoning standard for a	HEARING EXAMINER: I do have a couple
12 single-family residence is two parking spaces	12 of questions for Mr. Juneau. You stated earlier
13 per single-family dwelling unit. We can ask Mr.	13 when you bought the property it was in the AG
14 Witmer about that. That would be the	14 Reserve, so you thought that the landscape
15 residential parking.	15 business was something viable that you could do.
There was a question about removal of	When you applied for the building
17 the retaining wall on the western lot line, and	17 permits for the outbuildings, how did you
18 I don't know if we have any photos of that. I	18 describe those permit applications?
19 think it is shown on the plan.	19 A When I applied for the building in
20 Can you describe that retaining wall?	20 1998, I actually had the builder go for the
21 A It was by the fuel tank picture, the	21 permit.
21 A It was by the fuel tank picture, the 22 block wall that contains the mulch.	21 permit.22 I can't testify whether he mentioned
22 block wall that contains the mulch.	I can't testify whether he mentioned 56
22 block wall that contains the mulch. 1 Q The purpose of it is to serve as a	I can't testify whether he mentioned 1 that it was a landscape contractor or mentioned
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21

22

20 anything other than it didn't meet the criteria?

HEARING EXAMINER: You said you got a

A Correct.

Q Is that on your property, do you know,

Some of it is on Tony's property, but

21 the cinderblock wall?

57 59 1 lot of notices in 2022. 1 retroactively and both of those District Court cases were closed when DPS withdrew their A I did. 2 3 HEARING EXAMINER: Can you tell me complaint. 4 what those notices were? 4 We can provide those records. A Jack Llewellyn came out with sediment HEARING EXAMINER: You can give me the 6 control. He had to come out and do the 6 history of the notices of violation and then the inspection of runoff and sediment, and so forth. ones that are closed essentially the 8 I can't remember all the names. documentation about how they were closed. HEARING EXAMINER: You do not have to 9 MR. RUHLEN: Sure. 10 tell me about the people. Tell me about the 10 HEARING EXAMINER: All of the 11 notices and what open notices still exist? 11 outbuildings have been permitted either at the A To my recollection there are no open 12 time of construction or retroactively? MR. RUHLEN: Correct. 13 notices that still exist except for the 13 14 conforming use or the variance. 14 HEARING EXAMINER: Talk to me a little 15 bit about operations. You said the crews get Everybody has come out and found that 16 there is a slope and a lot to lot issue of water 16 there at 6:45'ish and leave between 7:00 and 17 drainage and they have also made the 17 7:30 to go to job sites. 18 recommendations that you will note later that my What time do they come back? What is 19 engineer, Jim Witmer, will speak to. 19 the routine when they come back? HEARING EXAMINER: The only open 20 20 A It is typically between 5:00 and 6:00. 21 notice of violation that you know of that exists 21 It depends on traffic. Coming from Columbia or 22 currently on the property is associated with 22 coming from D.C or coming from other locations 58 60 1 your use? 1 you run into a little bit of traffic heading 2 A That's correct. 2 back. 3 MR. RUHLEN: I think I could help with 3 HEARING EXAMINER: What is the close 4 additional information to clarify that. That's 4 up routine like? 5 all accurate, but I can provide additional 5 A The guys come back to the shop. 6 details if that's helpful? 6 Taking the mowers off the trailers. Taking HEARING EXAMINER: If you wouldn't equipment off the trailers and store them inside 8 mind providing that and I can leave the record 8 Building Number 1 and then they leave. HEARING EXAMINER: How many employees 9 open for that, any existing open notices. 9 10 MR. RUHLEN: Yes. The way the 10 do you have on site? What is the maximum? 11 enforcement arm of DPS works, there was, I A 20 to 24, depending on the season. HEARING EXAMINER: Nine arrive by van? 12 believe, a District Court action that was put in 12 13 place for the conditional use violation and that 13 A That's correct. HEARING EXAMINER: Other than 14 is still pending. 15 HEARING EXAMINER: Right. 15 equipment, fuel, the oil tanks, what else do you MR. RUHLEN: There were, at the time 16 keep on site? 17 when this emerged, I don't recall, but I think 17 A I keep bag of salt on pallets. I keep

19

18 mulch on site.

20 we talking.

HEARING EXAMINER: How much mulch are

A None this year, but in past years it

22 has been about 120 yards in the bin at a time.

18 it is 2023, when the accompanying District Court

19 actions went in for one for sediment erosion

20 control was the initial complaint and the other

21 for the building permit for the central building

22 that had to go back and be applied for

63 HEARING EXAMINER: Talk to me about A 1996. 1 2 the bathroom situation. Right now you have a 2 The only building in existence was the 3 porta-o-potty. residential building up there towards the right? A That's correct. 4 The house was being built in 1996, HEARING EXAMINER: Is your house on 5 yes. well and septic? You moved in there around December 6 Q 1997? A It is. HEARING EXAMINER: Do you have indoor 8 A Correct. 9 facilities for use by the staff? 9 Q That is where the driveway ended? 10 A If needed. 10 A That is correct. MR. RUHLEN: I can note. I am trying 11 11 Q You actually constructed and extended 12 to make sure that I am looking in the right 12 this concrete pad that leads to the 13 outbuildings? 13 place, but this issue was discussed with the 14 Planning Board and the Planning Department, and 14 A There is no concrete pad. It's gravel. 15 there is a note, Mr. Witmer, when he testifies, 15 Q Prior to the gravel that was area 16 he will be able to speak to some of this too, 16 covered by grass, trees? 17 but as a result of conversations and looking at A The whole property was covered by rows 18 that issue with DPS, there was a note put on to 18 of trees. As you can see in the top exhibit, 19 the conditional use plan that has some data for 19 those trees are all in rows. 20 this. We can also speak to that with Mr. O The gravel area is where the new 21 Witmer. 21 outbuildings are, those are covered by trees and 22 22 grass? HEARING EXAMINER: If the port-o-potty 62 64 1 were to go away, the employees would have a 1 A Yes, and still have some trees. 2 place to go to the bathroom in the house? 2 Q That is where their property slopes? A We would have to look at other 3 A The property slopes. Mr. Witmer will 4 arrangements possibly, but I would have it open, 4 speak to it, but it is from this section of the 5 if needed. 5 front yard, around the side, and all of this HEARING EXAMINER: Maybe this is 6 section and some back here, it slopes down here, 6 7 something that Mr. Witmer will testify to as far 7 and then the rest of the land slopes down to one 8 as the age of the septic system, the capacity, 8 hidden point down in this area. 9 all of that, is that more of a Mr. Witmer 9 Q You constructed those buildings over 10 question? 10 the last 25 plus years? 11 A Yes. A That is a Mr. Witmer question. 11 12 HEARING EXAMINER: Those are all the 12 The first building you constructed, 13 questions I have. Do you have any follow-up 13 that one you did obtain a permit for; correct? 14 questions to my questions before you make your A I did. 14 15 cross-examination? 15 Q Did you do any sediment control when 16 MR. RUHLEN: No. 16 you constructed that building? 17 **CROSS-EXAMINATION** 17 A It wasn't required at the time. Mr. 18 BY MS. McINTURFF: 18 Witmer will be able to speak to that. Q My question is: Did you perform any Q I do have several questions. If you 20 can look at Exhibit 36, please. Looking at this 20 sediment control before that building was 21 aerial photo, when you purchased the property, 21 constructed? 22 was that in 1998 or 1996?

22

A For that building, no.

Conducted on May 2, 2024				
1 Q	There was no stormwater management at	1 when they were installed?		
`	me either?	2 A I didn't know we had an issue, but I		
	No.	3 can't speak to what they did.		
$\begin{bmatrix} 3 & A \\ 4 & Q \end{bmatrix}$	The second building, is that the	4 Q As far as you know nobody looked at		
`	building, that is the one you	5 any drainage patterns when those concrete areas		
	ructed?	6 were installed?		
7 A		7 A No.		
8 Q	You didn't obtain a permit at the time	8 Q You didn't look at any drainage when		
`	construction, did you?	9 you put down the gravel extension to the		
10 A		10 driveway?		
11 Q	There was no sediment control at that	11 A Be more specific.		
12 time?	There was no seament control at that	12 Q When you replaced the ground cover		
13 A	There was not.	13 that was already in existence there with the		
14 Q	No stormwater management?	14 gravel, you didn't look at what the drainage may		
15 A	No.	15 be like going forward?		
16 Q	There has been an extension to that	16 A I didn't realize there was an issue,		
17 buildii		17 but yes, we did put gravel over the top of here		
18 A	Yes.	18 and this was actually dirt because we were using		
19 Q	That likewise had no sediment control?	19 it and parking on the existing area.		
20 A		20 Q About how many square feet is the		
21 Q	And no permanent?	21 gravel extension to the driveway?		
22 A	Not at the time.	22 A I have no idea.		
	66	68		
1 Q	You have only retroactively obtained	1 Q Your property line, where does it		
2 the pe	rmanent since you have a conditional use	2 border Mr. Lyles?		
3 violati		3 A Just about 30-to 40-foot section right		
4 A	That is correct.	4 in that corner there.		
5 Q	When you install this gravel area,	5 Q You had one of your buildings		
6 there i	s concrete in front of the buildings, is	6 constructed right up to that line there?		
7 there 1	not?	7 A I did, but it was approved by		
8 A	Yes.	8 Montgomery County.		
9 Q	That is where the parking pads are as	9 Q But you don't know when or not in the		
10 well?		10 approval of that permit you know this was for a		
11 A	No. The concrete is in front. The	11 landscape business or just another building to		
12 parking is for the employees or for the		12 put on the property?		
13 vehic	es?	13 A I am not aware of that.		
14 Q	Why don't you show me both.	14 Q Your neighbor, Mr. Nunez, where does		
15 A	The employees park along the edge here	15 he live?		
16 on the	e screen. There is a concrete pad	16 A That house right here.		
17 under	neath the five-foot overhang right here	17 Q He is not facing your commercial use		
18 along	the front of the building and then there	18 of this property. He is actually across the		
19 is a c	oncrete pad on the front here.	19 street?		
20 Q	Did you install those yourself?	20 A He is not across the street, but he is		

22

21

22

A No. I had a company do it?

Q Did they look at any drainage patterns

21 the next door neighbor on the shared driveway.

Maybe in front that is essentially of

Transcript of Hearing

	Transcript of Treating
Con	nducted on May 2, 2024
1	69 71
any of the commercial use of the property?	1 area did the trees cover? Would you say it was
2 A That's correct.	2 your whole backyard? Was it just that back
3 Q Where do the Johnsons and the	3 corner? Did it look like that front yard tree
4 Middletons reside?	4 area?
5 A Ms. Middleton live right here and	
6 owned all of this property.	6 they cleared this area out for the septic field
7 Q What about the Johnsons?	7 to the house, to the drive, and took the wells
8 A The Johnsons are across the stree	8 out front, they cleared that area, yes, and then
9 right at the exit of our driveway.	9 some sapling trees there from the business.
10 Q Have you reviewed the proposed	10 HEARING EXAMINER: Thank you. Is
11 stormwater management system that your exp	pert 11 there any rebuttal to the cross-examination?
12 intends to put in?	MR. RUHLEN: I have a couple of
13 A I have.	13 questions on rebuttal on that, yes.
14 Q Do you know where he intends to pu	t in 14 REDIRECT EXAMINATION
15 the sediment pond?	15 BY MR. RUHLEN:
16 A I will let Mr. Witmer speak to that	t. 16 Q Mr. Juneau, are you aware of any
17 Q But you don't know off the top of yo	
18 head?	18 of that nature on your property that would
19 A No.	19 restrict removal of trees in that area?
20 Q Are you aware of whether or not it	20 A I am not.
21 will be within 50 feet of Mr. Lyles' property?	21 Q At the time of your permits, were
22 A That, I don't know.	22 there any issues raised by DPS about the
	70 72
1 Q Do you know whether or not the	1 installation of the buildings or sediment
2 stormwater management plan has been review	_
3 DPS?	3 with the issuance of those permits?
4 A It was submitted with our plan.	4 A No.
5 That's all I can tell you.	5 Q Have MCDPS representatives been on
6 Q What plans, if any, have you made to	•
7 ensure monitoring that the stormwater manage	
8 system is actually diverting water flow?	8 A They have, yes.
9 A I will have to let Mr. Witmer, the	9 Q In connection with those visits, did
10 expert, speak to that.	10 the MCDPS representatives raise any issues about
11 MS. McINTURFF: I don't have any o	
<u> </u>	12 A No.
112 guestions	
12 questions.	
13 HEARING EXAMINER: Thank you.	Quick 13 Q Have they in fact rescinded that
HEARING EXAMINER: Thank you. 14 question in follow-up. Did you build the hou	Quick 13 Q Have they in fact rescinded that 14 sediment erosion control notice of violation
HEARING EXAMINER: Thank you. 14 question in follow-up. Did you build the hou 15 that you live in?	Quick 13 Q Have they in fact rescinded that 14 sediment erosion control notice of violation 15 that they issued?
HEARING EXAMINER: Thank you. 14 question in follow-up. Did you build the hou	Quick 13 Q Have they in fact rescinded that 14 sediment erosion control notice of violation 15 that they issued? 16 A They have.

20 A That is correct.

21 Q Have DPS officials raised any

22 questions about permits for the gravel driveway?

18 buildings correct and the buildings will remain

19 even if the conditional use is not approved?

18 conditional use where the buildings are, what

A It was trees, small little trees at

HEARING EXAMINER: How much of the

19 was there before?

20

22

21 the time.

73 75 A No, not to my knowledge. 1 A Yes, I am. MR. RUHLEN: That is it for now. 2 Q Can you describe your responsibilities Thank you. with regard to this application? A Yes. We were contacted to prepare a 4 HEARING EXAMINER: Thank you. Is that 4 it for Mr. Juneau? 5 traffic review of the site including existing MR. RUHLEN: That's it for Mr. Juneau. 6 conditions and evaluate what the current 6 HEARING EXAMINER: Thank you, sir. You operations look like and whether the site are excused. You can call your next witness. 8 circulation is appropriate for the use. MR. RUHLEN: I would like to call Nick Q Are you familiar with the area and the 10 Driban with Lenhart Consulting. 10 surrounding properties? 11 (Whereupon, Nicholas Driban, sworn.) 11 A I am, ves. DIRECT EXAMINATION 12 Q Did you prepare a transportation 13 BY MR. RUHLEN: 13 impact study for this application? Q Why don't you go ahead and state your A We did not prepare a traffic impact 15 full name and occupation for the record. 15 study or transportation impact study. We A Yes, Nick Driban, traffic engineer. 16 prepared a traffic statement which is in 17 Q What is the name of your employer? 17 accordance with the county's local area A Lenhart Traffic Consulting. 18 transportation review guidelines of sites that 18 Q How long have you been employed with 19 have less than 50 peak-hour person trips. 20 Lenhart Traffic Consulting? 20 So the busiest hour in the morning or A I have been with Lenhart for seven 21 evening the number of people entering or exiting 22 years now. I have been in the industry for 22 that site by any mode, whether walking, biking, 74 76 1 about 17 in total. 1 transit, shuttle car, if it is less than 50 Q What are the responsibilities of your people, peak-hour person trips, then a traffic 3 current position, if you could describe them? statement is always required. A I am the vice president. I am in 4 There is no full evaluation that would 5 charge of traffic impact studies, coordinating be necessary in terms of the transportation 6 the agencies for review of development, traffic 6 impact study. 7 impacts, expert witness testimony, and generally Q Your traffic statement, is that 8 overseeing the traffic operations department 8 Exhibit 5 in the record? Have you been able to 9 that we have which is a staff of five. 9 look at that? 10 Q Have you testified before as an expert 10 A Yes, it is. 11 before this body? Q Can you briefly summarize the findings 11 12 of your analysis in that traffic statement? 12 A I have, yes. Q In what capacity were you qualified to A Yes. 13 13 14 testify as an expert? HEARING EXAMINER: Do you need us to 14 A Traffic engineering and transportation 15 bring it up? 15 16 planning. 16 A I can speak to it without it, but it MR. RUHLEN: I move that Mr. Driban be 17 wouldn't hurt if it is helpful. Sure. HEARING EXAMINER: Sometimes it is 18 admitted as an expert in transportation. 19 helpful for everybody to see it. It's numbers, 19 HEARING EXAMINER: Admitted.

21 at.

22

20 right, so it is good to have something to look

A Yes, absolutely. It's Exhibit 5. We

20

21

MR. RUHLEN: Thank you.

22 conditional use case 24-10?

Q Mr. Driban, are you familiar with

- 1 prepared a traffic statement, as I said, and the
- 2 traffic statement looked at the site's
- 3 operations in conformance with the county's
- 4 local area transportation review guidelines,
- 5 which are the administration of the adequate
- 6 public facilities ordinance of Montgomery County
- 7 which is the growth infrastructure policy.
- 8 HEARING EXAMINER: Is there chart on
- 9 there somewhere or no?
- 10 A The chart is page 4, I believe. It is 11 Exhibit 2. It might be page 5. This one, yes.
- HEARING EXAMINER: Can you make that 13 little bigger, please.
- 14 A We can start with the top half. When 15 we look at a site, as I said, the county's 16 guidelines require us to look at the busiest 17 hour that we call the peak hour of the morning, 18 the peak hour of the evening and how much 19 traffic, how many trips come to and from a site 20 during that hour.
- For most cases, the county's 22 guidelines recommend that we look at it using

- 1 shifts, how they come and go, the timing, and
- 2 things of that nature, and then the second part
- 3 at the bottom of this exhibit, if you will
- 4 scroll down quickly, is based on the ITE trip
- 5 generation manual for specialty trade
- contractor.
- 7 It is close to a landscape contractor,
- 8 but it's not, again, we have a hotel, and it's a
- 9 hotel, this doesn't quite fit which is why we 10 look at it both ways.
- 11 The county standard is 50 or fewer 12 peak-hour trips is considered a de minimis 13 impact and does not require transportation 14 impact study.
- 15 If you will please scroll back up to 16 the top table. This is based on the employer's 17 description of site operations. As Mr. Juneau 18 described, there are between 20 and 24 employees 19 on site on any given day.
- He spoke to the fact that during the 21 morning the vast majority of those employees 22 arrive from 6:45 to 7:10am window, and then they

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- 1 the ITE trip generation manual which is a 900 to
- 2 1,000 page document that has all kinds of
- 3 different land uses that have been evaluated
- 4 throughout the country, and actually counted to
- 5 determine the number of trips that cross that
- 6 come in and out of those sites.
- 7 So if you are looking at a hotel, you
- 8 would say how many rooms are in the hotel. You
- 9 go to the ITE trip generation manual and it is
- 10 going to give you an output for the volume of
- 11 traffic that would come into and out of that 12 site during peak hours.
- 13 Landscaping contractor is a little bit 14 of a unique use in that it is not directly 15 captured in the ITE trip generation manual.
- 16 So when we look at these sites in
 17 Montgomery County, or elsewhere, we typically
 18 look at them in two ways. The first one that you
 19 are seeing on the screen right now is based on
 20 the employer's description of the site traffic
 21 operations.
- 22 And as Mr. Juneau discussed, his

1 typically depart the site by 7:30.

- Essentially, all of those trips are
- 3 coming in and out of the site within a single
- 4 peak hour. The highest potential trip
- 5 generation that we would look at, and again,
- 6 Montgomery County is a little unique in that
- 7 they use person peak-hour trips as opposed to
- 8 vehicular trips as the basis.
- 9 But, essentially, 24 people come on
- 10 site. Some of them, nine of them, come in a
- 11 shuttle. Some of them drive their own vehicles,
- 12 and then all 24 of those people, again, leave
- 13 the site in the work vehicles within that same
- 14 hour.
- 15 So our total peak-hour person trips in 16 the morning is 24 in and 24 out, or 48 peak-hour 17 person trips.
- 18 This is if every employee comes on 19 site during the same peak hour and then leaves 20 within that same hour. The site is capturing a 21 maximum of 24 employees.
- 22 HEARING EXAMINER: So the van wasn't

- 1 included in the calculation. You did it as each
- 2 individual was coming and going?
- A Correct. Where the van factors in is
- 4 the number of vehicular trips, and so that's a
- 5 lower number. The person trips is just nine
- 6 people coming in a van, that's one vehicular
- 7 trip, but it is nine person trips.
- The county's threshold is based on
- 9 person trips which is why I started there. So we 10 are below that 50 peak-hour person trip
- 11 threshold.
- 12 The van factors in in that those 48 13 person trips become person trips only translate
- 14 to 20 vehicular peak-hour person trips.
- During the busiest hour of the day in 16 the morning between 6:45 and 7:45, there are a 17 total of eight vehicles that come on site and 12
- 18 vehicles that leave the site.
- 19 It is 20. That will 20 total
- 20 peak-hour vehicular trips, but there are 48
- 21 people in those vehicles.
- HEARING EXAMINER: Take the van out of
 - 82
- 1 the equation, if we had the 24 vehicular trips,
- 2 in and out, how would that impact the analysis
- 3 and would it put it over the 50-persons
- 4 threshold?
- A No. To simplify it, essentially, the
- 6 way somebody gets to the site doesn't matter in
- 7 terms of the county's threshold. The county's
- 8 threshold is simply person trips which is just
- 9 whether you walk, bike, scooter, take a bus,
- 10 take a shuttle in or out, did you cross the
- 11 boundary of that site or not?
- 12 If you were to remove the shuttle you
- 13 would have more vehicles entering the site,
- 14 right, but the county's threshold is people.
- The number of people doesn't change. 15
- HEARING EXAMINER: That doesn't 16
- 17 necessarily impact the traffic study.
- A It doesn't at all in terms of the
- 19 county's guidelines. The county's guidelines
- 20 are based on people and the maximum number of
- 21 people you could have is based on 24 maximum
- 22 employees which is a condition of approval would

- 1 be 24 coming in and then all of them leaving the
- site in the same hour.
- HEARING EXAMINER: Thank you. That was
- 4 helpful. Sorry, I have a tendency to throw
- people off the rails.
- A But I am happy to answer as you have
- questions. The PM peak hour for the purposes of
- 8 this, and that was the AM that we were
- 9 discussing.
- 10 The PM peak hour, we took a
- 11 conservative approach, and again looked at it,
- 12 and we are looking at the busiest hour, so the
- 13 same would be true if all crews came back within
- 14 the same hour they take the equipment out of the
- 15 trucks, and they all left at the same time you
- 16 could have 24 people coming on to the site, and
- 17 then 24 leaving, which again, would be a maximum
- 18 of 48 peak-hour person trips which is what our
- 19 table reflects here in the vellow highlighted **20** line.
- 21 Based on what we understand from Mr.
- 22 Juneau, and similar uses that we evaluated, the

1 PM trips are typically more scattered than that.

- They are finishing up jobs at
- different times. You might have a crew of four
- that comes back at 3:30 and another crew of four
- that comes back at 5 o'clock and a couple have
- 6 them come in at 5:30.
- The PM peak-hour person trips would
- 8 actually likely be less than the 48 that we are
- 9 showing here, but either way, at the very
- 10 maximum potential number of trips it is below
- 11 the county's threshold where a more detailed
- 12 study would be required and it is considered a
- 13 de minimis impact under county standards.
- HEARING EXAMINER: Thank you. 14
- 15 A Just quickly for the sake of
- 16 completeness. If you will scroll down to the 17 bottom table, please. This is based on that ITE
- 18 trip generation manual that I discussed.
- 19 This isn't the reason we didn't just
- 20 use this. It is because it is not quite an
- 21 exact fit for the use. It's close. This would
- 22 be, again, if we were doing a single-family

- 1 development, or a hotel, or a shopping center,
- 2 something that fit very cleanly within the ITE
- 3 trip generation manual descriptions, we would
- 4 just have this table.
- The purpose of showing it here is
- 6 based on 24 employees of a specialty trade
- contractor the county's typical methodology for
- 8 evaluating trips would show that there is
- 9 actually a lot less traffic coming to and from
- 10 the site during the peak hours than what Mr.
- 11 Juneau's own evaluation chose, and in this case,
- 12 using ITE, there would be this top line
- 13 especially trade contractor employees, 24
- 14 employees, you would have 11 trips inbound.
- This is vehicles. 15
- 16 11 vehicular trips inbound, 4 outbound 17 for a total of 15 In the morning, and then 5 18 inbound and 12 outbound for a total of 17 in the 19 evening.
- 20 The county then has formulas in their
- 21 LATR guidelines that translate this.
- Sorry. I know this is getting very,
- 86

- 1 very technical.
- HEARING EXAMINER: That is okay.
- 3 A The county then has formulas in the
- 4 LATR guidelines that take ITE vehicular trips
- 5 and based on county derived standards translate
- 6 those person trips.
- So the bottom half of the table
- 8 starting with the yellow line has taken the
- 9 vehicular trips that are highlighted at the top
- 10 and converted them based on county factors to
- 11 person trips.
- 12 Based on ITE standards converted using
- 13 the county's factors you would have 15 starting
- 14 from the left side on the yellow row, you would
- 15 have 15 inbound people to the site during the AM
- 16 peak hour, 5 outbound for a total of 20
- 17 peak-hour trips during the AM and then 7 in and
- 18 16 out for a total of 23 on the PM peak.
- The point of the bottom half of the 19
- 20 table is that the typical methodology the county
- 21 uses would show that this is even more below the
- 22 threshold than sort of the worst case evaluation

- 1 that we have conducted in the top half of the
- 3 HEARING EXAMINER: Thank you.
- 4 Q Thank you for that. That was
- excellent. Mr. Driban, are you familiar with the
- conditions that the Planning Board recommended
- for the use?
- 8 A Yes, I am.
- 9 Q In your opinion will those conditions
- 10 be adequate to ensure that the use continues to
- 11 operate consistently with the analysis that you 12 performed?
- 13 A Yes. I believe they will. The key
- 14 factors in those conditions, as I understand
- 15 them is that it would limit the total number of 16 work vehicles that are allowed on the site to
- 1712.
- 18 It would limit business hours of
- 19 operations between 6:45am and 6:00pm, and it
- 20 would limit the number of employees on site per
- 21 day to no more than 24 which as I just explained
- 22 is key in ensuring that the impact is de minimis
- 1 and that it remains below the county's threshold
- for more detailed traffic evaluation to be
- 3 required.
- 4 Sorry. I should note as well that I
- believe the staff report concurred that this is
- 6 a de minimis impact based on the evaluations
- conducted in terms of traffic.
- Q In your opinion is anything that is
- 9 proposed with the conditional use application
- 10 going to change anything that we just reviewed
- 11 again? Are you aware of anything that alters?
- 12 A No. The conditions are consistent
- 13 with the analysis that we conducted and I think
- 14 that it would put guardrails on what is
- 15 happening out there and formalize what they are
- 16 allowed to do to ensure that the site remains de 17 minimis in terms of traffic.
- Q In your opinion, the conditional use 19 satisfies the LATR guidelines as applicable?
- 20 Absolutely, yes.
- In your opinion, do you think that the 21
- 22 conditional use has an adverse impact on any of

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Conducted on May 2, 2024

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1	the adjoining	properties	with	respect to	traffic
---	---------------	------------	------	------------	---------

- 2 operations?
- A No. This is a really minimal amount
- 4 of traffic. It's de minimis under the county's
- 5 guidelines and I don't believe it will have any
- 6 adverse impact on surrounding properties.
- Q Is there anything else that you would
- 8 like to add?
- A No, that's all.
- 10 MR. RUHLEN: That is it for our
- 11 questions.
- 12 HEARING EXAMINER: Do you have any
- 13 cross examination?
- **CROSS-EXAMINATION**
- 15 BY MS. McINTURFF:
- Q In determining the impact, do you 17 consider the type of vehicle that is being used?
- A The county's guidelines are simply 19 based on the number of people entering and 20 exiting the site. They have very specific 21 formulas and methodology for determining. It is
- 22 simply based on the number of person trips to
- 1 and from the site.
- O The vehicle is not considered at all?
- A It is not in terms of the county's
- 4 guidelines. We did evaluate the site access and
- 5 I have been out to the site taking a look at
- 6 what is out there in terms of both the site
- 7 access on to Maryland 650 which is Damascus Road
- 8 in this area.
- 9 In my professional opinion, I think
- 10 the use that is out there and the vehicles that
- 11 are on site are consistent with the types of
- 12 uses in the area with maintaining safe ingress
- 13 and egress to the site.
- That is not part of the county
- 15 specific guidelines for determining adequacy,
- 16 but that was something that I evaluated as part 17 of my review.
- Q You would agree that a landscape truck
- 19 and a trailer is inherently different than a
- 20 sedan on the road?
- 21 A I would agree that they have different
- 22 operating characteristics.

- Q Different ways? 1
- 2 A Sure.
 - Q Different noise output?
- 4 A Likely. I think there are some sedans
- 5 that might be pretty loud, but yes, generally
- speaking that's fair.
- MS. McINTURFF: Thank you. I have no
- further questions.
- HEARING EXAMINER: Quick question.
- 10 Was there an SHA letter not required or did
- 11 Planning ask for one? Actually, what road type
- 12 does this front?
- A Maryland 650, Damascus Road is 650,
- 14 it's a minor collector, in some states a
- 15 secondary system. The state's threshold for
- 16 requiring a traffic study is a higher threshold
- 17 than in the county's.
- Theirs is based on vehicular trips,
- 19 and so as I explained, the vehicular trips in
- 20 this case are much lower than person trips
- 21 because of the fact that there is this shuttle
- 22 coming to the site because of the fact that,

90 1 typically, landscapers are leaving in crews of

- 2 two to four.
- 3 You have 48 people crossing the
- 4 boundary, but your vehicular trips are less than
- 5 that. So the state, they don't require anything
- 6 other than the traffic statement that we
- 7 submitted.
- HEARING EXAMINER: If the van were to
- 9 go away, is that a high enough number to trigger
- 10 a state analysis?
- A No. Even if every employee drove 12 individually it still would be well below the
- 13 state's threshold.
- HEARING EXAMINER: You testified that
- 15 you went out to the site. You took a look at
- 16 the entrance and the exit.
- 17 A Yes.
- HEARING EXAMINER: In your 18
- 19 professional opinion, talk to me about site
- 20 distances, turn radiuses, and all of that.
- A Sure. As you have seen the photos the 22 driveway is a gravel driveway. It is accessing

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1 part of Maryland 650 that is relatively straight2 and relatively flat.

To both east and west, there are

- 4 slight vertical curves and I believe to east of
- 5 the site there is also a slight horizontal
- 6 curve, but both of those are well beyond what
- 7 would be required for adequate site distance.
- 8 Damascus Road is a 40 mile per hour
- 9 speed limit. So having reviewed the site and
- 10 seeing the types of trucks that are out there,
- 11 the access that exists today is adequate to
- 12 safely and effectively facilitate the vehicles
- 13 that they are using at the site.
- 14 HEARING EXAMINER: Thank you. That's
- 15 it for me. If there is any kind of follow-up?
- 16 MR. RUHLEN: Maybe a couple of 17 questions.
- 18 REDIRECT EXAMINATION
- 19 BY MR. RUHLEN:
- 20 Q Can we go to Exhibit 41. Once we get
- 21 here, if we go to page 2. Sorry. Let's look at
- 22 page 3. This is where the lighting was. This
- 1 is a good illustration of the trucks.
- 2 Are these the kind of trucks that you
- 3 observed on the site that facilitate Mr.
- 4 Juneau's operations?
- 5 A Yes.
- 6 Q As you mentioned, the Planning Board
- 7 condition of approval that limits the types of
- 8 trucks on site, that's correct?
- 9 A That's correct, yes.
- 10 Q That condition says that the trucks
- 11 will be limited to 12 work vehicles and they
- 12 include 7 state body trucks, 4 pickup trucks and
- 13 1 passenger van. Those are the types of trucks
- 14 that you see in that photo; is that right?
- 15 A Yes.
- 16 Q You said when you went to the site
- 17 that you found these types of trucks to be
- 18 compatible with the types of vehicles that you
- 19 see in the area?
- 20 A Yes. Having done a number of these
- 21 types of analyses for landscaping contractors,
- 22 these are consistent with the type of trucks

1 that these businesses use and with other

- 2 vehicles that I observed on various roadways.
- 3 HEARING EXAMINER: Another question.
- 4 Were you able to observe, and maybe this would
- 5 have been a better question for Mr. Juneau, when
- 6 the trucks come in, it looks like they come in,
- 7 go around, and then face back out more so? Did
- 8 you observe any of that based on this parking?
- 9 A Other than that the photo here, I 10 don't have specific observations on that. I was
- 11 focused more on the access to the adjoining
- 12 roadway.
- 13 HEARING EXAMINER: No worries. It
- 14 probably would have been a better question for
- 15 Mr. Juneau?
- MR. RUHLEN: I am sure we can get it
- 17 answered if you would like.
- 18 HEARING EXAMINER: Actually, Mr.
- 19 Juneau, you are still under oath. Would you mind
- 20 telling me.
 21 MR. JUNEAU: Yes, they do circle
- 22 around.

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- 1 HEARING EXAMINER: When they come back
- 2 they come down the driveway. They circle around
- 3 to the trees. The ones that are parked in the
- 4 back, back in.
- 5 MR. JUNEAU: Back in.
- 6 HEARING EXAMINER: The ones that are
- 7 there just park.
- 8 MR. JUNEAU: Park. Correct.
- 9 HEARING EXAMINER: Thank you. I just
- 10 wanted to make sure my assumption was correct.
- 11 MR. RUHLEN: I don't think I have
- 12 further questions for Mr. Driban.
- 13 HEARING EXAMINER: Thank you.
- MR. RUHLEN: I would like to call on
- 15 Mr. Witmer.
- 16 HEARING EXAMINER: Before Mr. Witmer
- 17 starts, is he going to be your last witness?
- 18 MR. RUHLEN: Yes.
- 19 HEARING EXAMINER: I am someone that
- 20 likes to roll. I don't think anybody wants to
- 21 come back, so we want to try to conclude as much
- 22 as we can today. He will be your last witness.

PLANET DEPOS

1 We can break and then you projected one to two hours? 3 MS. McINTURFF: It will be less than 4 that. I do believe we will be able to finish 5 today. The one thing I would ask is if we could 6 have a hygiene break at some point? HEARING EXAMINER: We can do that now.

8 I understand. My philosophy is we go until we 9 can't go anymore. Somebody has to tell me that 10 they do not want to go anymore.

Why don't we take a 10-minute break or 12 a little over 10 minutes, and start back up at 13 11:20. We will finish with this witness. Then 14 take a lunch break. These guys, I have to let 15 them go at 4:00. Let's take a break until 16 11:20. We are off the record.

17 (Upon Resuming.)

HEARING EXAMINER: Bring forward your 18 19 next witness.

20 MR. RUHLEN: Yes, I would like to call 21 Jim Witmer.

2 (Whereupon James Witmer, sworn.)

DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MR. RUHLEN:

Q If you could state your full name and 6 your primary occupation?

A James William Witmer. I am a civil engineer and land surveyor.

Q Who is your employer?

10 A I am self-employed.

Q The name of your company is? 11

12 A JNM Engineering.

Q Mr. Witmer, how long have you been

14 employed as a civil engineer?

A It has been about 16 to 18 years. 15

Q Can you describe your professional

17 educational background?

A Bachelor's degree and mostly 19 concentrated in environmental, land development, 20 biology. That's my education background.

Q Any professional designations or 22 accreditations?

A Yes. I am licensed in Maryland. I am

2 a professional engineer, professional land

3 surveyor. I am Maryland qualified to prepare

4 forest conservation plans, sediment control

certified, certified arborist.

Q What is your position. Well, you said 7 self-employed. What is your position with JNM?

A President.

9 Q Can you describe your

10 responsibilities?

A Yes. We do a lot of small and large 12 development projects. They could be residential, 13 commercial. We do a lot of stormwater 14 management design.

We have done some inspections for 16 county governments. We have analyzed large 17 stormwater management facilities down to small.

We have done a lot of drainage 19 studies. We do sediment control plans, forest 20 conservation plans, wetland delineation, so we 21 are pretty much a full service firm for any type 22 of land development related.

98 Q Have you ever testified as an expert

before the Montgomery County Office of Zoning

and Administrative Hearings?

4 A I have not.

5 Are you familiar with the Montgomery

6 County Zoning Ordinance including its provisions

for uses and development in the AR Zone and for

8 conditional uses?

9 A Yes.

Q You are also familiar with the

11 Montgomery County zoning ordinances requirements

12 for conditional use approval?

13 A Yes.

Q And the Montgomery County Zoning

15 Ordinance requirements for variance approval?

16 Α Yes.

Q Have you reviewed the 2005 only master 17 18 plan which applies to the property that is being 19 discussed today?

20 A Yes, I have.

You are otherwise familiar with the 21

22 Montgomery County Code's requirements for land

101 103 1 development including provisions for forest 1 of these? conservation and stormwater management? 2 A Yes, I did. 3 Have you made a personal inspection of 3 A Yes. sir. 4 MR. RUHLEN: I would like to move that 4 the subject property? 5 Mr. Witmer be admitted as an expert in civil 5 A Yes, I have. 6 engineering in site development and land use 6 Q Can you describe the property and the 7 planning. 7 surrounding area, and if it helps for exhibits, HEARING EXAMINER: Any questions or 8 and I think it would be good if we went to 9 objection? 9 Exhibit 36. Mr. Witmer, there are several 10 **VOIR-DIRE EXAMINATION** 10 slides here, beyond this and you can feel free 11 BY MS. McINTURFF: 11 to get closer. Q Have you ever been qualified as an 12 A Can I get closer? 13 expert before any county? 13 HEARING EXAMINER: Absolutely. A I have not, no. 14 14 A This is Jeff's property. This is the 15 Q Have you submitted any stormwater 15 property we analyzed. We did the boundary, the 16 management plans to any county that have been 16 topo, throughout. It's kind of characteristic 17 approved? 17 of the area. A Yes, I have. 18 18 Single family detached home. They use 19 MS. McINTURFF: I don't have any 19 a shared driveway. Three years on a shared 20 objection. Congratulations. It is your first 20 driveway and then also what we are discussing 21 time. 21 back here is the landscape contractors with the 22 22 two buildings and some parking area. 104 102 Q Have you reviewed the zoning map for DIRECT EXAMINATION (continued.) this property? I think it's actually in the Q Mr. Witmer, can you describe your slides if we want to jump forward? 4 responsibilities with regard to the conditional 4 A Yes, I have. 5 use application CU 24-10 and to the variance 5 Q What is the zoning? 6 requests that are associated with it Variance A A AR, agricultural reserve. 7 6853? HEARING EXAMINER: The slide forward? A Mr. Juneau contacted me when all this 8 A Forward. 9 first started. He had a violation and the 9 HEARING EXAMINER: How many pages? 10 county was requesting more information regarding 10 A It may be two pages. Do you have the 11 the sediment control status of sediment control. 11 hard copy of that? It may help me. 12 We were hired. What we have been 12 HEARING EXAMINER: Go back up, the 13 involved with is we did the site survey, 13 green. 14 topographic, and boundary survey. 14 Q So that's the zoning map; correct? 15 We completed a natural resources A Correct. 15 16 inventory for the property. We had to analyze 16 Q The property is in the AR Zone? 17 the existing septic area and make adjustments to **17** A 18 the septic reserve area and we also prepared the The green color indicates that the 18 19 conditional use plan and the variance exhibits 19 surrounding properties are also in the area? 20 as well. 20 Correct. They are all consistent. Q Did you attend and participate in the Is a landscape contractor use allowed 21 22 Planning Board's hearing for the conditional use 22 in the AR Zone?

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		105	107		
1		Yes, it is permitted.	Q Do you agree with the analysis in the		
2	Q	How is it permitted?	2 staff report and its recommendations for the		
3	A	It is under conditional use.	3 application?		
4	Q ·~	Does the master plan provide any	4 A I do.		
5	-	c guidance for development in this	5 Q Let's go through that in detail.		
6	proper		6 Let's start with the criteria and zoning		
7		No, it does not. Nothing specific to	7 ordinance for conditional use approval. I'm		
8			8 going to ask you a series of questions based on		
9	9 which reinforces the permanent use of the		9 your knowledge of the zoning ordinance and your		
10	propei	•	10 familiarity with the project and your		
11		Does the zoning ordinance include	11 professional expertise.		
		pment standards that would apply to the AR	You have already testified that a		
13	Zone in	nto this property?	13 landscape contractor is allowed in the AR Zone		
14		Yes, it does.	14 conditional use approval. Does the proposed		
15	-	Is any new development proposed with	15 conditional use application comply with the		
16	this co	nditional use?	16 zoning ordinance standards and requirements for		
17	A	No. So there would not really be	17 landscape contractor use?		
18	anythi	ng that we would be applying through there	18 A Yes, it does, although we have to get		
19	19 because they said everything that is existing		19 some variance for the existing building and		
20 there is going to be no exterior changes		s going to be no exterior changes	20 parking in the back.		
21	propos	sed.	21 Q We will get to the variance, but why		
22	Q	The existing improvements to your	22 don't we start with reviewing the specific		
		106	108		
1	knowle	edge have permits?	1 provisions of the ordinance. This is going to		
2		Yes, they do.	2 be a little painful to go through these mostly		
3		Did the driveway require any permits	3 because of how they named the sections.		
4	to your	knowledge?	4 HEARING EXAMINER: I do have the staff		
5	A	It did not.	5 report. I would look for testimony to		
6	Q	If the conditional use is not	6 supplement what is in the staff report.		
7	approv	red, do those existing improvements remain?	7 MR. RUHLEN: That's great actually.		
8	\mathbf{A}	Yes, they are all permitted uses. It	8 HEARING EXAMINER: Yes, based on your		
9	all res	idence based on the residential zoning of	9 expertise, I know there were some statements		
10	10 the property, the AG Zone of property they are		10 made in the statement and justification.		
11	permit	ted, so regardless of whether the	I want to hear from you what is not in		
12 conditional use is there or not.		ional use is there or not.	12 the report. What's different. Or add on to.		
13	Q	Did you have a chance to review the	13 Does that make sense?		
14	14 Planning Department Staff's Report for the		14 A I don't follow what you mean.		
15	conditi	onal use and variance case?	15 HEARING EXAMINER: For example, it		
16	A	I did.	16 says number of vehicles, trailers, equipment		
17	Q	Does the staff report assess the	17 operated and adequate parking on site.		
18	-	ance of the proposed conditional use and	18 Essentially they just reiterate what		
		e with the applicable development	19 is in the site plan. So tell me why that works.		
		rds as well as the relevant findings for	20 A Yes.		
آ ا					

21 approval?

A It does.

21

22 meat to go with my potatoes.

HEARING EXAMINER: I am looking for

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A Understood.

- 2 Q I will guide you through to cover all
- 3 the bases.
- 4 HEARING EXAMINER: Yes. I don't want
- 5 to throw you off the plan. I have this. I'm
- 6 looking for you to add on to it.
- 7 O What we are focused on first is
- 8 Section 59 355B for landscape contractor
- 9 conditional uses. These are the requirements for 10 conditional use that are specific in that part 11 of the ordinance.
- 12 The first one, what I would like to do 13 is go through these, get your thoughts, and as 14 the Hearing Examiner suggested, if you can give 15 your response and explain.
- 16 The first is in the agricultural rural 17 residential and residential-type sounds, the 18 minimum lot area is two acres. The Hearing 19 Examiner may require a larger area of origin by 20 size and characteristics of the inventory or 21 operations. How large is this property?
- 22 A 4.62 acres.
- Q It exceeds the two acre?
- 2 A Absolutely.
- 3 Q The second requirement under this
- 4 section, building and parking setbacks,
- 5 including loading areas and other site
- 6 operations are a minimum of 50 feet from any lot
- 7 line. That is building and parking setbacks.
- 8 Can you explain how this meets that standard?
- 9 A That is a part of the variance that we 10 are requesting.
- HEARING EXAMINER: We can come back to 12 that.
- 13 MR. RUHLEN: We will go back and 14 describe the need for the variance when we get 15 to that part.
- 16 Q But otherwise, that side of the 17 variance area there are areas of the conditional 18 use site that are within the 50-foot setback?
- 19 A Well, aside from, you mean?
- 20 Q If we can go back to that exhibit.
- 21 A You mean conforming to the 50-foot 22 setback; is that what you are asking?

- Q Yes. The conditional use area has
- 2 portions that are within the 50 foot.
- 3 A Yes.
 - O That are outside of it?
- 5 A Do we have my exhibit?
- 6 HEARING EXAMINER: I think it is both
- 7 inside and outside.
- 8 A Yes. There are a couple.
- 9 MR. RUHLEN: If we can advance we can 10 go to the plan.
- 11 A Yes, the plan would show. The plan 12 would probably be better. Yes. So this dashed 13 line here that we have, that is the 50-foot 14 setback.
- 15 As you can see part of this existing 16 garage here is outside of that setback and then 17 also the existing parking and gravel, and then 18 there is the mulch bin here, but that's actually 19 being relocated. It's going to be relocated.
- 20 Q Right, and so the interior center most 21 garage is within the requirement setback?
- 22 A Correct, yes.
 - Q It's both within and out. We will get
- 2 back to the variance. The next criteria under
- 3 Section 59 355B, Number 3, the number of motor
- 4 vehicles and trailers for equipment and supplies
- 5 operated in connection with the contracting
- 6 business are parked on site and must be limited
- 7 by the Hearing Examiner to avoid an adverse
- 8 impact on the abutting uses, adequate parking
- 9 must be provided on site for a total number of 10 vehicles and trailers permitted.
- Based on your analysis, does the site 12 have adequate parking?
- 13 A It does, yes. We have shown plenty of 14 parking and actually in reality they are 15 probably not going to use all that parking that 16 they need because we provided parking for the 17 total number of employees, plus the company 18 vehicles at the same time and they are going to 19 be coming in and they are going to be moving 20 around the same time.
- 21 I think we have a total of 26 parking 22 spaces proposed which is far more than what we

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1 would need.

- 2 HEARING EXAMINER: That includes
- 3 vehicles for employees as well as the commercial4 vehicles?
- 5 A Correct, and in reality too, the
- 6 number of employees traveling there, I think
- 7 Jeff spoke to this is they carpool. They have a
- 8 van. They are actually going to need less
- 9 parking for the employee vehicles.
- 10 HEARING EXAMINER: If they did not
- 11 have the van, is the parking adequate on the
- 12 site?
- 13 A Yes, it is. Absolutely.
- 14 Q The parking is designed for the worst 15 case based on the number of employees that they 16 would be limited to under their conditions of 17 approval?
- 18 A Correct.
- 19 Q The next criteria is sale of plant
- 20 materials, garden supplies, or equipment is
- 21 prohibited unless a contracting business is
- 22 associated with a nursery. Are you aware of any
- 1 sales of plant materials proposed with this
- 2 application?
- 3 A No. I haven't seen any evidence of
- 4 that, existing or based on discussions with
- 5 Jeff, there is going to be no on site sales at6 all.
- 7 Q The next criteria the Hearing Examiner
- 8 may regulate hours of operation and other on
- 9 site operations to avoid adverse impacts on a
- 10 abutting uses. Are you aware of the hours of
- 11 operation that are proposed?
- 12 A Yes, 6:45 AM to 6 o'clock PM is what 13 is proposed. I think that sounds great.
- 14 Q Turning to the general development 15 requirements of the zoning ordinance for the AR 16 Zone, does the proposed application comply with 17 the applicable development standards?
- 18 A It does. Like I said before, we are 19 requesting the variance part of this, but for 20 the most part everything else it does meet the 21 requirements for the zoning.
- 22 Q We have asked Mr. Juneau this, but are

1 there any new buildings proposed with this

- 2 application?
- 3 A No, none at all.
- 4 HEARING EXAMINER: Basically, but for
- 5 the setback variances, it meets the minimum
- 6 requirements under the development standards?
 - A Yes, it does.
- Q Turning to the required findings for
- 9 conditional use approval, this is Section
- 10 7.3.1.E. Let me briefly ask you some questions 11 on these one by one.
- 12 Are there any previous approvals that 13 apply to the property or impose conditions that 14 require compliance?
- 15 A No, there are not.
- 16 Q Is it your opinion that the
- 17 conditional use satisfies the requirements of
- 18 the AR Zone, the use standards under 59 3, and
- 19 to the extent of the Hearing Examiner finds it
- 20 necessary to ensure compatibility meets the
- 21 intent of the general requirements of 59, 6?
- 22 A Yes, it does.
- 1 Q 59, 6 has a number of things in it.
 - 2 Let's get your thoughts on these one by one so
 - 3 we don't overlook something. Start with access.
 - 4 Can you describe how access is?
 - 5 A Yes, like we showed on the one slide,
 - 6 the access is a shared driveway within a shared
 - 7 easement. Jeff has the right to use and has been
 - 8 using for a while. It leads out to Damascus Road
 - 9 and there are no new improvements proposed for
 - 10 an access. So what is there today is what is
 - 11 going to be utilized in the future.
 - 12 Q The one access point.
 - 13 A Correct. I don't know if you can
 - 14 slide it over. This hatched area here, it is
 - 15 hard to see, but this is the existing gravel 16 area and through here, that is the existing
 - 17 driveway within the easement.
 - 18 HEARING EXAMINER: Remind me. I think 19 the whole drive was gravel; is that right or is 20 that part of it paved?
 - 21 A The residential portions are paved. 22 Here where there is no patching, that is all and

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1 that is gravel.

- 2 HEARING EXAMINER: Thank you.
- 3 Q Parking, queuing and loading would be
- 4 the next thing under Article 59, 6. You have
- 5 spoken to parking. I don't know if we need to
- 6 go back to that. Mr. Driban testified about
- 7 sort of the queuing and loading issues.
- 8 MR. RUHLEN: I will move on to the
- 9 next one, unless there are any questions about 10 parking.
- 11 HEARING EXAMINER: No. I don't think
- 12 that you testified to the spaces even without
- 13 the van. Mr. Juneau talked about starting and
- 14 unstarting the vehicles, so there is a queuing
- 15 with the use. I am confirming that, right?
- 16 A Yes, no queuing, no.
- 17 Q Open space and recreation.
- 18 A That is not required.
- 19 Q Lighting. Mr. Juneau spoke to the
- 20 existing lights in that there were no additional
- 21 lights proposed with the conditional use. Were
- 22 you here when we went through that?
- 118

A Yes. There is no new lighting. They are just going to be existing lighting.

- 3 HEARING EXAMINER: Let me ask a
- 4 question about the lighting. Mr. Juneau showed
- 5 the lighting on the front of the outbuilding
- 6 structure as facing back towards.
- 7 Do you know how far that travels?
- 8 Could you tell me a little bit about what that
- 9 would be along the lot lines?
- 10 A I can't. I don't get in front of
- 11 metrics. There hasn't been a photometric study 12 done, but I can tell you that the requirements
- 13 are a half a foot candle at the property line.
- 14 So given the landscaping that is
- 15 already there, and the proposed fencing, my 16 professional opinion is I don't think lighting
- 17 would be an issue, but if you need something
- 18 more concrete.
- 19 HEARING EXAMINER: Then my question is
- 20 he testified that they were 3,000 lumens, I
- 21 think, or 4,000 lumens facing one way. How does
- 22 a lumen equate to a foot candle?

1 A I couldn't tell you.

- 2 HEARING EXAMINER: Then I might ask
- 3 for more anecdotal testimony regarding lighting
- 4 from Mr. Juneau and I might ask the same from
- 5 Mr. Lyles.
- 6 MR. RUHLEN: Sure.
 - Q Moving on. The next one would be
- 8 screening. I think you were here when we were
- 9 talking about Mr. Juneau's plans for the fence.
- 10 Are you familiar with Section 6.5.3 of
- 11 the zoning ordinance that speaks to screening
- 12 requirements?

A Yes.

13

- 14 O You have heard that Mr. Juneau intends
- 15 to provide the six-foot tall fence along
- 16 portions of the southern and the western
- 17 property lines. What are your thoughts about
- 18 that? In your opinion, do you think that a
- 19 six-foot tall fence would be effective?
- 20 A Honestly, I feel that the six-foot
- 21 fence is a better option for a lot plans that I
- 22 have done. I don't know if this is relevant, but

- 1 for landscaping we try to utilize fencing where
 - 2 we can.
 - 3 It is a permanent barrier in terms of4 when you have vegetation depending on the season
 - 5 sometimes if it is a deciduous tree, sometimes
 - 6 if you don't have leaves on the tree, the sight
 - 7 line you can see through to the property, but if
 - 8 you have a solid six-foot fence, then as long as
 - 9 it is maintained then you are screening sound,
 - 10 you are screening light, and also the visual
 - 11 aspects of it. Honestly, I think a fence is
 - 12 probably the best option.
 - HEARING EXAMINER: Tell me a little
 - 14 bit more about the fence in the proposed
 - 15 construction of the fence. Is it wood, board on
 - 16 board or is it that fancy white plastic stuff?
 - 17 MR. RUHLEN: Mr. Juneau probably could 18 answer that.
 - 19 HEARING EXAMINER: Sorry, Mr. Juneau
 - 20 we might have to bring you back up.
 - 21 Q In your opinion, would that proposal
 - 22 for fencing meet the intent of the screening

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1 requirements in the zoning ordinance?

2 A Yes.

3

- Q Outdoor display and storage. Can you
- 4 speak to those issues with respect to the
- 5 conditional use?
- 6 A No outdoors display because there is
- 7 no on site sales. The storage areas as we
- 8 talked about on the bins, the mulch bins, and
- 9 also the fuel tanks, they are going to be moved
- 10 to be in conformance with the setback
- 11 requirements for the vehicle setback so I can 12 show you here again.
- 13 Q It is difficult to see. If you could 14 call out.
- 15 A Yes. So right here is the existing 16 mulch bin. The existing tanks are right here. We 17 don't show them on the plan because typically we 18 just show more permanent structures on plans.
- 19 We have relocated the bin or we are 20 just going to relocate is going to be putting 21 the bin up here and then the fuel tanks are 22 going to be placed behind the bin.
- 1 Q What about signage? Is there any
- 2 signage proposed?
- 3 A No signage. We realize that if
- 4 signage is in the future, I don't think they
- 5 would need any, but if they did we would have to
- 6 go through it and get required permits for that
- 7 through DPS.
- 8 Q You testified that you reviewed the
- 9 master plan with respect to this property. In
- 10 your opinion, does this conditional use
- 11 substantially conform with the plan?
- 12 A Yes.
- 13 Q Does the plan have anything specific
- 14 to say about this property?
- 15 A In terms of?
- 16 Q Site specific recommendations?
- 17 A Let me look through my notes. If you 18 are talking in terms of the proposed use, the 19 landscape contractors, they are allowed as a 20 conditional use through the special exception.
- Is that what you're asking?
- 22 Q Yes. Did the master plan have any

- 1 specific recommendations for how this site
- 2 should be developed?
- 3 A No. It just refers back to the AR
- 4 Zone. It is not something specific to this.
- 5 Q Right. Continuing with these
- 6 findings, and I am now referring to Section
- 7 7.3.1.E.D., will the conditional use be, in your
- 8 opinion, in harmony with the general character
- 9 of the neighborhood?
- 10 A Yes, it would. There are other
 11 surrounding properties that have the same type
- 12 uses, AG uses, with an AG-type business. There
- 13 are outbuildings, fuel tanks, a barn, a shed,
- 14 stuff like that. I think it is characteristic 15 with the zoning and the use in the area, ves.
- 16 HEARING EXAMINER: Is there an exhibit
- 17 that was submitted about neighboring uses?
- MR. RUHLEN: Yes. We can go to that.
- 19 HEARING EXAMINER: Can we look at
- 20 that?
- MR. RUHLEN: Yes. This would be
- 22 Exhibit 40. Maybe if we start on this slide
- 122
 - 1 that is right here. We have seen Mr. Juneau's
 - 2 property.
 - 3 Q Mr. Witmer, these are other
 - 4 surrounding areas. There is a location map in
 - 5 the top left corner.
 - A It is hard to see.
 - 7 Q Mr. Juneau's is in the top right. Are
 - 8 these images of some of the other properties
 - 9 that would be in this neighborhood area?
 - 10 A Yes.
 - 11 Q Then we can go forward just to see
 - 12 some examples. These are properties directly to
 - 13 the south. Going forward again. This Mr. Lyles'
 - 14 property. When you have been in the area, that
 - 15 is to the south of Mr. Juneau's property?
 - 16 A Yes. Jeff's property is right here.
 17 This is actually the back of this building here,
 - 18 just below kind of downhill from here.
 - 19 Q If we go forward, these are the 20 operations on that property?
 - 21 HEARING EXAMINER: Is this is on Mr.
 - 22 Lyles' property or the neighboring property?

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MR. RUHLEN: This is on Mr. Lyles 2 which is across that property line and it is up.

A Yes, it's characteristic.

4 MR. RUHLEN: We can keep going, I think. Just more images.

- Q Are these also types of conditions that are out there?
- 8 A Correct, yes, they are. They are very 9 consistent and also this, yes. I don't think 10 Jeff has the dump trucks.
- Q Right, these are offsite. These are 12 in the neighborhood.

A Yes. 13

HEARING EXAMINER: It is in the 14 15 neighborhood as identified by staff?

MR. RUHLEN: Yes. This is actually 17 what staff identified as the home occupation 18 use. We can get to this one momentarily.

HEARING EXAMINER: Do you want to 20 leave it up or do you want to go somewhere else?

MR. RUHLEN: I think we can leave it

22 up here so that we are ready to talk about it if

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1 commercial use, but I do know that we have some

specific questions from the hearing examiner

about water and sewer. This might be the

appropriate time to explain what you looked at

for that.

A Yes. So the property is served by private well and septic. When we first started 8 this, that was one of the things we looked at.

We looked at the existing size of the 10 existing septic area. We had to adjust the 11 septic area based on the building location 12 slightly, and then with that, we also wanted to 13 take into account the number of employees and 14 then using facilities on site.

I jotted in my notes down here. This 16 is on one of the plans. I am reading from my 17 notes.

MR. RUHLEN: If it would be helpful. 18 19 This will take us to a different file, but we 20 can put up the note back to the conditional use 21 plan, 36 again, and this is page 4.

A The top left.

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1 we want to keep addressing these requirements,

- 2 we can finish this part.
- Q Going back to the list of requirements
- 4 starting again with 7.3.1.E.E, will the
- 5 conditional use increase the number intensity or
- 6 scope of conditional uses in the area?
- A It is consistent with it. It is not 8 going to have any effect. The use of Jeff's 9 property has been there for decades. It is not
- 10 going to change based on this conditional use 11 and it will remain as it is.
- 12 Q The next finding, will a conditional 13 use be served by adequate public services and 14 facilities, including schools, police and fire 15 protection, water, sanitary sewer, public roads, 16 storm drainage.
- Let's try to break this one down a 18 little bit. Did the Planning Board take a look 19 at this requirement in their analysis?
- 20 A Yes, and they found everything was 21 adequate.
- 22 Schools would not be impacted by a

1 MR. RUHLEN: If we can get an enlargement in the notes. This is going to go to what Mr. Witmer can explain. Is that septic system note?

A Right below the general notes.

HEARING EXAMINER: Make that a little 6 7 bigger. That is better for me.

- A I will summarize. We looked at the 9 existing system. I had some discussions with 10 the well and septic section and they were saying 11 based on the use they would need 10 gallons per 12 day.
- 13 We have to assume 10 gallons per day 14 per employee which would equate to 200 gallons 15 per day. Based on that we analyzed the existing 16 septic trenches and septic system and we found 17 out that we would need a total of 708 linear 18 feet of reserve area for the septic and we 19 actually have 1,050. So it is well oversized 20 for what we need.
- 21 With the additional employees, the 22 existing septic system should be far adequate

129 131 1 were the big things, what they found as it 1 for what they are proposing. Q To tie that up. You reviewed the 2 relates to their recommendation was that 3 recommendations, the conditions of the Staff 3 contractor use would not cause harmful traffic. 4 Report of the Planning Board, and one of those, 4 noise, odors, dust elimination, and there would 5 I believe, says the employees will be required be sufficient parking. 6 to have access to a bathroom in the house when I agree with that. on site. O That is on the issue of inherent A Correct. 8 adverse effects? Q This gets to, in your opinion, there 9 A Correct, yes. 10 is adequate capacity in the house? 10 Q What about non-inherent adverse 11 effects, do you recall what the Planning Board 11 A Yes, absolutely. 12 Q For employees to utilize the restroom. 12 identified with respect to that? A Absolutely. There were also some A Stormwater. 13 13 14 notes on there, remember, about the existing Q Did the Planning Board provide a 15 recommendation for a condition to address the 15 road, but that's already a build out 80-foot 16 right of way. So there wouldn't be any 16 stormwater? 17 requirements for improvements. A Yes. They addressed the stormwater or Q Right, going back to the criteria if 18 at least analyzed it to figure out what the 19 it is served by adequate public facilities and 19 solution would be to analyze what the downstream 20 services? 20 impacts might be. MR. RUHLEN: Now is the time because I 21 21 A Correct, yes. 22 What is the water classification and 22 think this may take a bit of discussion, but we 132 130 1 the sewer classification? 1 would be happy to talk about the stormwater in more detail. A W6S6 which is private well septic. Q Next criteria 7.3.1.E.G, will a 3 HEARING EXAMINER: Yes. 4 conditional use avoid causing harm to the MR. RUHLEN: In our proposed plan for 5 neighborhood due to inherent or non-inherent addressing that recommendation. 6 adverse impacts? 6 HEARING EXAMINER: That is perfectly fine. This is a good spot for it. A Yes. I mean the use is compatible MR. RUHLEN: We are going to jump 8 with adjoining properties. It has already been 9 there for years. I don't think any conditional 9 ahead a bit and we will come back. This is the 10 use is going to change the character. It is not 10 last criteria in that section and then we can 11 turn to the variance after we address the 11 going to cause any harm or any issues with the 12 property. 12 stormwater. Q Did the Planning Board discuss the 13 HEARING EXAMINER: Do you want to go 14 inherent and non-inherent effects issue when we 14 to a particular exhibit? 15 were before them? A Let's start with the overall drainage 15 A Yes, they did. 16 area. 16 On the issue of inherent effects, do 17 Q Exhibit 36 at page 6, I think is where 18 you recall that discussion and what the staff 18 we want to start. 19 report might have listed? 19 A Yes.

MR. RUHLEN: I am going to ask you

21 some questions on this issue of the Stormwater

22 Management and the Planning Board recommended

A Yes. Let me go through that. Yes,

21 vehicle trips, employee parking, noise, and 22 odors associated with the trucks, yes, those

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1 condition.

- Q Have you conducted, Jim, an analysis 3 of the drainage patterns on the property and on
- 4 the surrounding properties?
- A Yes, I have.
- Q We have up here a drainage area map.
- Is this something you prepared?
- A I did.
- Q In addition to this, did you prepare a 10 drainage area analysis that I think is included 11 as Exhibit 34A?
- 12 A Yes.
- You also prepared a Stormwater 13 14 Management plan that is in the record as Exhibit 15 34B?
- 16 A I did.
- 17 Q We may need to move to all those, but 18 we can start here. Some of them are in this 19 slide deck. Firstly, is the drainage area 20 analysis, and is the stormwater management plan 21 required as part of this conditional use 22 application?

A It is not. A lot of this was just

- there was some current concern about drainage. I
- 3 was requested to prepare this study to see.
- Q Chapter 19 of the county code which
- 5 pertains to stormwater did not require a
- 6 stormwater management plan for this application?
- 7 A No. it didn't.
- Q And the zoning ordinance provisions
- 9 for conditional use materials, they didn't
- 10 require one either because no exterior changes
- 11 were proposed?
- 12 A Yes, there is no proposed development.
- 13 There is nothing that would trigger a storm 14 automation requiring regulatory requirements.
- 15 Q What was the purpose of preparing the 16 drainage area analysis and the plan?
- 17 A Jeff requested that I do it.
- Q This is also to speak to the Planning 18
- 19 Board's recommended conditions?
- 20 A Yes.
- There was also testimony in the record 21
- 22 from Mr. Lyles about conservative stormwater?

A Correct.

2 Q Why don't you describe for us with any

exhibit that you need us to turn to, we can, but

why don't you describe the methodology of your

analysis of the drainage area.

6 We have your full report in the

exhibits, so if there is anything we need from

8 there we can do that.

9 A This is the overall drainage area map. 10 It is actually a little difficult to see. When

11 I started the study, the first thing we had to

12 do was to identify locations. We call it a study 13 point. Where is the water going to?

That is the biggest concern. Where is

15 the water going to? Where is the impact? These 16 dashed, or the little thicker dashed lines are

17 drainage areas and there are several drainage

18 areas. Here is Jeff's property right here.

Here are the two garages. Here is the

20 house. Here is the driveway. Part of our study

21 is to say where is the affected area that Jeff's

22 property could have on anything downstream or

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1 anything within the drainage area and we identified this was our first study point.

3 This is the location and actually a

4 berm that was constructed along Mr. Lyles'

5 property years ago, what I was going back to, so

6 our starting point was right here. This is a

low point.

8 All the drainage from these

9 surrounding properties all converged right at

10 this point or a little bit lower in Mr. Lyles'

11 property.

12 There was a berm constructed right

13 here years ago that dams up some of the water.

14 This was built offsite. Jeff did not build it.

15 This was built offsite and I think is also some

16 of the problems. We chose that as our first

17 study point for our analysis.

18 Based on that, what we do is we will 19 take cover types, whether they be houses, crop

20 fields, grass, woods, and then soil types based

21 on NRCS and based on that with slopes we will

22 run an analysis to figure for different design

7

1 storms, design storms meaning a one-year event,

2 meaning, a storm that would statistically happen

3 once a year and in our analysis we also looked

4 at the one year, two year, and the ten year.

When we did our analysis we did it in 6 several ways. First, we looked at the property

7 as it was before it was developed. There was

8 nothing there before when this was all just

9 grass or a field.

10 One of my analyses looked at it

11 because with one of the old images, it almost

12 looked like row crops that were planted there

13 and so there is actually a runoff curve number

14 for a baseline.

We looked at that first and we figured

16 out that that is our baseline to say what was it 17 before anything was out there?

After that, we analyzed the property

19 based on the development of Jeff's property, the

20 neighboring properties, the properties over here

21 where some work was done on Mr. Lyles' property,

22 and then the changes, meaning, the changes in

1 use from the grassed area to the paved areas.

Basically what that did is that gave

3 us a baseline from existing conditions to today

4 what the conditions would be to that point.

Does that answer your question?

Q Yes. How many total acres are in this

overall range area?

A That is 13.42 acres.

9 Q You showed us Mr. Juneau's property, 10 but because I think it is helpful, and it's hard 11 for me to understand, the outer boundaries of 12 the whole drainage area where are they on that

13 image?

A Right here, like I said, this is 14

15 Jeff's property.

O Yes. 16

17 A The drainage areas, and there are

18 multiple drainage areas, so it starts way off 19 here offsite and the drainage area comes through

20 here all the way around, through Mr. Lyles'

21 property, and then comes back around here, all

22 the way around Jeff's, and then through also the

1 adjoining property over here.

In terms of impacts to the study

point, Jeff's property is just a small portion

of what actually gets.

HEARING EXAMINER: How is that chosen?

How do you determine the drainage area?

A Just the existing contours.

Q The contours are the jagged lines that

9 are running through, that is representative of

10 the grade to the whole area, right?

11 A Correct, ves.

12 The higher points of those contours

13 are where?

A Right here. This would be your high 15 point on this end, and this one over here on

16 Jeff's property, this would be your high point

17 right along Damascus Road and then also there is

18 a drainage divide right here.

You can see from those points, and we

20 follow the high point here, right here, there is

21 almost like a natural ridge line that comes

22 through here and goes around. 138

The thing is, the grades are what they

are. It is something that the contours, they

3 might have been adjusted slightly, but this

4 drainage area is probably consistent with how it

has always been.

Q When it rains, water hitting the

7 uphill parts, runs, if it's a substantial rain

8 event, the water flows?

9 A Correct.

10 O The water flows in which direction?

A This is hard to see this. This is a

12 called a TC, timer concentration. These are

13 flow paths. We have separate drainage areas.

The drainage area, this isn't part of

15 Jeff's property, but the drainage area, not

16 including Jeff's property, is 6.24 acres, and it

17 has a time and concentration that runs, and you

18 can see it right down through here, that leads

19 right to that study point.

I keep going back to the study point

21 because that's our analysis. That is where we 22 are trying to figure out what the discharge

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1 rates are at that point.

- Q Right. I see it on there, close to
- 3 the study point, by Mr. Lyles' house with the
- 4 complaint on the flooding, is that in close
- 5 proximity?
- A Yes. This is the house right here.
- This is Mr. Lyles' house right there.
- Q Close to the study point?
- A Correct. It is actually just uphill.
- 10 That is the tough part with this analysis.
- 11 Sometimes with our designs, our analysis, you
- 12 can kind of figure out solutions and things to
- 13 do and what to do.
- The problem here is Mr. Lyles' house 15 is right here, and if you look, he gets drainage
- 16 from three sides. It is not just Jeff's
- 17 property, but it is this whole other side down
- 18 here. You can see if you have ever read
- 19 concours before, this is a contour here, and you 20 follow this V and this V is the low point.
- That's the channel. Well, I shouldn't 22 say channel. That is a drainage path. Under

- Q What is the area that is in Mr.
- 2 Juneau's property?
- A About 3.94 acres.
- 4 Q Did you happen to look at that as a
- percentage of the overall area?
- A I think it is roughly 30% to 34%
- somewhere around that number.
- Q How would you describe the impact of 9 the existing improvements on the property for 10 stormwater runoff and drainage in that portion
- 11 of the site?
- 12 A In terms of this portion of the site, 13 if you construct anything whether it's a patio, 14 pool, any new impervious area, there is going to 15 be a difference in runoff.
- But analyzing this drainage area as a 16 17 whole the contribution from Jeff's property in 18 my opinion is somewhat minor just because of the 19 drainage area.
- 20 It would be different if it was just 21 Jeff's property drained to one point, but it is 22 such a large drainage area, once you start

1 existing conditions, 20 years ago, whenever,

- 2 this was always where that drainage wanted to
- 3 go.
- Q This may be hard to see on this plan,
- 5 if you need a different exhibit on the screen,
- 6 I'm sure we can put it up.
- Were you able to identify the portion
- 8 of the overall drainage area that would fall
- 9 within Mr. Juneau's property?
- 10 A Yes. There is a site only drainage 11 area.
- 12 Q It may be in your analysis. We have 13 the stormwater plan. We have your full analysis
- 14 package. It would be in your hydrology report.
- A It might. I could still use this. 15
- 16 Q That is the variance plan.
- 17 A You can see it up here. All the
- 18 numbers are here, but you can see up here.
- 19 There are 3.94 acres.
- 20 Q Can we zoom in on that?
- 21 A If you can see that little area right 22 there.

- 1 getting the larger storms, large enough even a
 - 2 pervious area runs off, so even grass, you get
 - 3 summer storms, even grass area you are going to
 - get some runoff.
 - That's what we are fighting. This
 - 6 isn't an issue of just an impervious area. It
 - 7 has a lot to do with drainage area as well.
 - 8 Just the size of drainage area.
 - O To the extent that the improvements
 - 10 would have an effect, are there other
 - 11 improvements in the drainage area beyond Mr.
 - 12 Juneau's property?
 - A Absolutely. If we can scroll down a
 - 14 little bit. A portion of this property, and I 15 will go over a couple of them, but a portion of

 - 16 this property right here it's row crop and
 - 17 surprisingly row crops there is a fairly
 - 18 substantial amount of runoff that comes off of
 - 19 those just because they have been tilled,
 - 20 compacted and tilled over the years.
 - That actually has a significant effect

22 and then also, right here, the other section of

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- 1 Mr. Lyles' property, where I think we saw those
- 2 pictures with the gravel and everything like
- 3 that, that also is going to produce runoff, it's
- 4 going to drain out through there. There is also
- 5 some houses and then the shared driveway and
- 6 other contributing factors to that as well.
- Q Even though it is the case that there
- 8 is a larger drainage area that contributes to
- 9 the overall runoff situation, did you prepare a
- 10 stormwater management facility plan for Mr.
- 11 Juneau's property?
- 12 A I did.
- 13 Q What would the intent of that plan be?
- A I think I stressed this in my report. 14 15 We can mitigate what is on our site, like Jeff's 16 site, I say we, but Jeff's site, we can mitigate 17 for any new impervious or existing pervious area 18 one that.
- 19 It is not a requirement, but it's 20 something that can help Jeff and that is what we 21 will do. If we can scroll down a little bit? 22 If we could go to the stormwater management

1 management device. It's a detention facility.

- It is not a retention. So it doesn't retain
- water. It just detains it.
- 4 Temporarily detains the water usually 5 over 24 to 48 hours. They call it a drawdown.
- 6 It will release the water so you don't have to
- worry about mosquitoes or any other pests or
- anything like that.
- Based on this facility and the 10 drainage we were able to get there, we were 11 actually able to reduce the runoff from Jeff's 12 property to a condition equivalent to this being 13 grass or woods.
- 14 It would be as we would retain enough 15 storage in here to where the runoff conditions 16 would be similar to if it was just Jeff's house 17 here, the driveway, and grass.
- Q In your opinion, and you have already
- 19 testified that you are familiar with the
- 20 Planning Board's recommended conditions, in your
- 21 opinion, does this plan address the Planning
- 22 Board's recommendation to provide stormwater for

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2

- 1 plan.
- Q I think it's on this slide. I think
- 3 it's the next page.
- A This is my proposed stormwater
- 5 management. When I looked at this, I looked at
- 6 this from a quantity because the current
- 7 regulations for new development have a quality
- 8 and quantity component. This is more of just a
- 9 volume and runoff-type thing.
- 10 We look at this in terms of the
- 11 quantity of water. When we first started
- 12 talking about this when we do our analysis, we
- 13 look at the land cover types. We look at soils.
- 14 We look at the slopes, the drainage areas to
- 15 figure out what the discharge is and we
- 16 calculate that in cubic feet per second.
- Based on an analysis we came up with a 18 raw numbers that would be for Jeff's property as 19 it is today and then Jeff's property as if there 20 was no contractor use there.
- 21 Based on the difference of those two 22 discharges in CFS, we designed the stormwater

1 the existing development on site?

- A It exceeds it, yes.
- 3 O To be clear. This plan is limited
- 4 just to Mr. Juneau's portion of this drainage
- problem. Correct?
- A Yes. I will go back to that. That is
- 7 the kind of the issue here where Mr. Lyles'
- 8 property is, I call it where he is in almost the
- 9 bottom of a bowl on three sides.
- 10 All the water around here is going to 11 go to one point. It doesn't matter what
- 12 stormwater management Jeff does here, water
- 13 still going to get to this point.
- There is a large contributing drainage 15 area over here, six acres, and then also some
- 16 Mr. Lyles' property here and some property over
- 17 here that are going to continue to drain there
- 18 uncontrolled. There is nothing we can do about 19 that.
- 20 It's not on Jeff's property. It is not 21 contributed to by Jeff's property. It is just 22 what it is. We can manage on site what Jeff's

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1

1 contribution is to this. We can do a design for

2 this. It is over and above what is required.

We can do it, but the thing is that

4 they is still going to be water. There is still

5 going to be a problem not because of Jeff's, but

6 just because of where the house is located,

7 where the property is located, in relation to

8 the drainage area, and also too, I mentioned

9 before there is the existing berm that exists

10 right here and some of the pictures you can see

11 there is ponding water that is back here which

12 sits for days or weeks.

13 That is a big part of the problem.

14 When you detain, or retain water,

15 there should be a design. It should be

16 engineered. You have to figure out if I'm going

17 to retain that water, how is that going to

18 affect drainage? How is it going to affect 19 storage? Are there going to be any pest

20 problems?

21 I know there was some discussion about 22 mosquito issues. I would say a lot of that will

O Could we go to Exhibit 40 again, and

Q That we see?

2 A Yes. It looks like it is partially

3 mowed and partially has natural vegetation on

4 it.

5 Q I would like to ask you, in the record

6 as Exhibit 26, there is an email. It is

identified as Exhibit 28, correspondence from

Oscar Lyles sent to Planning Board received

9 after the February 16, 2024 staff import.

10 Have you reviewed that exhibit?

11 A I have.

12 Q In that exhibit there is a string of

13 correspondence in one portion of this, and in

14 particular, there is an email dated January 30,

15 2024, from Linda Kowbilsky. She was the

16 Division Chief of Land Development in the

17 Montgomery County Division, Montgomery County

18 Department of Permitting Services, did you view

19 that portion?

20

21 Q Is this email from Ms. Kowbilsky says,

22 it is it's to Mr. Lyles, it says "The berm

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1 be contributed because that water just sits

A Yes.

1 constructed approximately nine years ago is

blocking the natural flow of water and creating

the issues you have with mosquitoes and

potential contamination with your well."

"We strongly recommend the berm be 6 removed or relocated and additional grading be

performed with guidance from a design

professional."

9 Do you agree with that?

10 A Absolutely. Yes, that's dead on. I

11 want to stress, too, that the issue with the 12 water, in my opinion, It's not a volume problem.

13 It is a conveyance problem.

When creating a berm on the property, 15 you are creating an uncontrolled situation. If

16 you can convey water, that is why those

17 properties will have a storm drain system, a

18 swale system, and it will be engineer designed 19 so that when it rains, the water comes through,

20 and you move it quickly and safely as possible

21 to its discharge point to a stream headwaters,

22 something like that.

4 this is where we had the photo of the berm and that might be helpful.

6 A Yes.

2 there.

3

Q Mr. Witmer, is this berm condition

that you are talking about?

9 A Yes, it is.

10 Q Would you orient us to it?

A Yes. Here is the berm right here.

12 The upside, the storage part of the berm, or I

13 should say the uphill side of the berm is over 14 here and that is actually not on Jeff's

15 property. That is actually on Jeff's neighbor's 16 property.

Q The image on the left, to the right is 18 the uphill portion of the land and to the left 19 is descending down into the downhill portion?

20 Correct, you got it.

The berm is the green? 21 Q

22 A Yes.

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1 But when you have a condition where

- 2 you build a berm or something that is going to
- 3 dam the water, there is no way to tell what's
- 4 going to happen until it starts happening, but
- 5 in this case, it is ponding, it is creating
- 6 issues, it's back watering on the nearest
- 7 property. I know it is causing some of the trees
- 8 and vegetation back here to die because it is
- 9 inundated.
- 10 Obviously there is the mosquito
- 11 problem. Any type of stormwater management
- 12 device that is utilized today under the current
- 13 regulations, you can't have the water ponding 14 over this 24 or 48 hour period.
- 15 That is a state standard and is the 16 reason because of that, the reason they have 17 that regulation is because of past problems with 18 stagnation.
- 19 Q Thank you for doing a very thorough 20 job of running through that. I imagine we will 21 get back to still water. I believe you said 22 this, but just to reiterate.

1 MR. RUHLEN: That actually is the end

- 2 of the findings criteria, so we can turn to the
- 3 variance and this will be the last part of Mr.
- 4 Witmer's testimony. We are almost there.
- 5 Q Thank you, Mr. Witmer, I know we are
- 6 covering a lot of ground. Let's talk briefly
- 7 about the variance requests. We are back to
- 8 Exhibit 36 and we are on page 5. Is this the
- 9 variance plan that goes with the variance 10 application?
- 11 A Yes, it is.
- 12 Q Can you describe more specifically the 13 existing conditions and the locations where the 14 variance would be requested from the zoning 15 ordinance requirement for buildings and 16 structures?
- 17 A It's really hard to see here, as we 18 kind of covered before, it mostly relates to the 19 gravel area as well as the existing garage here 20 at the overhang.
- 21 I will read from my notes now, but 22 along the southern property line from the gravel

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- In your opinion, the proposed
- 2 stormwater management facilities for Mr.
- 3 Juneau's property are sufficient to address the
- 4 Planning Board's recommended condition to
- 5 provide stormwater management for the existing
- 6 development?
- 7 A Absolutely.

14 stormwater is the outfall.

18 you can get to it and access it.

- B HEARING EXAMINER: The stormwater
- 9 management device, it is placed close to the
- 10 property line. Are there any setback issues with 11 stormwater management devices?
- 12 A No. Typically, the only thing they13 have in terms of requirements for setbacks for
- 15 The reason they stress on the outfall 16 is because they want to be able to, if there is 17 an erosion or something that needs to be fixed,
- 19 HEARING EXAMINER: With the normal 20 structures, that would not apply to this type of 21 stormwater management device?
- 22 A It would not.

1 area we are looking for a 15 and a half foot

- 2 relief for a setback of 34.4 feet. That will be
- 3 over here.
- 4 HEARING EXAMINER: Could you point
- 5 that out to me.
- 6 A Sorry, the southern property. It's 7 going to be right here. That little section 8 right there.
- 9 HEARING EXAMINER: 15.6.
- 10 A Yes, and then the lean to overhang 11 which is this guy over the garage, that is not 12 enclosed. It is for storage there. They are 13 asking for a 16.3 foot relief to do a total of 14 33.7 foot setback. I apologize. It would be a 15 lot easier to get through this if I could see 16 these dimensions.
- 17 HEARING EXAMINER: We can blow it up a 18 little bit, that corner.
- 19 A Yes, that corner from the southern lot 20 line. Yes, so this way.
- 21 HEARING EXAMINER: Can you see it now?
- 22 A Yes. It is a little better to explain

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- 1 it. The other one is going to be from the
- 2 western property line which is down here and we
- 3 want the actual 50-foot relief along the
- 4 property line so they could utilize what is
- 5 already out there. Then for the lean to, we
- 6 would like the 47.3 foot relief because it is
- 7 set back 2.7 feet.
- 8 HEARING EXAMINER: Show me the lean to
- 9 again.
- 10 A The lean to is right in this point 11 right here. Here is the garage. Right here is
- 12 where the lean to starts and continues.
- 13 Q Thank you, Mr. Witmer. Have you 14 reviewed the variance criteria in the zoning
- 15 ordinance and they are outlined in Section 16 7.3.2.E?
- 17 A Yes.
- 18 Q Turning to those findings, in your
- 19 opinion, does the proposed variance satisfy the
- 20 requirement for at least one unusual or
- 21 extraordinary condition listed in the zoning
- 22 ordinance to exist for variance relief?

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- A Yes. I saw two that I know of. One
- 2 in terms of the landscape contractors' business,
- 3 a lot of the uses around here that are similar,
- 4 they have a lot of their structures, buildings,
- 5 parkings, they are more towards the street line.
- 6 They are more noticeable.
- 7 I hate to use the word less out of
- 8 character, but in terms of Jeff's property, this
- 9 is more in conformance to that and then also
- 10 too, in regards to the setbacks from the
- 11 building it is very common to see in any
- 12 property, whether it be AG, whether it be
- 13 contractors, or whatever, you are going to have
- 14 buildings, sheds, whatever, that are typically a
- 15 few feet off the property line.
- 16 Q I think that list of criteria include
- 17 the ones that you are referring to in Section 59
- 18 732.E.2.A.5, one of them is the proposed
- 19 development substantially conforms with the
- 20 established historic or traditional development
- 21 pattern of a street or neighborhood, you would
- 22 agree that it does?

A I would agree, yes.

- Q I believe the other one that you are
- 3 speaking to is Section 59 732.B.2.A.2, that the
- 4 proposed variance would use an existing legal
- 5 non-conforming property or structure; is that
- 6 what you are saying with what you just said that
- 7 there would be structures close to the property
- 8 line?

9 A I am just reading through this 10 section. Yes. Yes.

- 11 HEARING EXAMINER: Are you
- 12 specifically speaking to that first structure
- 13 that Mr. Juneau talked about that he constructed
- 14 when they first moved into the property, that is
- 15 what is falling under little (i) 2?
- MR. RUHLEN: Yes, and that is a very
- 17 good question because, again, it takes us back
- 18 to the boundary of that setback line is.
- 19 Q So Mr. Witmer, this is what I was
- 20 getting at earlier today. The second building
- 21 that is more centrally located, is that actually
- 22 located outside of the required setback or is

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1 the central building, would it need a variance?

- A The central building would not.
- Q Right. So it's just the southern?
- 4 A It is just the southern building.
 - HEARING EXAMINER: We are calling that
- the southern building?
- 7 MR. RUHLEN: Yes.
- 8 HEARING EXAMINER: I identified it as
- 9 like the white roof, gray roof.
- 10 MR. RUHLEN: That's better with our
- 11 black and white plans, I think it's harder.
- 12 HEARING EXAMINER: Yes, there is no
- 13 color there.
- 14 Q Going on with the variance criteria,
- 15 Section 59 732.E.2.B speaks to whether the
- 16 unusual or extraordinary conditions are the
- 17 result of the petitioner's actions, what is your
- 18 take on that?
- 19 A No. These buildings have been there 20 regardless of, and like I said, if this was just 21 residential use, then there would be no issue at 22 all. He could use it. There wouldn't be any

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1 issues. It is only when we are applying for its

2 conditional use for this issue arises.

HEARING EXAMINER: Say that again?

A As it sits today, it conforms based

5 on, like if it's residential use, if it is just

6 a residential structure, then it would conform,

7 it had no issues, he could use it, it's

8 permitted, everything's good.

Q You are saying that there is no need 10 for the variance to the extent they would be 11 used for the residents?

12 A Yes.

13 Q You are saying, is it correct, given 14 that they are permitted, they are also allowed 15 to remain to the extent they are used to.

16 HEARING EXAMINER: At the risk of 17 being impolite, you are leading the heck out of 18 him.

19 Q If you could go on and just explain.

20 A Yes, that is what I am trying to say.

21 You have the existing structure. The structure

22 could be used. It could remain regardless if

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1 this is approved or not. The structure would 2 remain. It would be acceptable use. They

3 received all their permits. They wouldn't have

4 any violations with it. They could just continue

5 to go use it as it is today.

HEARING EXAMINER: Mr. Juneau, if he 6

7 had the residential use and he wanted to put

8 another outbuilding today under today's code and

9 standards, could he put it that close to the lot

10 line? O am just talking residential use, do you

11 know?

12 A I would have to look.

HEARING EXAMINER: Because I can't

14 imagine any code section under today's code

15 where there is not some kind of setback.

But, with that said. 16

17 A Yes, I will have to check the zoning 18 standards at the time to look at that to see 19 what that would be.

HEARING EXAMINER: I am asking you the

21 reverse question. If we were to do new

22 construction today, could you get that building

1 today? If you don't know that, that is fine.

A I will have to look at the setback,

the current setbacks.

4 HEARING EXAMINER: I guess this is

more of a hypothetical question. Go ahead.

Q Continuing on. Again, I apologize for having to go through these requirements.

HEARING EXAMINER: Yes, they are 9 important. Like I said, I want the meat with the

10 potatoes.

Q So Section 59 732.E.2.D, speaks to a

12 finding requiring that the variances can be

13 granted without substantially impairing the

14 intent or integrity of the general plan or the

15 master plan. Can this variance be granted

16 without impairing the intent of the master 17 plans?

18 A Could you repeat that? I'm sorry.

The finding speaks to whether there is 19

20 a master plan whether the variance can be

21 granted consistent with the master plan.

A You are saying master plan. Not

1 zoning?

Q Correct, master plan.

A Yes, so the master plan does not touch 3

4 on this property. It would just fall back to the existing zoning.

Q Moving on. Section 59 732.E.2.E, will

granting the variance be compatible with the use

and enjoyment of an abutting and confronting

9 properties?

10 A Yes, that's consistent with other 11 properties in the neighborhood.

12 HEARING EXAMINER: Did you miss C, the

13 requested variances the minimum necessary to

15 Q Yes, I did. Thank you very much. Yes.

16 Section 59 732.E.2.C, in your opinion, is the

17 variance, the minimum necessary to overcome the

18 practical difficulties that full compliance

19 would involve due to the unusual or

20 extraordinary conditions?

21 A Yes.

22 HEARING EXAMINER: How?

165 167 1 out for yourself to inspect the property on days A The variance is based solely on the when precipitation was happening? 2 location of the portions of the existing 3 improvements in the required setback and no A No, I did not. 3 4 external changes are proposed. 4 Q In visiting Mr. Juneau's property, you Q In other words, you have testified are aware that it consists of several that there are no additional buildings proposed outbuildings and gravel road and some parking with this application? lots? A Correct. 8 8 A Yes. 9 Q There is nothing additional proposed 9 O When those were constructed, were you 10 also aware that there was no stormwater 10 that would exacerbate that would be more than 11 the minimum needed with the variance request? 11 management in place? 12 A Correct. 12 A Yes, I am aware. 13 13 Q The variance request is only to the 0 There was no sentiment control in 14 extent necessary to accommodate the existing 14 place? 15 conditions? 15 A Correct. At the time they wouldn't 16 have been required. 16 A Yes. 17 Q In summary, is it your opinion that 17 Q Today there's still no stormwater or 18 the variance satisfies the requirements for 18 sediment management? 19 variance approval? 19 A Correct, yes, there is no stormwater. 20 A Yes, it does. 20 Q You prepared a stormwater management 21 MR. RUHLEN: Mr. Witmer, we have 21 plan; is that right? 22 reached the end of the direct questions unless A I have. 22 166 168 1 there is anything else that you would like to 1 Q What plan, if any, is there to follow add? up and ensure that your proposed plan is 3 A Not that I can think of. I think I adequate working to reduce the flow of water 4 have covered everything. onto Mr. Lyles', and the neighboring properties? MR. RUHLEN: Thank you. No further 5 A We could definitely coordinate with 6 DPS to share our hydraulics and hydrology questions. **CROSS-EXAMINATION** analysis with them to make sure that they are in BY MS. McINTURFF: 8 agreement with our report and our study. Q Good afternoon. It is a pleasure to 9 That primarily would be what I would 10 finally meet you. In preparing your report, did 10 like to do or what I would propose to do to make 11 you visit Mr. Juneau's property? 11 sure that there will be an agreement that at 12 A I did. 12 least what Jeff's contributing runoff in terms Q How many times did you visit his 13 13 of mitigation we could address with Jeff's 14 property? 14 runoff would be for the property. 15 A Probably four to five times. 15 Q In designing these management systems, O What were the weather conditions on 16 you would agree with me that it is crucial to 17 the days that you visited his property? 17 consider factors like precipitation levels; 18 correct? 18 A Dry. Q There was no precipitation on the days 19 A Yes. 20 your visited before or after? Q Would you say that your analysis 21 typically involves evaluating potential impacts 21 A There was not, no. 22 Did you ever have an opportunity to go 22 of the stormwater runoff on the surrounding

169 171 1 environment including water quality? 1 that this management system continues to 2 function properly? A Yes, we do. It is tough because you 3 have to analyze it. There are a couple of A I know that there are specific county 3 4 different ways to analyze it. 4 and state standards for maintaining stormwater I think you touched on it. There is 5 device depending on the type of a device. A 6 device like this we would prepare what they call 6 the quantity and quality component of 7 stormwater. What we have looked at, what we 7 it an operation and maintenance schedule where 8 you would after a heavy storm event you go down 8 have analyzed is we want to address the quantity 9 and clean debris out of it, keep it mode, you 9 and quantity. 10 In terms of quality, just 10 have to check any orifices to make sure that 11 enhancements, to the drainage itself. Like I 11 they are not clogged up or there is no cracking 12 said, I think, honestly, a large part of this 12 or breaking in the piping. 13 might be the berm in terms of allowing that 13 You look for any erosion. You address 14 water. 14 those as needed. Any type of stormwater Q I am talking about the drainage coming 15 management design that we do with the final 16 from Mr. Juneau's property. 16 design, the construction specifications, there 17 A Yes. We looked at that from a water 17 is also the aspect of operation and maintenance. Q That would be contingent on Mr. Juneau 18 quantity. Q But not quality. 19 following up on those? 19 20 A Correct. 20 A Correct, yes. Q Did you conduct any analysis to assess HEARING EXAMINER: Excuse me. Are you 21 21 22 the potential impact of the runoff from Mr. 22 getting feedback? Turn your microphone off. 170 172 1 Juneau's property on nearby well water or 1 Mr. Harris is the only one listening in. Is he 2 groundwater sources? 2 still there? 3 A No. 3 MR. RUHLEN: No. Q Are you aware that Mr. Lyles and other HEARING EXAMINER: Let's keep all of properties runoff well water? our microphones off. 6 MR. RUHLEN: I still hear it. 6 A I am, yes. Q Would it be possible that this 7 (After Rectifying the Audio Issue.) 8 stormwater runoff from Mr. Juneau's property Q Going back to your specific 9 could contaminate the nearby well water, and 9 recommendations in this case, you have proposed 10 groundwater sources? 10 a detention pond to manage the stormwater 11 runoff? A Yes. We didn't do any type of study. 12 I don't get involved with their studies, but 12 A Correct. 13 yes, I imagine. I don't know. I imagine it O This pond was designed based on 14 certain assumptions about precipitation levels 14 could. 15 and land use? 15 Q Even if ponding systems are in place, 16 there is still the possibility of those measures 16 A Yes. 17 can still result in flooding or pollution if not 17 Q You would agree with me that these 18 adequately managed; is that correct? 18 projections are subject to uncertainty and 19 deviations from the projected conditions that A Correct. I don't know about

22 development?

20 could impact the effectiveness of the ponds?

A Do you mean in terms of additional

20 polluting, but yes, correct. To function 21 properly, it should be adequately maintained.

Q What measures are in place to ensure

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- Q Additional development or an increase
- 2 in water runoff?
- 3 A Absolutely, yes.
- 4 Q There is still a risk of overflow
- during extreme storm events?
- A Yes. When we look at stormwater, for
- 7 the county, the typical analysis is you look at
- 8 the one-year event, two-year event, and you go
- 9 upwards of ten-year event.
- 10 Like I said before, the 10-year event,
- 11 that basically statistically is a storm event
- 12 that would happen once every ten years and that
- 13 is what we designed that peak for this analysis 14 for.
- 15 Q We have been seeing an increase those 16 types of storms recently, have we?
- 17 A We have.
- Q Ellicott City is probably the most 18
- 19 famous for having 100-year flood every year?
- 20 A Yes. They have a thousand-year flood.
- Q While this may mitigate some of the 21
- 22 issues, it is not foolproof and will not really
- 174
- 1 necessarily eliminate the runoff issues that Mr.
- 2 Lyles is experiencing?
- 3 A Yes. That goes back to,
- 4 unfortunately, if we have all the designs that I
- 5 have ever done when we analyze stormwater
- 6 management we pre-and-post cues, the runoff
- 7 before the development and the runoff afterward
- 8 and you analyze that to say, "Under these storm
- 9 events, the one to ten year, under these storm
- 10 events our post development runoff has to meet
- 11 predevelopment conditions or better."
- 12 That is the standard that is used.
- 13 That's what we did here. Yes, there will be
- 14 outliers in terms of larger storm events, those
- 15 that nobody can really account for.
- You design based on what the state 16
- 17 standards are and what the county standards are,
- 18 but there are other types storm events out
- 19 there, and like you said, there could be
- 20 development. Obviously, the requirements for
- 21 development are a lot more stringent than they
- 22 used to be.

- Back when Jeff's first building was 1
 - 2 built, that was prior to any state stormwater
 - 3 management regulation so there was no
 - 4 requirement at the time.
 - Now that the county and state, they
 - 6 look at these things a lot more closely. To go
 - 7 back to your one question where you asked about
 - 8 the changes in land use, a lot of times now when
 - 9 you have those, the county when you go for
 - 10 permits, that is one of the first things they
 - 11 will look at to say where is the stormwater?
 - Q In your description of the properties,
 - 13 you describe Mr. Juneau's property as
 - 14 essentially on an incline.
 - A Yes. 15
 - At least as to Mr. Lyles' property? 16 Q
 - **17** A Yes.
 - 18 Q Could that incline potentially affect
 - 19 the efficiency of the ponding system?
 - 20 A No. Not necessarily. No, it wouldn't
 - 21 because as long as we are designed, as long as
 - 22 we design the facility correctly and it is

- 1 constructed correctly, we can capture that water
- 2 regardless of the shape of Jeff's property as
- 3 long as we capture it and get it to the
- 4 facility, then we can release it in a controlled
- 5 manner.
- Q Is the water in your proposed plan 6
- 7 being captured from each building on Mr.
- Juneau's property?
- 9 A Can we go to this one site storm plan 10 again?
- 11 MS. McINTURFF: What exhibit is that?
- 12 MR. RUHLEN: 36, and the page, was it 13 6? No, 7.
- A Yes. Let me explain what I did here.
- 15 The answer is no. It does not capture both
- 16 buildings and there is a reason for that. This 17 is the low point of Jeff's property. Right
- 18 here.
- 19 This is the lowest point where
- 20 everything is going to drain to. When we design
- 21 a stormwater facility, we don't want to design
- 22 it at the bottom of the hill because as I said

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1 before you have to have room for your discharge.

- 2 You have to have room for your
- 3 outfall. You have got to have safe conveyance.
- 4 So safe conveyance. We can't design a facility
- 5 down here in the very bottom as that would
- 6 capture every little part of the improvements up
- 7 here.
- 8 One, there wouldn't be enough room.
- 9 Two, we wouldn't be able to discharge it the way 10 we should. What we have done in lieu of that is
- 11 we have moved the facility further up.
- You can't see it here, but we propose
- 13 a high capacity that would capture the majority.
- 14 We are not capturing this little sliver here.
- 15 Right here. This is going to release.
- 16 But the remaining of Jeff's property 17 up here would actually be captured and run to 18 the facility.
- Even though this little section is 20 still not being captured, we are overdesigning 21 for this section, so we are compensating for it.
- 22 This area is being compensated for it in this
- 1 area and that is standard for being able to get
- 2 these drainages, because, like I said, you can
- 3 never really capture every drop of these things
- 4 just because of outfall and things like that and
- 5 so you have got to make adjustments.
- 6 Q Which building is not being captured
- 7 by the stormwater management plan? Is it the
- 8 central, southern, the white gray roof?
- 9 A The further one down here with the 10 overhang.
- 11 Q That would be the one actually 12 abutting Mr. Lyles' property line?
- 13 A Yes. It is the closer one, probably, 14 yes.
- 15 Q You would not be collecting the water 16 runoff from that building?
- 17 A We would not, no.
- 18 Q In drafting that stormwater management 19 plan, did you determine where the volume of 20 water was coming from on Mr. Juneau's property?
- 21 A You have got to look at this in its 22 entirety, so yes, there is a contributing volume

- 1 here. You are going to get more runoff from
- 2 this portion of the property just because it is
- 3 considered an impervious area, but when you
- 4 consider that this goes back to that, to what I
- 5 discussed before, it is not so much the
- 6 impervious area, it is the size of the drainage
- 7 areas which is giving you the larger
- 8 contributing factor of the property.
- Q If the water is being directed off and
- 10 around that building, and we cannot do
- 11 stormwater management for it, that is still
- 12 going to be coming on to Mr. Lyles' property?
- 13 A Yes, but we still manage. We are 14 still going to manage enough water to where the 15 runoff that is coming off Jeff's property is 16 going to be equivalent to a grass condition like 17 a front yard.
- We are making this facility larger to 19 account for this water here, but we are just 20 doing it in this section here if that makes 21 sense.
- 22 Q That facility, is that the ponding

178 1 system that you are referring to?

- 2 A Yes, right here. I'm sorry.
 - Q That is also Mr. Lyles' boundary line?
- 4 A No. I don't know who this property
- 5 owner is here, but Mr. Lyles is here.
 - Q It is just north of it?
- 7 A Yes, correct.

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- 8 Q But on the boundary line?
- 9 A Yes. The boundary line is right where 10 my pen is.
- 11 Q Did you review any of the videos or
- 12 photos that Mr. Lyles had submitted regarding
- 13 the water runoff?
- 14 A I did.
- 15 Q In those videos where was the water 16 runoff coming from?
- 17 A I believe the ones that I remember 18 more specifically, the water comes down right
- 19 through here, right through this area along the
- 20 front of the garage building, and then continues 21 down here to where the berm is located.
- 21 down here to where the berm is located
- 22 Q In the area where it would not be

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1 captured by that stormwater management?

A Yes, but that is not where the water 3 is coming from. The water is coming from up here 4 and it is getting to here.

If you were to take this small section 6 of area here, and dump water on it, you wouldn't 7 have that much wrong. The larger contributing 8 factor to that drainage to this point isn't 9 right here. It is up here that we have captured. 10 That is where I get into the overcompensation 11 environment.

Q The pond itself, it is ultimately 13 going to still drain into the surrounding areas. 14 It just captures it for a day or two.

15 A Correct.

Q But it is still going to have water 16 17 released onto these other properties.

18 A Yes.

19 Q It is also contingent on essentially a 20 piping system to divert the water, is it not?

A Yes. The high-capacity inlet which 22 would be placed here, and yes, it would be piped

1 you have seen in Mr. Lyles' videos, would that

be able to be captured?

A Yes. We would make sure that it is 3 4 sized properly for that. With any type of inlet 5 you use, they have flow curves that basically 6 tell you that this type of inlet can capture 7 this much runoff, this cubic feet per second, it 8 can take that. We can size based on that.

Q The uncaptured water, though, that 10 would remain flowing onto Mr. Lyles' property?

11 A Yes. This little section down here, 12 correct, yes, it will.

Q To your knowledge, has DPS reviewed 14 and signed off on this plan?

15 A They have not, no.

16 Q Has it been submitted to them?

17 A It has not. Like I said, we will have 18 to have a discussion. I would like to have a 19 discussion with DPS about this because the 20 stormwater that we would be proposing is not a 21 stormwater that is a regulatory requirement.

DPS, when you submit a stormwater plan

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1 in the pipe and actually the pipe has been sized

2 for a 10-year storm event.

3 That means not only is the pond size 4 for a 10-year storm event, but also the 5 conveyance system.

Q The opening on pipe is about two to three inches, is it not?

A That is for the release. That's the 9 detention part of it. If you have a cup with a 10 hole on the bottom of it, you fill that cup up 11 with water, it is not all going to rush out at 12 the same time but a little trickle. That is the 13 concept of it.

But this, the pipe here, that, I 15 believe, we sized that to 12 or 18 inch, but 16 regardless of the size for the ten-year event.

Q Would water rushing over it be able to 18 be captured in that inlet even if it is a heavy 19 stream?

20 A Yes. That is why we would use a high 21 capacity.

22 In the same way in the waterfall that 1 to DPS, it is triggered by a construction or

some development that is based on their code.

3 This is an outlier outside of the

4 code. There is no regulatory requirement to do

5 this and so it would be us, actually, and I am

6 fine doing that, but we could present this to 7 them and just say "This is our proposal. Is

8 this something that you would see as a viable

9 solution?"

The water runoff coming from Mr. 11 Juneau's property, that comes down regardless of 12 whether or not Mr. Lyles has a berm on his

13 property; correct?

14 A That water does get there, yes.

15 Q You are aware that Mr. Lyles has 16 experienced flooding in his home and basement 17 over the years prior to the berm being built?

18 A Yes, I saw the reports.

19 His neighbors have also reported 20 similar instances of their fields being flooded 21 and their septics backed up due to the water 22 runoff from Mr. Juneau's property?

185 187 A For a roundabout, I would probably say A I wouldn't necessarily say from Mr. 1 2 Juneau's property. It is contributing. about maybe 4,000 or 5,000 square feet. Q While there may be a berm there, the HEARING EXAMINER: Would you need a 4 water runoff is at least coming from Mr. permit such as a disturbance permit? Juneau's property to Mr. Lyles' property? 5 A If it is over 5,000 square feet, yes. HEARING EXAMINER: That is what I was A Yes. 6 O You would agree with me that the 7 getting at. If you are going to build this, you would need a permit? constructed buildings on Mr. Juneau's property, 9 those are not residential buildings? 9 A Potentially, yes. 10 A These buildings here? 10 HEARING EXAMINER: I have seen other Q Correct. 11 stormwater management devices where maintenance 11 12 A They could be used. 12 agreements are recorded in land records, but 13 Q They are not. They are similar to the 13 those are usually larger homeowners association 14 type for bigger residential developments. 14 building. My question is for any stormwater A I cannot speak to intersections in the 16 one building that you talked about was storing a 16 management device that is permitted through the 17 car, Jeff's vehicle, or something like that. I 17 county, is there a maintenance agreement 18 can't speak to the specifics of what actually. 18 requirement? Q They are not a residence. 19 A Yes. 20 A Okay, and this building, I know, yes, 20 HEARING EXAMINER: Is that normally 21 this building is used for the commercial use. 21 recorded in land records? Q He constructed those buildings A Yes, for a transfer and that is where 188 186 1 himself. 1 we will have to have the discussion with DPS A I don't know. 2 because that goes back to, for some plan Q You don't know whether or not they 3 submittals that goes through DPS, it has got to 4 were on a property at the time he purchased it 4 fall into that category for that regulatory 5 or if they were constructed later? 5 requirement. A Him personally constructed, I don't 6 HEARING EXAMINER: Right. 6 7 know if he did, but no, they were not on the A We have to figure out what category 8 property when he purchased the property if that 8 that would fall under. 9 is what you are asking. 9 HEARING EXAMINER: Have you ever Q His actions actually are what placed 10 submitted something like this to DPS? Would 11 these buildings within 50 feet of the boundary 11 that be asked? 12 lines, are they not? 12 A No. No. We haven't for this project, A They are, yes. That is where they 13 no, we haven't submitted any. HEARING EXAMINER: Have you ever done, 14 were constructed. 15 MS. McINTURFF: We have no further 15 essentially, what is a voluntary stormwater 16 questions. 16 management? HEARING EXAMINER: I do have some **17** A I have done in other counties but not 18 questions though. What is the size or the 18 Montgomery. 19 disturbance area for the work that you would 19 HEARING EXAMINER: So in other

20 counties, were they permitted?

A No. It is voluntary. They construct

22 the facility on their own. Obviously, if it's

20 need to do here for the drainage, for the

22 talking in square footage?

21 stormwater management device? What are we

1 over 5,000 square foot disturbance, they are

- 2 going to look at some control measures to make
- 3 sure the seeding, mulching, everything is there
- 4 but a lot of times they won't look specifically
- 5 write it in.
- HEARING EXAMINER: The only trigger
- 7 for a permit would be size?
- 8 A Disturbance.
- 9 HEARING EXAMINER: Would be 5,000
- 10 square foot disturbance. We are unsure if you
- 11 are going to meet that threshold or not for a
- 12 permit to be required because it is not
- 13 considered a structure.
- That, you would need a building permit
- 15 regardless of size. It would be a grass area
- 16 disturbance, essentially, grading disturbance of 17 greater than 5,000 square feet.
- A I think there is a cubic yard
- 19 requirement too. We won't know until we get
- 20 into more of the detail about the trenching, and
- 21 how far we have got to dig down for the piping
- 22 and the outfall. To stabilize the outfall and
- 1 dig for that.
- HEARING EXAMINER: Do you have an
- 3 estimate of the percentage of water runoff that
- 4 will be reduced if this device is constructed?
- A In terms of just Jeff's property or
- 6 the entire drainage area?
- HEARING EXAMINER: The stormwater
- 8 management device is going to capture more than
- 9 just Jeff's property, right, because water runs
- 10 onto his property that will then further run
- 11 down?
- 12 A No.
- 13 HEARING EXAMINER: This is just for
- 14 his property?
- A Because of the high point. Here is 15 16 Damascus Road here.
- 17 HEARING EXAMINER: That is the high 18 point.
- 19 A Yes, that is essentially the high 20 point.
- HEARING EXAMINER: What is then the 21
- 22 distinction between the percentage of runoff

- 1 from his property versus the percentage of
- 2 runoff from the other properties, do you know?
- A Yes. This is a 3.46 acre drainage
- 4 area and then the total drainage area, and let
- me looking at notes.
- HEARING EXAMINER: I think he did say 6
- 7 it earlier.
- A The total was 13.42.
- 9 HEARING EXAMINER: This is 4'ish acres
- 10 versus the total of 13 plus. Can you tell me
- 11 what the percentage of the overall reduction
- 12 would be?
- 13 A In terms of overall, it is going to
- 14 where we can make a dent in it in terms of what
- 15 we are putting in here, the percentage, it
- 16 wouldn't be 50%. We would not be controlling
- 1750%, it would be lower just because we are such
- 18 a small part of the entire.
- 19 But in terms of Jeff's contribution.
- 20 HEARING EXAMINER: What is the
- 21 rejection for Jeff's contribution, is the better
- 22 question?

- A It is more in terms where we will be 1
 - 2 taking, and I can tell you specific numbers, and
 - 3 this is in the hydraulic report at page 6 of
 - 4 Exhibit 34A. This is I think what you were
 - 5 asking.
 - 6 HEARING EXAMINER: Right.
 - A The peak flow from Jeff's property --
 - 8 sorry this would be assuming known pervious
 - 9 area. This would just be grass. This would be

 - 10 best scenario. For the 10 year, you would have
 - 11 7.78 CFS coming off it's property.
 - 12 HEARING EXAMINER: Tell me what a CFS
 - 13 is again?
 - A Cubic feet per second. With the
 - 15 installation of the stormwater management
 - 16 device, we have actually reduced that from 7.78
 - 17 CFS to 6.86 CFS and that is even going further
 - 18 assuming because this analysis assumed that

 - 19 there was no commercial permitted. That was our
 - 20 baseline as I like to start with a baseline to
 - 21 be more conservative.
 - 22 HEARING EXAMINER: That is helpful.

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193	195
1 Thank you. I don't have any further questions.	1 grading permit has nothing to do with function
2 MR. RUHLEN: I have just a couple.	2 or operation of the existing stormwater
3 REDIRECT EXAMINATION	3 management device.
4 BY MR. RUHLEN:	4 It is simply to capture that
5 Q You had a question from Ms. McInturff	5 disturbance. You don't go over. You put the
6 about whether stormwater management or sediment	6 erosion control things in place and all of that
7 control was required in connection with the	7 good stuff.
8 permits for the existing buildings and what was	8 MR. RUHLEN: I think those are my only
9 the answer?	9 questions. Yes.
10 A No. They weren't required.	HEARING EXAMINER: It is almost 1:05.
11 Q I think your testimony was that it	11 Before I jump in there, I think I did have a
12 wasn't required at the time. If the conditional	12 question or two for Mr. Juneau?
13 use were not to be approved, is there any	MR. RUHLEN: Sure.
14 requirement to provide stormwater management or	HEARING EXAMINER: I don't remember
15 sediment control for the existing buildings?	15 100% what they were now.
16 A No. No, there are none.	MR. RUHLEN: The fence.
17 Q Is it correct that that is because	HEARING EXAMINER: The fence. That's
18 they have permits?	18 right. I think you can answer from there, Mr.
19 A Yes, they have permits and they don't	19 Juneau. I am just reminding you that you are
20 retroactively ask for stormwater.	20 still under oath.
21 Q With this proposal, the conditional	Can you tell me about the
22 use proposes to provide stormwater management	22 MS. McINTURFF: I can add to that. I
194	196
1 that otherwise is not going to be provided?	1 think the questions were the lighting, the
2 A Correct.	2 fencing?
Q The questions from the Hearing	3 HEARING EXAMINER: That was it.
4 Examiner, depending on the trigger, if it's	4 MS. McINTURFF: Moving mulch and the
5 5,000 square feet of disturbance would be	5 fuel tanks.
6 whether it requires a sediment erosion control	6 HEARING EXAMINER: Yes. Do you mind if
7 permit?	7 we take 15 minutes to ask him those questions
8 A Correct.	8 and then take a break? Mr. Juneau, let me
9 Q But if it requires a permit, your	9 remind you that you are still under oath.
10 understanding is that the petitioner would apply	Tell us about the proposed fence
11 for the permit?	11 construction material type and how you are
12 A Yes, and that gets to gray area as	12 planning on the design.
13 well, I want to include, because if we are over	MR. JUNEAU: It is going to be a
14 that 5,000 square foot threshold, it means we	14 six-foot pressure.
15 need a permit, but it doesn't mean that we need	15 HEARING EXAMINER: Board on board.
16 stormwater.	MR. JUNEAU: Board on board with
17 HEARING EXAMINER: Right. It is	17 fence.
18 essentially a grading permit.	18 HEARING EXAMINER: The lighting on the
19 A Yes. I wasn't sure if I was clear	19 garages or on the outbuildings, they are forward
20 with that.	20 facing back to your property. Do you keep them
21 HEARING EXAMINER: I understand that,	21 on all night? You talked about how they were on

22 a switch.

22 but just so everyone is clear permitting wise a

199 MR. JUNEAU: They are on a photocell HEARING EXAMINER: We talked about the 1 2 and I do have switches. 2 oil drums. The empty ones you kept on the HEARING EXAMINER: Are they motion? outside of the garage. The ones you were 4 MR. JUNEAU: No. filling you kept on the inside. MR. JUNEAU: I get them full. HEARING EXAMINER: No. They are on a 5 switch, but they are solar generated? 6 HEARING EXAMINER: This is fill. MR. JUNEAU: Correct. Here's my MR. JUNEAU: Brand new oil. It is electrician. clean oil. HEARING EXAMINER: Then I can ask you HEARING EXAMINER: All clean oil. 10 when you come up. My question is, anecdotally, 10 MR. JUNEAU: And depth for the trucks 11 when you are out in the evening in the dark on 11 because it is required. I had those tanks 12 the property, can you see the light emitting 12 inside one of the shops. I have old oil tanks 13 from those at the rear of the property or along 13 that I was sitting beside the building to wait 14 the property line? 14 for a company to come get them and they were MR. JUNEAU: Maybe slightly, but not 15 sitting out there probably for two years and I 16 to my knowledge. It's not like a headlight 16 probably had 12 or 13 of them sitting on the 17 actually. 17 side. HEARING EXAMINER: It was lighting HEARING EXAMINER: What is the current 18 18 19 fence view. Mulch and fuel tanks, yes. 19 condition now? MR. JUNEAU: I propose to move all of 20 MR. JUNEAU: They are gone. All 21 that to the center of the property within my 21 clean. 22 50-foot setback. 22 HEARING EXAMINER: What is your plan 198 200 HEARING EXAMINER: Within the 50-foot 1 for maintaining the empty oil drums going 2 setback. forward? Where would they be located? MR. JUNEAU: I guess I would keep them MR. JUNEAU: Outside of how you want 3 4 it to determine. 4 in the shop from here out or within the 50-foot setback behind the concrete. HEARING EXAMINER: They move in the remain, the 50-foot setback. 6 HEARING EXAMINER: You say you don't MR. JUNEAU: That is right. 7 have any mulch on site now. If you do intend to HEARING EXAMINER: When you remove the 8 get mulch in the future, how will that be 9 wall, what are you going to do as far as to 9 corralled for lack of a better word? 10 repair that area? 10 MR. JUNEAU: I am going to use the 11 same type of system with the concrete wall in MR. JUNEAU: That will come up through 12 part of it. I am proposing to put some 12 the center of that circle. 13 screening along that area. HEARING EXAMINER: Is there one now or 13 HEARING EXAMINER: Once those things 14 you would build one? 15 are removed, once the concrete wall comes down, MR. JUNEAU: I would just take the 15 16 the fence will come past that or to that. 16 existing concrete and move it over. They are MR. JUNEAU: It should come up to the 17 interlocking like legos. 18 parking area. 18 HEARING EXAMINER: You can take them 19 apart and put them back? 19 HEARING EXAMINER: To the parking 20 area. 20 MR. JUNEAU: Yes. MR. JUNEAU: Where I have existing 21 21 HEARING EXAMINER: It's not truly a

22 structure. Just a form.

22 trees.

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MR. JUNEAU: It is just a form. 1 lighting. HEARING EXAMINER: So it is not really 2 MR. RUHLEN: Or even the conditional 3 a block wall in that it has footers and a 4 foundation? 4 MR. JUNEAU: No. 5 5 HEARING EXAMINER: That was cement all 6 put together with mortar. It is just a form? 7 MR. JUNEAU: I do have a small section 8 9 of cement within that area, so I don't scoop up 9 10 rocks. 10 HEARING EXAMINER: That will be moved 11 12 outside the area? 13 MR. JUNEAU: Yes. HEARING EXAMINER: That gives me a 14 15 better picture. Then the fuel tanks also, 15 16 again, outside the boundary more to the interior 17 of the property? 17 MR. JUNEAU: Correct. They will be 19 sitting behind the concrete wall. I only have 20 view of them. Not the neighbors. HEARING EXAMINER: I think that was it 22 for my operational questions for Mr. Juneau. 202 MS. McINTURFF: I do have a question 2 based on what you just asked him. 3 BY MS. McINTURFF: 3 gravel here, right, we have shown the lines Q With respect to moving the mulch and

use plan because it shows the parking space. HEARING EXAMINER: That is exhibit? MR. RUHLEN: Exhibit 36, page 4. Yes, that's it. That's probably good. Q If you could point out where --A Here is my property line right here. A Here is my mulch bin, and so my 11 proposal is to go back over here with the mulch 12 bin. That is where the trucks are parked in 13 that area right there. Q Then where would the trucks go? A The trucks anywhere over in this area 16 here or along here or up in here. MR. RUHLEN: I don't know if Jeff 18 knows, can see the details, but Jim may be able. HEARING EXAMINER: Then we are going 20 to do the dueling witnessing. We are formal, 21 but we are also informal. Please show us where 22 these trucks would go if they are not going to 204

the oil tanks to the center of that parking

6 area, those are where those trucks are parking already.

8 A Yes.

9 Where would those vehicles be moved 10 to?

11 A Probably towards my vard.

12 Q Is that towards your residence?

A Yes. I actually have enough spots for 14 the trucks themselves that are parked in the 15 center. It just makes a little more room for 16 me.

Q If you move the mulch and the oil 18 tanks within the existing 24 spots that you 19 have?

20 A Whatever they said, yes.

HEARING EXAMINER: Would it be helpful 21 22 to pull the picture up that showed the garage

1 be where they were before.

A Yes, it is hard to see. The existing

4 parking spaces along here, so yes, the parking

5 space is here, then they can also park right in

6 front of the garage door here, and then spaces

7 in front of this other existing garage here and

8 that will give you all the spaces you need.

9 HEARING EXAMINER: They can be moved 10 to any of those three locations. The parking

11 that is closest to the neighboring property, Mr.

12 Juneau, you described that more as the employee 13 parking.

That is where they come to pull, so 15 then those commercial trucks would more than

16 likely be in front of the two outbuildings.

17 A Down in these areas. I think you saw 18 the picture of the trucks sitting in front.

19 HEARING EXAMINER: I did, right, and 20 that was my question that they come in, they 21 pull, and they come around. If you moved the 22 fuel tanks and the mulch bins to where they were

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1 sitting, then they will have to go to those	1 neighborhood?
2 other locations.	2 A Since the 1960s.
3 A Correct.	3 Q If we could look at Exhibit 36 very
4 HEARING EXAMINER: Does that help?	4 quickly. Can you see the highlighted area on
1	5 Exhibit 36?
6 HEARING EXAMINER: That helps me too.	
7 Any other questions that you have?	Q Where is your property in relation to
8 MS. McINTURFF: No.	8 this highlighted area?
9 HEARING EXAMINER: It is now almost	9 A Right there.
10 1:15. Let's come back at 2 o'clock. I am	10 Q That is your property down there?
11 assuming that that concludes your case in chief?	11 A Right here.
12 MR. RUHLEN: Yes.	12 Q I apologize if I butcher this name.
HEARING EXAMINER: You will have the	13 Are you familiar with the Capanelli family?
14 opportunity to present your witnesses and your	14 A Yes, she lives right here. Capanelli?
15 testimony when we come back. See everybody back	15 Q Yes.
16 here at 2:00.	16 A Yes.
17 (Upon Resuming.)	17 Q What about the Stoolchase family?
HEARING EXAMINER: We are back on the	18 A They live right here.
19 record here. It is almost 2 o'clock. Excellent	19 Q That is all downwards and to the side
20 timing everyone. We will pick up now with the	20 of Mr. Juneau's property.
21 opposition's case.	21 A Yes.
MS. McINTURFF: Thank you. We are	22 Q Mr. Lyles, you can come back.
206	208
1 calling Mr. Lyles.	MS. McINTURFF: Can we please look at
2 (Whereupon, Oscar Lyles, sworn.)	2 Exhibit 35, page 1. Just the photos on that.
3 DIRECT EXAMINATION	3 Just scroll down to there.
4 BY MS. McINTURFF:	Q At the bottom of page 1, you see two
5 Q Please state your name for the record?	5 different photos there. One is from 1993 and one
6 A Oscar Lyles.	6 1998.
7 Q Are you the owner of 6340 Damascus	7 A Yes.
8 Road?	8 Q The one on the left representing the
9 A Yes.	9 1993 photo, is that typical of the historic
10 Q How long has that property been in	10 characteristics of the land in this area?
11 your family?	11 A Yes.
12 A Since 1970.	12 Q Historically, the land in that area,
13 Q Have you resided there off and on	13 was it used for fields?
14 since that time?	14 A When we first moved in there, it was
15 A Oh, yes.	15 like a solid field, and then as time went on
16 Q You have other family in the	16 they planted trees in it.
17 neighborhood?	17 Q Have the characteristics of that
18 A Yes.	18 property changed over time?
19 Q Do you have an aunt that resides	19 A Oh, yes.
20 there?	20 Q But prior to that change, did you
21 A Yes.	21 experience any water runoff coming from what is
22 Q How long has she resided in the	22 now Mr. Juneau's property?

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	209	211
1 A	Yes.	1 Q You can go up to look.
2 Q	Was that prior to the change?	2 A That is where you got the mulch and
3 A	Prior to the change, yes. After they	3 the fuel tanks and all that, yes.
4 started	d changing stuff.	4 Q Downwards from that, there is what we
5 Q	After he started changing stuff.	5 will call it the white roof building?
6 A	Yes.	6 A Yes. When I first put the berm up, he
7 Q	Before he put up his buildings, were	7 only had a little more than half of that
8 you ex	periencing the water runoff?	8 building and that is when I put the swell up
9 A	No, no.	9 which is the first building he built and then I
10 Q	Did you experience any flooding prior	10 put the swell up.
11 to him	putting up those buildings?	11 Q That building has been extended since
12 A	No.	12 he initially constructed it?
13 Q	Did you experience any standing water	13 A Yes.
14 on the	property prior to him putting up those	14 Q The building to the right, that has
15 buildin	gs?	15 also been constructed since he moved in?
16 A	No.	16 A Yes. He built this middle piece first
17 Q	Did come a time when Mr. Juneau did	17 and then he added onto both ends of it.
18 move i	n as your neighbor, do you recall that?	18 Q In front of these buildings, have you
19 A	Yes.	19 been able to observe whether or not there is
20 Q	He has added several constructions to	20 concrete or gravel?
21 his pro	perty, has he not?	21 A Both. Because this is gravel, but
	Yes.	22 right here in front of the building he got a
	210	212
1 Q	Have you had the opportunity to view	1 concrete swale and that is what diverts the
2 what h	e has placed on his property?	2 water over to our property.
3 A	Yes.	3 Q The area that is now gravel, did that
4 Q	To your knowledge, what has he placed	4 used to be to your knowledge ground cover?
5 on his	property?	5 A Yes. All that was ground cover.
6 A	It was like two buildings and then	6 Q In the areas where the buildings are
	1,000 square feet of parking lot area, and	7 now, are those also ground cover?
	e added on to both of the buildings.	8 A Yes, all the way up through here.
9 Q	That has been since 1998 or so?	9 Q I think they described it as a swell
_	Yes.	10 in front of the buildings. Could you just
_	MS. McINTURFF: If we could actually	11 describe that a little bit more, please?
	o page 3, please. Go up one.	12 A What it is is all of his water, all of
	Is this representative of what Mr.	13 this right here, you see, this was his runoff
_	's property looks like today?	14 for his house. Once he puts his ground right
	Yes.	15 here in front of the building, he put like a
16 Q	Where that arrow is, what is that?	16 concrete swale of about 10 feet, 8 feet long,
17 A	What is?	17 and it's like a swale.
17 A 18 Q	Do you see the arrow pointing to the	18 So when the water comes off this hill
_		
19 hound		I I U IT AIVERTS THE NAIHHEA WATER AVER THERE TA AHR
19 bounda 20 A	Yes.	19 it diverts the polluted water over there to our 20 property.

22 a certain point?

Q Is it that the concrete inclines up at

A The fuel tanks.

Q What is there? What exists there?

21

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A Yes, and I have a picture.

- Q That prevents the water from going in
- 3 his own building?
- A Yes. It gets all the water off of his property on to our property.
- Q Since he has constructed these
- 7 buildings and made these improvements to the
- 8 property, have you noticed a difference in the
- 9 water flow to your own property?

10 A Oh, yes, it is like a river that comes 11 in through there.

- Q When there is a heavy rainfall, can 13 you describe the water that is coming onto your 14 property?
- 15 A It is like a little river coming out.
- On that screen, can you show us where 16 17 the water comes from, from Mr. Juneau's property 18 to your own property?
- A It comes right here. It used to come 20 right down through here, but then once he put 21 that concrete swale over there, it moves it over 22 15 feet on the property line which diverts the

- 1 and I just told him that water would come into
- 2 the property.
 - Q When that water was coming in it's
- 4 earlier stage one of construction on Mr.
- 5 Juneau's property, when that water was coming
- 6 onto your property, were you experiencing
- 7 standing water and flooding at that time as
- 8 well?
- 9 A Yes.
- 10 O Did the water come up to the
- 11 foundation of your residence?
- A It ran in the basement and flooded the 13 basement out. It had come into the basement.
- 14 through the windows and was right by the doors.
- 15 It just overwhelmed and ran inside the basement.
- O Prior to the construction of that
- 17 building, you never experienced that from about
- 18 1970 until after 1998, 2000?
- 19 A Yes.
- Q Did there come a time that you also
- 21 helped your aunt with water damage to her
- 22 property?

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- 1 water where it is coming down off the property
- 2 over to ours, but then on the backside, he has a
- 3 pillar swale too which diverts his water over
- 4 this way to keep everything away from his stuff
- 5 so we get the impact of his water.
- Q How consistently is the water coming 7 on to your property?
- A How is what?
- Q How consistently does the water come 10 onto your property?
- A Every time it rains on top of the 12 berm.
- O Mr. Juneau's first construction was 14 about 1998 or edition?
- A Yes. 15
- Q After that, did you notice an increase 17 in water to your property from Mr. Juneau's 18 property?
- 19 A Yes.
- Q Did you discuss that with Mr. Juneau 21 at the time?
- Yes, because I put a little berm up 22

- A Yes. Because the water used to hit 1
 - 2 our home and it goes around and it goes out to
 - 3 saturate our drain field, well then she can't
 - 4 use the bathroom in the house until the water
 - 5 leave.
 - Q To prevent the water from flooding and 6
 - 7 coming into your own house, at that time of the
 - 8 event, you built an incremental berm?
 - 9 A Yes.
 - Q You discussed that with Mr. Juneau at
 - 11 the time your concerns regarding the water
 - 12 coming onto your property?
 - A Yes. 13
 - Q Was your father residing at the
 - 15 property at that time?
 - 16 A Yes, he was.
 - 17 Q Did you discuss flood insurance with 18 your father?
 - 19 A Yes, and it got so bad in 2011, we got
 - 20 flood insurance for the house, but then the
 - 21 floods every time he would panic out every time
 - 22 something happened. That is why I constructed a

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bigger berm to hold all the water back over

- 2 there.
- 3 Q That was preventing it from causing
- 4 further damage and flooding to your basement?
- 5 A Yes, and made the choice to either
- 6 keep the one back there to keep it out of the 7 basement.
- 8 Q Does that at least contain it somewhat
- 9 from your aunt's property as well?
- 10 A Yes.
- 11 Q After speaking to Mr. Juneau about 12 this, to your knowledge, did he take any actions
- 13 to abate the runoff to your properties?
- 14 A No. He just kept adding more 15 buildings and parking lots.
- 16 Q Did you notice an effect on the runoff 17 to your property as he was building those 18 additions?
- 19 A Yes. It just kept getting worse and 20 worse with the berm. I added to the berm like 21 two or three times.
- 22 Q In your observations the water runoff

1 runoff to you property?

- A The last time I talked to him, when I
- 3 called and told him about all mosquito problems
- 4 that we were having, and the water there, so he
- 5 came and talked to me and he asked me if there
- 6 was any way we can get the water around there to
- 7 the house and I told him how saturated my aunt's
- 8 drain was so I can't do that neither and then he
- 9 said "We can't call the county." I said, "What
- 10 do you mean we can't call the county?" and he 11 said that he don't have permits for none of this
- 12 stuff.
- I said "You don't have no permits?"
- 14 Q This would have been pre-2022?
- 15 A Yes.
- 16 Q At that time it was your understanding
- 17 from Mr. Juneau that he did not have permits for 18 those buildings?
- 19 A Yes.
- 20 Q To your knowledge after this
- 21 discussion with him, did he take any action to
- 22 abate the water runoff onto your property?

- 1 coming to your property, have you ever noticed
- 2 the water coming into your property from any
- 3 other neighbor's property?
- 4 A No.
- 5 Q Have you ever noticed water running
- 6 off coming across the road on the other side of
- 7 Mr. Juneau's home that was somehow directed to
- 8 your house?
- 9 A No. That water, as the river come 10 down.
- 11 Q What is the volume of the water that 12 is coming onto your property from his?
- 13 A How much? A lot. I don't know. I 14 mean the back of the berm it would be like a 15 pond back there and that is with the mosquitoes 16 and at least 25 feet from my well.
- 17 I had to make a choice to either put 18 the berm up or have water in the house. It is 19 messing up the well now at the house.
- 20 Q After really in the Phase 2 of Mr.
- 21 Juneau's construction, did you have any further
- 22 conversations with him regarding the water

- 1 A No.
 - Q How has the water runoff from Mr.
- 3 Juneau's property affected your property?
- 4 A We have not lived in the home in two
- 5 years because of the water that had come onto my
- 6 property was contaminated water because of the
- 7 oil, the equipment, and all that that, that is
- 8 washed into the swale with the salt that he got
- 9 up there.
- 10 That water is contaminated, and so I 11 can't have my family living in the home. The 12 mosquitoes are so bad.
- 13 Q You are on well water?
- 14 A Yes.
- 15 Q What are your concerns regarding the 16 well water?
- 17 A That it can be contaminated.
- 18 Q The water at your house, have you
- 19 noticed any change or difference to it?
- 20 A Oh, yes.
- 21 Q What have you noticed?
- 22 A It is brown. It just don't smell

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1 right. It don't smell the best.

- 2 MS. McINTURFF: If we could please go 3 to page 4 of this exhibit.
- 4 A This is behind the house.
- 5 Q That is the ponding that you are
- 6 suffering?
- 7 A Yes.
- 8 Q That is behind your house?
- 9 A Yes, I was right there and I put the 10 berm up because that water used to shoot 11 straight to the house and in the house.
- 12 Q So that's covering a large area right 13 there.
- 14 A Yes.
- 15 Q What about the picture to the right, 16 what is that place?
- 17 A That one is like when it don't rain 18 for about a month. That is what it looks like. 19 Water lays back there sometimes too a few 20 months.
- 21 MS. McINTURFF: Can we scroll to the 22 next page, please? Right there.
- 1 Q Could you please describe what those 2 are?
- 3 A These are the oil barrels. What he
- 4 does is he uses the oil barrels, so when he
- 5 changes the equipment, he dumps his old oil in
- 6 these barrels. That's why you see the dark oil
- 7 around the bottom of it, and once he moves it,
- 8 you see it all over that port-o-potty, but when
- 9 he changes the equipment he puts his old oil in 10 these barrels.
- 11 Q Is that what causes you concern with 12 the quality of your well water presently?
- 13 A Yes, and you can see that here.
- 14 Q What is the picture to the left, 15 please?
- 16 A That is his full tank that has been 17 there for years, and as you can see, the fuel is 18 running all around, changes the filter, he just 19 dumps it all around there, and when it rains, 20 all that is above it, it all washes down.
- Then over there further where he 22 washes his trucks at, then comes the salt,

- 1 spraying the salt and stuff off the trucks and
- 2 all of that just goos into that concrete swale
- 3 in front of his shop and shoots the water over
- 4 into the property.
- 5 Q If you can please get to page 6. Can
- 6 you please describe what these two top photos
- 7 are?
- 8 A This one, right here, this is the
- 9 concrete swale I was telling you about, how all 10 this water from everywhere comes right here and
- 11 it comes over to the property. You can even 12 see.
- 13 Q How the water flows through?
- 14 A Yes. It comes right there and there 15 is a little swale and all the water comes this 16 way. Right here. That is where the oil drums and 17 he dumps the old oil in them.
- 18 Q That is the port-o-potty to the left 19 of that?
- 20 A Yes, that is the toilet potty but most 21 of the time they go back here and use the 22 bathroom.

1 Q When you say "they go back here and

- use the bathroom," it's more than one person?
- 3 A Oh, yes, the workers.
- 4 Q It has been multiple people over a
- 5 period of years?
- 6 A Yes. I have seen them and I call the
- 7 police on. I had my granddaughter out there. I
- 8 see a guy over there, so I call the police. It
- 9 is just an ongoing problem.
- 10 Q The fact that you are able to see this
- 11 from your property and see the current screening
- 12 or national tree barriers are not enough to
- 13 provide privacy?
- 14 A No.
- 15 Q What is your concern regarding
- 16 standing against the back of that wall there in 17 the right picture?
- 18 A That is like where all the oil is. He 19 takes all his junk and builds it back in here.
- 20 He took everything back up here around the back
- 21 of it so he has a beautiful yard but we have got
- 22 to see all the stuff that he does not want to

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1 see.

- Q That is because this is the back of
- his own residence; correct?
- A Yes.
- 5 Q But it is facing your residence?
- A Yes. His house sits up over this hill over here.
- Q You had also mentioned, again with the 9 "they," how many people do you typically see 10 during the day at his property?
- A At least 20. 11
- 12 Q Is that consistent throughout the time 13 period?
- 14 A Yes, in the summertime, yes.
- Q Has that affected the noise to your 15 16 property at all?
- A Yes. Definitely. 17
- Q You have also raised concerns 19 regarding Mr. Juneau's trucks idling. Can you 20 please describe what those concerns are?
- A Sometimes they will idle for forever. 22 I don't know what they are doing, but yes.
- Q You mentioned the one swale in front
- 2 of that building on Mr. Juneau's property. Are
- 3 there any other swales to your knowledge on his
- 4 property?
- A Yes, on the backside of this building
- 6 right here, he has a swale there too, and that
- 7 one comes 15 feet on the property line too.
- This is the berm that he is trying to
- 9 keep so he can just keep going into our property 10 even though there is some control so that it is 11 not going to go uphill.
- 12 Q Is that the white roofed building or 13 the black roofed building?
- 14 A This is the white.
- 15 O There are two swales there, one in the 16 front and one in the back that are diverting 17 water runoff to your property?
- A Over to our property, so that way he 19 can get the water off of his property.
- Q Those are part of what is being
- 21 requested in Mr. Juneau's variances to keep
- 22 those two swales?

- A Yes. He wants to keep them, but his 1
- 2 is the main one he wants to keep, and that is
- 3 why they want had to put that berm so they can
- 4 keep doing what they are doing.
- Q You have previously provided videos
- and footage of this water runoff as well?
- 7 A Yes.
- 8 MS. McINTURFF: I just note that that 9 is Exhibit 23.
- 10 Q Have you noticed any effects of the
- 11 trucks and the traffic going to and from Mr.
- 12 Juneau's home?
- A Yes. This is a lot of trucks. His 13 14 business is just too big for this area. It is 15 just too much. Even when they come out the lane, 16 they have to cross to the other side of the road 17 in order to make the right hand turn.
- Q Based on your observations, when the 19 vehicles are leaving Mr. Juneau's property, what 20 did they have to do to leave?
- A When they make a right hand turn, well 22 they cannot just turn into the lane. They have

226 1 to go into oncoming traffic lane.

- Does that raise safety concerns for
- 3 you?
- 4 A Yes. Because we have a neighbor that
- 5 put in a complaint one time about them and those 6 guys were yelling at her so she made a complaint
- about it.
- Q You said that "this operation is too
- 9 big for the neighborhood." This is an
- 10 agricultural country neighborhood; is that
- 11 right?
- 12 A Yes.
- Q People have various farming type areas 13 14 or small businesses?
- A Yes. It is mom and pop type 16 businesses, yes, and it is perfect. But not a 17 corporation.
- To your knowledge, is anybody else 19 running an operation the size of Mr. Juneau's?
- 20
- Are you aware of anybody else who has 21 22 approximately two dozen employees at their site

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1 every day?	1 A Yes.
2 A No.	2 Q Did you contact the county about that
3 Q Are you aware of anybody else that has	3 at any point?
4 multiple parking pads to accommodate their	4 A Yes. I just always tried to work with
5 commercial vehicles and employees?	5 him because I thought we were friends, but when
6 A No.	6 I seen, when I went to see what was going on, so
7 Q Are you aware of anyone else who has	7 I called the county. My dad passed away and
8 the same number or equivalent of commercial	8 were going to move into the house, but between
9 trucks as Mr. Juneau's?	9 the mosquitoes and the water, we just can't go.
10 A No.	10 Q To your knowledge did the county issue
11 Q You have some trucks of your own?	11 him a citation regarding that sediment
12 A Yes.	12 disturbance?
13 Q You run a landscaping business?	13 A Yes, Johnny Campbell and Jacqueline
14 A Yes.	14 Luis came out there and cited him with sediment
15 Q It is residential?	15 control over 11,000 square feet of ground cover
16 A Yes.	16 and disturbance.
17 Q Smaller in size?	17 MS. McINTURFF: You can sit back down.
18 A Yes.	18 We do not want to keep you up there.
19 Q Is there any employee there besides	19 Q Was that citation later dismissed?
20 yourself?	20 A Yes.
21 A No. I mean I got family that come and	Q What was your understanding of why it
22 go, but it is me. I am the only employee there.	22 was dismissed?
1 Q How many trucks do you have for your	1 A Tom Wheaton, he dismissed it. He said
2 business?	2 because there was no active of site when he went
3 A Two, but I only use one though, yes.	3 out there, but he didn't realize that it was a
4 Q One of the trucks is in disrepair and	4 citation. He thought it was a violation, but he
5 being removed?	5 would double check and see and get back with me
6 A Yes.	6 and he never got back with me.
7 Q That is typical and consistent with	7 Q Are you aware of whether or not there
8 the neighborhood?	8 is a service request currently open and pending
9 A Yes.	9 regarding Mr. Juneau's extension to one of the
10 Q But 12 trucks is not consistent with	10 commercial buildings?
11 the neighborhood?	11 A Yes. He stood it up and open.
12 A No.	12 Q Have you had the opportunity to review
13 Q Are you aware of anybody else in the	13 the stormwater management proposal submitted by
14 neighborhood that has replaced ground cover with	14 Mr. Juneau?
15 large parking pads?	15 A Yes.
16 A No.	16 Q Do you have any concerns with that
17 Q Not to that extent?	17 proposal?
18 A No. Never. It has been that forever.	18 A Yes. To me it's not going to work by
19 We look out for each other.	19 the grade of the land. The water is not going to
20 Q You have had concerns regarding the	20 go up in the hill and put a pipe. It's not
21 sediment control at Mr. Juneau's property over	21 going to work. That is why they want to keep a
22 the years is that right?	22 variance to just keep what is going on and going

22 variance to just keep what is going on and going

22 the years, is that right?

233 235 A Yes. 1 on. It is just unsafe. 1 Q Is it your understanding that with the 2 Q If he is permitted that, will that 3 variance the way that the swales are still 3 keep the water continuing onto your property? 4 sloped, that is not going to be captured by the 4 A Yes. I mean I didn't think it was a 5 stormwater management plan? 5 hardship for he can get a variance. He has done 6 all of this illegally. The problem he has why A No. 7 he cannot get a variance is this is something Q Do you have any other concerns 8 regarding the stormwater management proposal? 8 that he caused, but we are taking the punishment A Yes. I have done this type of work 10 for years. It is just not going to work because 10 Q Are you opposing the use of the 11 of the grade of the land. 11 conditional use permit and the variances? Q You have done this work over that 12 A Yes. 13 period of years? 13 O Is that based on the fact that it is A Yes. 14 preventing you from using your property? 14 A Yes. 15 Q Have you put in stormwater abatement? 15 16 Q That is due to the water runoff? 16 A Yes. 17 Q Have you put in sediment control? 17 A Yes. It is the polluted water, but it 18 is not just polluted water. It is the chemicals 18 A Yes. 19 Q This is in your professional capacity? 19 and all this stuff coming over to within 25 feet 20 A Yes. 20 from my well. My family can't live in that Q Not like Mr. Juneau's properly. Based 21 21 place like this. 22 on your experience, it is your understanding MS. McINTURFF: I have no further 234 236 1 that this stormwater management proposal will 1 questions on direct. 2 not be effective to abate the runoff to your HEARING EXAMINER: Have you had an 3 property? opportunity to have your well tested? A Yes. It won't work. We are going to A No, I haven't. Not until I get the have the problem. This is not going to fix it. 5 problem fixed, I didn't think there was no Q Mr. Juneau is also seeking variances. 6 reason to get it tested because if it is not 7 Are you aware of that? 7 contaminated, if the problem keeps going on, A Yes. 8 then it will be contaminated. Q You have highlighted and are opposed 9 HEARING EXAMINER: The swale, the 10 to those variances as well, haven't you? 10 concrete in front of the buildings goes like A Yes. 11 that? 12 Q What is your opposition to those 12 A Yes. 13 variances? HEARING EXAMINER: It creates a swale 13 A To not give it to him because if he 14 funnel? 15 gets them then our home is useless unless he A Yes. 15

20 A Yes.

21 Q Then there is the other variance which 22 has the swales in existence?

18 is because one of his commercial buildings is

Q One of the variances he is requesting

16 fixes this problem over there.

19 right on the property line.

20 A The water is still going to come out 21 there because it is all on a downgrade and that 22 helps it to come down more. If it was a

17 funnel was removed and it was a concrete pad

18 versus a directed swale, what is your opinion of

HEARING EXAMINER: If that swale

19 that?

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8

16

1 straight thing, the water would still come over

- 2 that away, but it would just go into a garage
- 3 and come that way. He got the swale so that it
- 4 will not go into his garage.
- But if you make it flat it still
- 6 slopes down and so it is just going to go into a
- garage and come over to us.
- HEARING EXAMINER: When the engineer
- 9 testified, he talked about the trench that would
- 10 be out in front of those buildings to capture
- 11 that runoff. If the swales went toward the
- 12 trench, would it capture more of that runoff?
- A No. Not enough to make a difference 14 because it is going to be open at the end of it, 15 but then the pipe is going to be in the ground, 16 three feet or so into the thing and so the water 17 is over top of that is just going to keep doing 18 what it is doing.
- 19 HEARING EXAMINER: When was the last 20 time somebody lived in the property?
- A Two years ago, two and a half years 22 ago. Man, we were going to move up there. I

- 1 south?
- 2 A Yes.
- 3 HEARING EXAMINER: I just want to get
- 4 my bearings. Do you still operate your business
- from the property?
- A Yes. I have an occupant license to run my business.
- Q Do you have a home occupation?
- 9 A Yes, I do, but that's kind of like
- 10 Jeff had thought that I didn't have one, and
- 11 then when he found out that I had one, then that
- 12 is when everything went haywire because he 13 didn't have one.
- HEARING EXAMINER: I don't have any 14
- 15 further questions. No, thank. A Thank you.
- 17 HEARING EXAMINER: Cross-Examination.
- 18 **CROSS-EXAMINATION**
- 19 MR. RUHLEN: It may be helpful to
- 20 start, if you could look at Exhibit 35 which was
- 21 the opposition's prehearing statement. If you
- 22 can go back, I think it was page 1 or 2. Right
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- 1 have a home in Germantown and we were going to 1 there. Thank you.
- 2 move up there but with these problems we can't
- 3 move up there like that.
- HEARING EXAMINER: Does your aunt
- 5 still live in the property?
- A Yes. 6
- HEARING EXAMINER: To the right are
- 8 the Capanellis, that is to the right, and then
- 9 your property is at that point where Mr.
- 10 Juneau's property is straight back?
- 11 A Yes.
- 12 HEARING EXAMINER: Where is your
- 13 aunt's property in conjunction to that?
- A It is right on the other side of my 15 property.
- HEARING EXAMINER: Just on the other 17 side of the property.
- A Yes. 18
- HEARING EXAMINER: Your house and then 20 your aunt's house?
- 21 A Yes.
- 22 HEARING EXAMINER: Is this further

- Q If I understand this report right, the
- aerial photo showed development conditions in
- 1993 on the left and development conditions in
- 1998 on the right, is that your understanding?
- 6 A Yes.
- 7 Q Is your property shown on here?
- A Yes. 8
- 9 Q Which properties are yours again?
- 10 A The one right there.
- With the building in the center? 11 Q
- 12 A Yes.
- HEARING EXAMINER: Why don't you go up 13 14 and show him. We apparently did not have color 15 in 1998 or 1993.
- Q They are in the middle and then you 17 also own the property that is over to the west?
- 18 A Yes.
- 19 So in the picture in 1998 when we were 20 talking about how the area has developed over
- 21 time, what is the condition on the property that
- 22 you own that is shown there in the bottom left

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1 corner of the right picture?

- 2 A What you see.
- 3 Q Was that under construction also at
- 4 the time there was construction activity there
- 5 as well?
- 6 A This one?
- 7 Q Yes.
- 8 A I don't know what we were doing at the 9 time.
- 10 Q If we could go back. You have seen 11 these exhibits.
- 12 A The water leaves back behind this berm 13 right here. This right here come down this way 14 onto my other property. So this has nothing to 15 do with the berm. I am just giving you some 16 facts here.
- 17 The berm is right here, right, so this 18 water come down through here and this is my 19 property too. If this was Jeff's property it 20 wouldn't be a problem, but the problem is it is 21 my problem and I can't live in my house.
- 22 Q You are saying the water is coming

1 from that direction as well?

- 2 A No. This is the only. Right here,
- 3 the water come right here. The water right here
- 4 it's no problem. We have been there for 30 years
- 5 and never was a problem.
- When something starts changing back here it was just done and you see right here
- 8 where he just put the building right here, this
- 9 is when I put the berm up.
- The engineer has in his report, I put 11 the berm up in 2004 and after 2004, Jeff built 12 another building, right, and then added to this 13 building he put a bigger parking lot and then 14 added on both of those buildings.
- 15 So the only construction was done on 16 this side of the thing was Jeff's property.
- 17 Q But there is also construction shown 18 on you said --
- 19 A We could have been planted grass. I 20 don't know.
- 21 MR. RUHLEN: Can we go to Exhibit 40 22 again. If we could put forward to the

1 beginning. Stop there. Go down.

- Q Those are the properties. That
- 3 actually shows footprints of the structures and
- 4 driveway over there. Could that have been what
- 5 was being constructed?
- 6 A Yes.
- 7 MR. RUHLEN: Go down again.
- 8 Q Those are your properties?
- 9 A Yes
- 10 Q What are the improvements there on the 11 left side?
- 12 A Right here, but you have to realize 13 this is like family. I got like nine siblings 14 and they will all be coming here to hang out and 15 stuff.
- 16 But all this right here is not a 17 problem. The problem is I put this berm up 18 because the water was coming into the house this 19 way.
- The natural flow of this water, it 21 comes down and it flows like this, but the only 22 thing that changed is on Jeff's property where

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1 all of that water of his is coming right here.

- Q It is your testimony that you put in
- 3 the berm at the time, but then you expanded onto
- 4 the berm?
- 5 A At least twice, yes. Because the more
- 6 Jeff built on his property the more water and so
- the more berm was needed to hold it back.
- 8 Q You testified that you are running a
- 9 landscape business on your property; is that
- 10 what that is?
- 11 A Yes.
- 12 Q You are the operator?
- 13 A Yes.
- 14 Q Are you residing on the property?
- 15 A What do you mean?
- 16 Q Do you live there?
- 17 A I can't live there because of all of
- 18 Jeff's water and the mosquitoes right there.
- 19 Q When did you become the owner of the 20 property?
- 21 A It has been a couple years. Maybe 22 about a year ago. My dad passed away about two

245 247 1 years ago. 1 A Yes. 2 MR. RUHLEN: If we can go forward. 2 MR. RUHLEN: No further questions for 3 Q I think you have testified that for 3 Mr. Lyles. We would have some more if we can your business you have two trucks? 4 call for additional rebuttal. I don't know when A Yes. 5 that will happen. 6 MR. RUHLEN: Can we go forward a page. HEARING EXAMINER: The way that the 7 Q Are these the trucks? 7 process will work is she will complete her full 8 A No. Those two trucks right there 8 opposition testimony. Then our other 9 belong to my brother. He happened to have right 9 independent witness will testify and then the 10 now because he is working on them. 10 applicant gets the last word in the rebuttal and Q But they are parked on your property? 11 whoever you choose to call for rebuttal will be 11 12 A Yes. 12 limited to the testimony that was raised in 13 MR. RUHLEN: If we can go forward 13 opposition. 14 again. 14 MR. RUHLEN: Thank you. 15 Q That's your brother's? 15 HEARING EXAMINER: I am sure that you A Yes, my brother is Timmy Lyles and I 16 have some follow up. 16 17 am Oscar Lyles. 17 REDIRECT EXAMINATION Q But he is parking the trucks there? 18 18 BY MS. McINTURFF: 19 A He has been working on them, but he Q Mr. Lyles, your father passed a year 20 don't keep them all the time. 20 or two ago. MR. RUHLEN: We can go forward again. 21 21 A Yes. 22 What about these materials? 22 Prior to that, did you also reside at 246 248 A Yes. The problem here is with the 1 the property? 1 2 water. 2 A Yes. 3 MR. RUHLEN: If we could go forward 3 Q You resided there growing up? 4 again. 4 A Yes. 5 O That's another view of the trucks? 5 Q Over the years as well? A Yes. That is my nephew and he had A Always there, yes. 6 Q You are there almost on a daily basis? that towed out of there. Q You testified you have two trucks. 8 A Yes. 9 Are your trucks separate trucks from these? 9 The trucks that you have at your A No. So I will say this one more time. 10 property right now, it is your two pickup 11 trucks? 11 These are my brother Tim's trucks, my brother's 12 truck. This is my nephew's truck and I got a 12 A Yes. 13 couple of pickup trucks. 13 There are two trucks from your Q 14 Q Those are not shown. 14 brother? A They are showing there somewhere. 15 A Yes. 15 16 MR. RUHLEN: We can go forward. Q And a truck that your nephew crashed Q All of these trucks are out there, 17 that you took out? 18 your brother's trucks, your nephew's trucks, 18 A Yes. 19 your trucks? 19 Is that typical what is stored at your Q 20 A Yes. 20 property? Q You said that you had a home 21 21 A My nephew's truck, it had been there 22 occupation? 22 for a year, but I got it towed out.

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1 Q Is that more in line of what the	1 had. I just wanted to confirm the buildings I
2 neighborhood uses their property for as well?	2 saw. Thank you.
3 A No. Oh, the other people in the	3 MS. McINTURFF: We call Tracy Horn
4 neighborhood you are talking about?	4 next.
5 Q Yes.	5 (Whereupon, Tracy Horn, sworn.)
6 A Oh, yes.	6 DIRECT EXAMINATION
7 Q More typically there would be two to	7 BY MS. McINTURFF:
8 five trucks on the property?	8 Q What is your name, please?
9 A Yes.	9 A My name is Tracy Horn.
MS. McINTURFF: No further questions.	10 Q Are you Mr. Lyles' longterm partner?
HEARING EXAMINER: I do have one. You	11 A Yes, for almost 30 years. Very long
12 have your dwelling, the house?	12 term.
13 A Yes.	13 Q Do you presently live with Mr. Lyles?
14 HEARING EXAMINER: That is used as a	14 A Yes.
15 residence. Are there any other outbuildings?	15 Q Are you and Mr. Lyles able to reside
16 A Yes. We got a couple buildings up	16 at the Damascus Road property?
17 there. Okay.	17 A No. We can't.
18 HEARING EXAMINER: Are any of those	18 Q Why are you not able to reside there?
19 used for residences or are they all for the	19 A Because of the well water. I
20 business?	20 definitely don't want to bathe myself in it. I
	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
21 A No, there is just the one that is used	21 am not going to drink it. Also because of the
21 A No, there is just the one that is used 22 for the business.	21 am not going to drink it. Also because of the 22 mosquitoes. My dad, about ten years ago, got bit
•	
22 for the business.	22 mosquitoes. My dad, about ten years ago, got bit
22 for the business.	22 mosquitoes. My dad, about ten years ago, got bit
22 for the business. 1 HEARING EXAMINER: How many buildings	22 mosquitoes. My dad, about ten years ago, got bit 1 by a mosquito and ended up in intensive care.
22 for the business. 1 HEARING EXAMINER: How many buildings 2 would you say you have on your property?	22 mosquitoes. My dad, about ten years ago, got bit 1 by a mosquito and ended up in intensive care. 2 He had encephalitis.
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1 HEARING EXAMINER: How many buildings 2 would you say you have on your property? 3 A Two. 4 HEARING EXAMINER: You have got the 5 residence and then one outbuilding or two 6 outbuildings? 7 A Two outbuildings. I got the 8 residence. This is two separate building lots. 9 HEARING EXAMINER: Right. 10 A So one lot is the house, and on the 11 other lot, I got my shop. 12 HEARING EXAMINER: That is closer to 13 the street. 14 A Yes. 15 HEARING EXAMINER: So your shop and 16 then he had like	22 mosquitoes. My dad, about ten years ago, got bit 252 1 by a mosquito and ended up in intensive care. 2 He had encephalitis. 3 He luckily came out of it because most 4 patients don't. But he suffers. He has 5 darkening of his lobe. He suffers from short 6 term memory and he suffers seizures from it. 7 I am definitely afraid of the 8 mosquitoes because I have seen the effects. I 9 know they carry diseases. I try to avoid the 10 property when I can. So I'm out. I'm out by 11 3:00. Definitely out. 12 Q So you are at the property during the 13 day, but you try to leave by 3:00? 14 A Definitely. 15 Q Over the last 30 years that you have 16 been with Mr. Lyles, you have resided at the

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20 A Shop like, yes, but no diverted water 21 people property. None of that. I promise you.

HEARING EXAMINER: That was all that I

22

20 any changes in the water runoff to the property?

What are those changes?

A Oh, yes, absolutely.

- 2 comes down and floods the basement. We have had
- 3 that happen several times.
- 4 I have actually had to help him clean.
- 5 I was actually called in to help clean up the
- 6 basement when his father and stepmother were
- 7 standing there in the water. We helped clean
- 8 that up a couple times, actually.
- Q Do you have any concerns regarding the 10 conditional use permit that Mr. Juneau has 11 sought?
- 12 A Yes.
- 13 What are those concerns?
- 14 A I am still worried that he is not 15 going to control the water. That we will never 16 move into the house. We have always had this 17 mosquito problem, so I will fear living there.
- With nine siblings of Oscar's, there 19 are 28 grandkids. I can't even tell you about 20 great grandkids. The family can't even come and 21 enjoy the property.
- Q Is this something historically that

- 1 from Mr. Juneau's property?
 - A I have.
 - Q How would you describe it?
- 4 A It is like a small gush of river water 5 coming in your direction.
- Q Does that happen every time it rains?
- A On a light rain, not so much, but you
- 8 can definitely on the hard rains, yes, it was
- 9 definitely flooding.
- 10 Q Have you noticed water intruding from 11 any other property?
- A No. I have been around it for almost 1330 years, so no.
- MS. McINTURFF: I have no further 14
- 15 questions.
- 16 HEARING EXAMINER: Any
- 17 cross-examination.
- 18 MR. RUHLEN: No cross-examination.
- 19 HEARING EXAMINER: Thank you so much.
- 20 MS. McINTURFF: That is our case.
- 21 HEARING EXAMINER: Whenever you would
- 22 like to start rebuttal.

1 the family had done to enjoy the property?

- A Oh, my gosh, yes, absolutely.
- Q Do you have family cookouts and
- 4 barbecues?
- A Oh, yes, definitely.
- Q Are you able to use the property for
- 7 that now?
- A I am out by 3:00. If anybody else
- 9 wants to risk the mosquitoes, they are more 10 willing to, but we don't usually let the
- 11 grandkids come down there later in the evening 12 time.
- He won't bring his grandkids, I should 14 say, because his one granddaughter Lauren – I 15 mean London, was down there in the evening.
- He picked them up from his son's 16 17 house, brought them into the house, was 18 unloading equipment, she ran around, and the 19 next thing you know she just had huge welts all 20 over. We won't allow the kids there because the 21 mosquitoes are so bad.
- 22 Have you observed the water runoff

- MR. RUHLEN: Thank you. If I could
 - call Mr. Juneau. That is the right starting
 - 3 point.

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- 4 HEARING EXAMINER: Mr. Juneau, I
- remind you that you are still under oath.
- DIRECT EXAMINATION (recalled) 6
- BY MR. RUHLEN:
- Q Just a couple of things I want to ask
- 9 about. We heard from Mr. Lyles about it in the
- 10 last conversation with you. Can you describe
- 11 that conversation?
- 12 A The conversation about the water was I 13 met with Oscar and I asked him why he had to 14 call the county. "Can't we work this out?" He 15 says, "No, Jeff, we can't."
- Q You were speaking about the water and 17 the situation that we have seen the photos of?
- 18 A That's correct.
- 19 You testified earlier today that you
- 20 had been on the property for a long time and you
- 21 were familiar with your neighbors.
- 22 Are you aware of any complaints from

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- 1 your conversations with your neighbors, any
- 2 complaints about flooding of the Lyles' property
- 3 before your time in the residence?
- A There has been some hearsay, but my
- 5 neighbor, Ms. Middleton, had built in 1978 who
- 6 owned the property, she told me that Johnny
- 7 Lyles had a complaint about her then that water
- 8 was coming down from --
- MS. McINTURFF: Objection hearsay.
- 10 HEARING EXAMINER: It is hearsay.
- 11 A That is what I'm saying.
- 12 HEARING EXAMINER: I will tell you
- 13 that I will give it the weight it deserves.
- MR. RUHLEN: Thank you. 14
- 15 Q We saw some oil barrels in the photos 16 and you testified earlier that the oil barrels
- 17 have been collected and moved.
- Are those the barrels? 18
- 19 A That's correct.
- 20 Q Your impressions of the conditions
- 21 that were there, there was some description of
- 22 oil on the sides and such? How would you

- 1 describe it?
- A Yes. You are going to get oil on top
- 3 of your can when you have a dispenser and it
- 4 splashes on top and then we moved the barrels
- 5 out and has oil that sits on top of the barrel,
- 6 and then the rainwater will probably splash it
- 7 and it got on to the bathroom and the side of
- 8 the building.
- 9 Q But those have now been moved?
- 10 A Right. It is not like oil what was
- 11 dumped or this or that. It is excess oil that 12 was sitting on top of the barrels.
- Q The last question for you. There was a
- 14 description about concrete swales along the back
- 15 of one of the buildings being concrete? Is that 16 accurate? Is that concrete?
- 17 A That is not correct.
- 18 Q What is back there?
- A It is Class A1 1A riprap. That is 19 20 down through the channel.
- Can you describe what that is? 21
- 22 A It is just probably eight-to-nine inch

- 1 stone that is in more of a riprap area where the
- 2 flow of the water to disperse it and slow it
- 3 down.
 - MR. RUHLEN: I think that is it.
- 5 A Mr. Lyles actually submitted a picture
- of it with somebody standing on top of it. So
- it's stone. Not concrete.
- HEARING EXAMINER: When was that
- 9 installed?
- A Probably 2014-2015. 10
- HEARING EXAMINER: Why did you install 11
- 12 it?
- A Because there was water still coming 13
- 14 off the property. So I wanted to slow the
- 15 property, the flow of the water down, so it
- 16 would not just keep eroding. It is on the
- 17 backside of the property.
- 18 Those trees have grown up quite large
- 19 now and you cannot get anything to grow
- 20 underneath them in the proposed water retention
- 21 area.
- 22 Is that a landscaping practice that
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 - 1 you would utilize in that kind of condition?
 - A Absolutely.
 - 3 MR. RUHLEN: That is enough for Mr.
 - Juneau. I think it might be helpful to ask a
 - couple more questions of Mr. Witmer, if I may?
 - HEARING EXAMINER: But first, there is 6
 - still the opportunity for the opposition for
 - 8 cross.
 - 9 **CROSS-EXAMINATION**
 - 10 BY MS. McINTURFF:
 - Q The swale in the back you are saying
 - 12 is rock, but the one in the front that is
 - 13 concrete: correct?
 - 14 A Correct.
 - 15 The oil barrels being moved, have you O
 - 16 done anything to clean up the site of the excess
 - 17 oil?
 - 18 A I have not. We have raked it clean 19 and that is about it.
 - 20 MS. McINTURFF: No other questions.
 - HEARING EXAMINER: Thank you. Is that 21
 - 22 it for Mr. Juneau?

PLANET DEPOS

263 MR. RUHLEN: That's it. If I can call 1 2 Mr. Witmer and I will be brief with these 2 3 questions because we have already discussed much 3 **CROSS-EXAMINATION** 4 about the stormwater in the record. BY MS. McINTURFF: Q The berm doesn't contribute from the DIRECT EXAMINATION (recalled.) 6 runoff from Mr. Juneau's property. That all 6 BY MR. RUHLEN: Q Mr. Witmer, there was testimony about comes from Mr. Juneau's property or is directed 8 the berm and the function of the berm. You 8 through Mr. Juneau's property. It has no effect 9 testified earlier that that your finding is that 9 on when it comes through his property? 10 the berm is likely playing a role in retaining 10 A It has no effect on --11 water? Q I understand your argument that you 12 A Absolutely. 12 are saying what happens afterwards, but the Q Your testimony was that the berm is 13 amount of water coming through Mr. Juneau's 13 14 contributing to the flooding conditions on the 14 property is the amount of water coming through 15 neighboring property? 15 Mr. Juneau's property? 16 A Absolutely. A Correct. 16 17 Q You also testified that the larger 17 Q That swale that he has constructed in 18 drainage area covers the properties that we saw 18 the back, as he put it, to reduce the erosion 19 and were also on Mr. Lyles' properties? 19 and redirect the water away from his own 20 A Correct. 20 building, now contributes to the runoff to Mr. 21 Q Your opinion will be the water from 21 Lyles' property? 22 the drainage area even across those properties A That would actually be beneficial 262 264 1 is heading towards the residence in the study 1 because it slows the water down. point? O It slows it down, but it is still 3 A Yes. directing it towards his property? MR. RUHLEN: One final question, and I 4 A It was already directed there. So it don't know if you can answer it, but I am going 5 is one of those. Like I said, the one drainage 6 to ask it. 6 area map shows all that drainage goes to one Q Do you have any thoughts about if 7 point. It doesn't matter what has been built, 8 Permitting Services were to get a building 8 how it has been built, all the drainage is going 9 permit today for a residence that is in the 9 to go to there. 10 location where the Lyles' residence is, would 10 It is just a matter of how it's 11 they analyze the drainage area in connection 11 conveyed. How quickly it gets there. The 12 with that permit review? 12 attributes that you have to look at in this 13 A Absolutely. 13 situation, and I have talked about this before MS. McINTURFF: Objection. That's 14 14 is the cover type, the flood pads, the drainage 15 outside of rebuttal. 15 system, or the lack thereof, those are the HEARING EXAMINER: It is. 16 things that you have to analyze. 16 17 A So I don't answer. The water that is going to get there HEARING EXAMINER: No. 18 is going to get there. There is nowhere else for 18 19 MR. RUHLEN: I don't have any further 19 the water to go. Q But the waters is going onto Mr. HEARING EXAMINER: Do you have any 21 Juneau's property. 21 22 questions? 22 A Partially, yes.

MS. McINTURFF: Thank you.

HEARING EXAMINER: Quick question. We

- 3 talked about this a little bit with Mr. Lyles.
- 4 I asked him about the trench and the pipe where
- 5 you had designed the stormwater management
- 6 device, there was the large pipe and it sat in
- 7 front of the southern white/gray roof building?
- 8 A Yes.
- 9 HEARING EXAMINER: But you also 10 testified that that white/gray roof building, 11 and the area to the side, will not be captured
- 12 by the stormwater management device?
- 13 A Correct, yes.
- HEARING EXAMINER: How doe that pipe 14
- 15 work? Is it only capturing things that come
- 16 downhill? Does it capture things that stay
- 17 right there? Is it possible to capture things
- 18 that come off the front of that building based
- 19 on the design and slope?
- A Yes. I am glad you said that because 21 that is what we are fighting a slope and grade.
- The reason we place the inlet where we
- 1 did is so we could have an upgrade and fall
- 2 where the water captured in the inlet could be
- 3 piped to the stormwater facility. It allows us
- 4 to have enough elevation difference so we have
- 5 slope on the pipe to make that work.
- If we were to move the facility down 6 7 on the bottom of the property, there is no way
- 8 to capture that water, retain it, and slowly
- 9 disperse the water or slowly release the water
- 10 because you have to have a stable outfall and
- 11 you have got to be able to maintain that
- 12 outfall. That is one of the reasons why we
- 13 choose the location where we did.
- HEARING EXAMINER: I'm a visual 15 person. So the water comes down and like a
- 16 gutter in a storm drain, hits the gutter, goes
- 17 to the storm drain, but anything based on the
- 18 angle behind it or south of it isn't going to be 19 captured?
- A We hold true to our drainage area
- 21 because a lot of stuff sometimes when these
- 22 things are built we do a construction stakeout

1 to make sure of everything.

We could grade part of the gravel area

to make sure everything gets to that point,

- everything above it.
- 5 HEARING EXAMINER: Right.
- 6 A But everything below it.
 - HEARING EXAMINER: Everything below it
- is not going to be captured.
- 9 A Correct. That is what we had talked 10 about. This is common practice. You are never 11 going to capture all of it.
- 12 HEARING EXAMINER: Right.
- A But you account for it in your design. 13
- 14 You oversize your facility further up to 15 accommodate what is down below.
- 16 HEARING EXAMINER: The intent is to
- 17 capture as much as possible uphill because you
- 18 know you will not capture everything downhill?
- 19 A Correct.
- 20 HEARING EXAMINER: That is what you
- 21 mean by oversize?
- A Yes. So we overcompensate how a little

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- 1 higher up to account for what is going on.
 - HEARING EXAMINER: What is the square
- footage of Mr. Juneau's property you think you
- are not capturing?
- 5 A I would have to look at the numbers.
- HEARING EXAMINER: Can you give me a 6
- visual?

- A If we have the stormwater plan, I can
- 9 show you. Back to 36, page 7. You see right
- 10 here is the area that would not be captured.
- We could actually alter our design 12 slightly and we might be able to get this little 13 section here, but then that will leave just this
- 14 portion of it.
- 15 HEARING EXAMINER: If you were to 16 alter the design to capture that, how
- 17 significant a change is that?
- A Minor. But we could. If it is one of 19 those things where you say every drop, then we 20 could squeeze out what we can.
- 21 We have to check the slopes on the
- 22 pipes, but I think we can make that work with a

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1 shallow inlet.

2 HEARING EXAMINER: Then that would

3 capture the water in front of the building that

- 4 is not in the setback area, so then that would
- 5 just leave the water around the building to the
- 6 back?
- 7 A Correct. By that design those large
- 8 amounts of runoff that they are seeing is going
- 9 to be captured and placed in this facility.
- 10 Basically you would have a trickle coming down 11 from here.
- 12 HEARING EXAMINER: In my head, looking
- 13 at that design, to me it looks like a Y, right,
- 14 those lines, so I thought everything to the
- 15 right would be captured.
- 16 A Oh, you mean --
- 17 HEARING EXAMINER: Yes, do you see
- 18 that? It looks like a Y. Let me come over
- 19 there. Yes, I am a visual person.
- This to me is a Y. In my head, it was
- 21 everything like this was to be captured and this
- 22 was the only thing not to be captured. What you
- 1 are telling me in the existing design is this is
- 2 not captured?
- 3 A Correct. Right up there.
- 4 HEARING EXAMINER: Oh, the dot dot
- 5 dot?
- 6 A Yes.
- 7 HEARING EXAMINER: But you could amend
- 8 it so that it captures everything except for
- 9 this?
- 10 A Yes, we could. But the big thing is 11 of this study was to show that we could take and 12 capture that required volume to offset any 13 disturbance.
- 14 HEARING EXAMINER: When I will read
- 15 this transcript, I am going to kick myself
- 16 square in the touche because I am going to hear
- 17 this, that, up, down. So I have made myself
- 18 some notes as to what this means.
- 19 The direction you are talking about is
- 20 north and south. Let me make a note about the
- 21 this, the that, and the why.
- Those are all the questions that I had

- 1 for you. If there is any follow up or any
- 2 rebuttal based on those questions from anyone?
- 3 MS. McINTURFF: I do not.
- 4 MR. RUHLEN: We don't have any further
- 5 testimony.
- 6 HEARING EXAMINER: Then closing
- 7 arguments.
- 8 MS. McINTURFF: Was there not a --
- 9 HEARING EXAMINER: Oh, wait. I almost
- 10 forgot you. I am so sorry. You have been
- 11 waiting here patiently the whole time. Please
- 12 come on up. He can sit next to counsel. If you
- 13 could state your name and spell it for our court 14 reporter.
- 15 MR. LOPEZ: My name is Yarid Lopez. I
- 16 go by Tony. My first name Y-A-R-I-D and
- 17 L-O-P-E-Z. I live at 8404 Damascus Road.
- 18 (Whereupon, Yarid (Tony) Lopez, sworn.)
- 19 STATEMENT OF MR. LOPEZ
- 20 HEARING EXAMINER: What would you like
- 21 to tell us?

- 22 A All of this was brought to my
- 1 attention about two and a half years ago when
- 2 Mr. Lyles' son came over to my property to ask
- 3 me what I was going to do about the standing
- 4 water issue.
- 5 I moved into this property in August
- 6 2019, so I am pretty new to the area there. I
- 7 didn't know any of the stuff that was going on.
- 8 I had no idea when I bought the property that
- 9 there was a flooded section also.
- 10 I discussed with Mr. Lyles that I am
- 11 willing to do what I could. I proposed putting
- 12 a little pond in that area, digging down,
- 13 putting a liner in, stock it with some fish so
- 14 my kids can go ahead and fish on it if they
- 15 wanted to.
- 16 I proposed having a workaround between
- 17 Mr. Juneau and Mr. Lyles to see whether we can
- 18 divert the water some way. I tried to play
- 19 neutral when it comes to stuff like this. I
- 20 want to live in peace where I live and I don't
- 21 want to have any problems with anyone.
 - I didn't really get involved with the

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situation until probably six months ago when thecounty was calling me about the water standingthere.

4 Like I said to both of them, Oscar and 5 Jeff, I was trying to stay neutral and get out 6 of it, let them fight it out, I would be okay, 7 but once I got involved in it, then I needed to 8 put my two cents in.

9 I don't have any issue whatsoever with 10 either of them running their business out of 11 their home. They can definitely make their 12 money, do what they have to do in order to have 13 to do it.

I don't want to have almost an acre of 15 my property flooded because I am the one getting 16 flooded. I honestly should probably be here 17 suing both of them, but I'm not doing that 18 because I am trying to keep the peace between 19 everybody here.

We will see what happens after today, 21 but I can understand why Mr. Lyles put the 22 burden on saving his property from getting 1 having sections of my property be a foot and a

2 foot and half deep when I walk in it because

3 that is exactly what is going on with the water

4 coming in and also the burden of it being put5 there.

So yes, I do know that there is a lot of touch and go here when it comes to feelings and I know Mr. Lyles has lived there for a long time. His father lived there for a long time.

10 His family lives around there all the time and

11 Mr. Juneau has been there for almost 30 years.12 I am sure there are some feelings

13 about all of that too. I just want a solution. 14 Like I told both of them that's all I want. I 15 want the water problem fixed.

I don't want to come here and say, 17 "No, Jeff, I don't want you to run your business 18 out of your property." Just like I wouldn't do 19 that to Oscar because Oscar does run a business 20 out of his property too.

I don't want to be able to go there 22 and say, "No, I don't want you to run it. I

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1 damaged.

2 I am not upset at him for putting the 3 berm up and flooding my property, which I don't

4 really use that little section. I am not going

5 to lie. I don't use it. But I am having a lot

6 of trees fall over. A lot of trees are just7 getting waterlogged and falling over.

8 I tried to clean up the area as much 9 as possible trying to take as much of the canopy 10 of the trees there so the sun can hit the water 11 and evaporate it faster.

12 I have done quite a few things there 13 to try to minimize or help relieve the situation 14 between us.

15 Yes, that is pretty much all I had to 16 say when it comes to that. I have heard while 17 sitting here the testimony of the gentleman that 18 was talking about the way the water runoff comes 19 up. I am not negating that my property doesn't 20 have water runoff. Every property has water 21 runoff.

I just don't think that I should be

1 don't want you to do it."

I don't want to do that. I just want

3 the water issue fixed. If the water issue is

4 not fixed, then I am going to pay the lawyer

5 that I have already spoken to, and I am going to

6 have to do what I need to do in order to protect 7 myself. That's pretty much it. I don't know if

8 anybody has any questions.

9 HEARING EXAMINER: Thank you, counsel

10 do you have any questions. No. Thank you

11 appreciate your coming. You sat for a long

12 time. We appreciate it when people sit and they

13 listen and we accept your testimony.

14 A I have one thing for you. The foot 15 candles on those lights.

16 HEARING EXAMINER: Yes, that's right.

17 A One foot candle is the equivalent of 18 10.7 lumens.

19 HEARING EXAMINER: I knew that at one 20 point in my life.

21 A At 3,000 lumens light, you divide that 22 by 10.6, if I remember, and that gives you what

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1 your foot candles are, and obviously, in this

- 2 case that would be around 300. So it would be
- 3 300 feet before you can hit one-foot candle.
- 4 HEARING EXAMINER: 300 feet per
- 5 one-foot candle.
- 6 A Right. The closer you get to the
- 7 light the brighter it is.
- 8 HEARING EXAMINER: So the further away
- 9 you get from the light, the less it is.
- 10 A Yes.
- 11 HEARING EXAMINER: Does direction 12 matter?
- 13 A Obviously direction matters, but the 14 lights that I installed for Jeff there was 15 approximately two and a half years ago, three 16 years ago, as a favor to him when I put them in 17 for him, these cast light at, basically, I'm 18 going to say, 180 degrees.
- 19 HEARING EXAMINER: So the building is 20 flush out?
- 21 A For flush out, but it doesn't go above 22 where the light goes, where the light is. So all

- 1 prefer anything higher than 3,500 Kelvin because
- 2 to me it's too bright in my own house, like
- 3 inside my house. Outside, you obviously want to
- 4 have a little bit more visibility, but the
- 5 higher the spectrum you go the blue the light6 is.
- 7 HEARING EXAMINER: That's very
- 8 helpful. I thank you so much. I appreciate your
- 9 time.
- 10 A Thank you.
- 11 HEARING EXAMINER: If there is no one
- 12 else who is here to testify, I think we can now
- 13 move to closing argument. We will start with 14 the applicant.
- 15 CLOSING STATEMENT OF PETITIONER
- MR. RUHLEN: Thank you. We appreciate
- 17 the opportunity to present the case today. We
- 18 would submit that through the evidence and the
- 19 testimony presented we have demonstrated that
- 20 the insurance proposal for landscape contractor
- 21 use on a property that will be able to meet the
- 22 standards and requirements of the zoning

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- 1 the light goes down from there.
- 2 HEARING EXAMINER: So it is down and
- 3 out?
- 4 A Yes, pretty much.
- 5 HEARING EXAMINER: That's very
- 6 helpful.
- 7 A Then the one that is in the furthest
- 8 building back, that one is up maybe about 15
- 9 feet up in the air, but pointing down also. I 10 don't know if that answers your question.
- 11 HEARING EXAMINER: It actually does.
- 12 It's very helpful. Obviously, it is not
- 13 measured in distance, but the impact, it's a
- 14 little bit of practical common sense, but I
- 15 still like to hear testimony.
- 16 A The color spectrum of that is 5,000 17 Kelvin. The way the light is nowadays with 18 LEDs, the lower the Kelvin rating, the yellower 19 it is.
- 20 HEARING EXAMINER: So you always want 21 a lower yellow.
- 22 A It depends on what it is for. I don't

- 1 ordinance and the requested variance will also
- 2 satisfy the required findings.
- 3 As we have heard the petitioner has
- 4 reviewed the conditions proposed for the use by
- 5 the Planning Board and staff and agrees with
- 6 them.
- The petitioner believes that these
- 8 conditions will provide an appropriate framework
- 9 for operating the business moving forward as
- 10 well as parameters procedures for addressing
- 11 future concerns or issues.
- The petitioner also believes that
- 13 having those procedures in place would be
- 14 mutually beneficial for both him and his
- 15 neighbors.
- With respect to the issue of
- 17 stormwater, the petitioner's experts have
- 18 explained that the property is located inside of
- 19 and is just one part of a larger drainage area
- 20 that naturally empties to a low point located to
- 21 the south and west of the subject property.
- 22 Petitioner can only address these

1 contributions to that larger drainage problem,

- 2 but the petitioner is eager to do this and with
- 3 the conditional use they are proposing the
- 4 stormwater management facilities that we have
- 5 been speaking about to address their
- 6 contribution.

To say more simply. With the proposed

- 8 stormwater facilities, the petitioner's
- 9 application becomes an opportunity for those
- 10 measures to be implemented and without the
- 11 application being approved the petitioner's
- 12 opportunity is going to be missed and the
- 13 existing improvements will remain as accessories 14 to the residential use.
- The petitioner, as we have heard, has 16 proposed fencing in the rear and western lot 17 lines and would be amenable to a condition for 18 the fencing.
- 19 The petitioner and its experts 20 testified that fencing is at the six-foot height 21 will be more effective in their opinion than the 22 cross section of the zoning ordinance would

1 concerns that otherwise is not present.

- For all of those reasons, we
- 3 respectfully request approval for the
- 4 application subject to the conditions of
- approval and for the variance and we thank you
- 6 for your time.
- HEARING EXAMINER: Thank you.
- CLOSING STATEMENT OF OPPOSITION
- MS. McINTURFF: You are probably not 10 as surprised to hear that Mr. Lyles is opposing
- 11 the granting of the conditional use permit and
- 12 the variances.
- 13 I am not going to repeat all the 14 testimony that we have heard today that is on 15 the record which is certainly before you after 16 sitting here we have heard at all.
- 17 In Mr. Lyles' opinion, and in my 18 opinion, they simply have not met the standards 19 required to obtain a conditional use permit or 20 the variances.
- We hear petitioner on his suggestions 22 at this point to remedy his past errors which is

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- 1 require and would establish privacy, but
- 2 frankly, again, for the mutual benefit of the
- 3 properties and do it in a faster way than the
- 4 planting section would.
- We understand that Mr. Lyles has
- 6 concerns about the application, but we would
- 7 emphasize that the petitioner has been operating
- 8 for a long time without these concerns emerging.
- 9 The long standing operation
- 10 demonstrates that the use has been largely
- 11 compatible and when the petitioner became aware
- 12 of the zoning violation, it began to take all of
- 13 the necessary steps to correct the issue and
- 14 that is why we are here when we have been going
- 15 through this process.
- 16 The petitioner believes that he has
- 17 been attentive to those concerns. It is
- 18 primarily reflected in the stormwater facility
- 19 plan, but it is also going to be other measures 20 that he is proposing to incorporate.
- With those measures this application 21
- 22 becomes a means to address some of these

1 this water flow, the lack of screening. There

- are a number of issues.
- 3 The hesitancy, one, is that these past
- 4 issues have got ignored for a number of years.
- Everyone has agreed that they had been
- 6 progressing and that it has been over years and
- during that time they were ignored. There is
- 8 concern in there that there is going to be no
- 9 follow through.
- 10 Even more than that is that the Board
- 11 did recognize this non-inherent impact due to
- 12 the existing development associated with the
- 13 requested use and that is the water runoff, the
- 14 water damage, that is being caused to his
- 15 property and they recommended that stormwater
- 16 management be had for each of the buildings east
- 17 of the development on Mr. Juneau's property.
- As we heard today in his proposed
- 19 stormwater management plan is that it is not
- 20 touching each of those properties as recommended
- 21 as it is capturing a piece of the water but not
- 22 from these existing buildings and these existing

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Transcript of Hearing Conducted on May 2, 2024

1 buildings were put in, in some cases, without

- 2 permits, without sediment control, without any
- 3 existing stormwater management so that this
- 4 would essentially continue in many ways along
- 5 the lines that it has been.
- That alone is a reason to deny the
- 7 conditional use permit, but there are other
- 8 reasons that we heard today as well.
- We have the building and permit
- 10 setbacks which are well within 50 feet of the
- 11 boundary lines. There is the excessive use of
- 12 vehicles throughout the day. There is obviously
- 13 a number of agricultural uses of this
- 14 neighborhood, but nowhere near the size, scope 15 or scale of Mr. Juneau's which is contributing
- 16 to the problems.
- It is simply not akin to the small mom 18 and pop shops that are operating in the area.
- There is cause for undue harm to the
- 20 neighbors through Mr. Juneau's use of his
- 21 property where he went ahead and did it. He did
- 22 not ask for permission, but his now begging for

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- 1 forgiveness?
- But in his request for forgiveness he
- 3 is not remedying the problems. That remains an
- 4 issue and it remains a reason why the
- 5 conditional use permit should be denied.
- If the conditional use permit is 6
- 7 denied, we simply can't permit the variances.
- But even assuming it is granted, the
- 9 variances should not be granted. There is simply
- 10 no reason why his building, his structures, have
- 11 to be right there on the property line.
- 12 He chose to put them there. It is not
- 13 some preexisting condition that he is trying to
- 14 work around. It is not a narrow land property. He has the biggest lot. There is a lot 15
- 16 of open space and open land there, but instead, 17 he chose to build right up to Mr. Lyles' line.
- But now he is begging for forgiveness,
- 19 instead of asking for permission for the 20 condition that he himself created.
- There is reasonable use without this 21 22 variance because there is plenty of land on

- 1 which Mr. Juneau can move his parking pads, can
- 2 move his commercial buildings on his lot that
- don't impact the use and enjoyment of the
- 4 neighbors.
- 5 Mr. Lyles is simply asking that Mr.
- 6 Juneau's request be denied.
 - HEARING EXAMINER: Thank you. That
- 8 completes testimony and that concludes the
- 9 hearing.
- 10 I did ask for those documents from
- 11 DPS, so notices of violation, and then any
- 12 confirmation of resolution of either citations
- 13 or notices of violation.
- Because this is not potentially within
- 15 your control when you have to get these from
- 16 DPS, what is the estimated time do you think
- 17 that it would take or do you have them?
- MR. RUHLEN: Mr. Juneau actually just
- 19 gave me some of them, but I would like to
- 20 correlate them back with the court cases to make
- 21 sure that we have got all the materials. I
- 22 think we can have them in the next week.
- - HEARING EXAMINER: Ten days is
 - sufficient?
 - 3 MR. RUHLEN: Not a problem.
 - HEARING EXAMINER: Normally, what I
 - would do at this point is we have identified
 - that the hearing is concluded. I am going to
 - leave the record open for ten calendar days.
 - Within those ten calendar days, if you
 - 9 could get those documents to me and please also

 - 10 provide them to the opposition and that will
 - 11 give the court reporter enough time to generate
 - 12 the transcript for me.
 - Upon receipt of the transcript which 14 generally comes on day ten, we will close the
 - 15 record.
 - 16 If you are unable to get the documents 17 within the next ten days, I do need you to reach
 - 18 out to Ms. Johnson.
 - 19 Actually, you can copy me on that
 - 20 because I believe she is going to be away during
 - 21 the next ten days. I don't want something to
 - 22 get missed.

Transcript of Hearing Conducted on May 2, 2024

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Normally, I would say no, don't talk to me at all, but in this instance because she	
3 might be away, please copy me on any email to	
4 her regarding the ability to get those	
5 documents.	
6 Upon the close of the record, a	
7 decision will be rendered within 30 days of the	
8 date that the record is finally closed so	
9 approximately 45 days from today.	
10 I will do my best to get this decision	
11 together. I make the final decision on the	
12 conditional use. However, the Board makes the	
13 final decision on the variance.	
14 I will make a recommendation. So no	
15 matter what happens, the variance will have to	
16 go before the Board for their final decision.	
17 I want to thank you, counsel. Great	
18 job, both of you. I appreciate all of the	
19 neighbors coming. Thank you so much.	
20 We are off the record.	
21	
22	
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1 CERTIFICATE OF COURT REPORTER	
2	
3 STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA	
4 COUNTY OF CRAVEN:	
5	
6 I, Thomas S. Hubbard, Jr., do hereby	
7 certify that the foregoing proceedings were reported	
8 and transcribed by me the undersigned of the	
9 above-styled cause and constitute a true and	
10 accurate record of the herein proceedings.	
11	
12 I further certify that I am not an	
13 attorney or counsel of any parties, nor a relative 14 or employee of any Commission Member or counsel or	
15 party connected with the herein proceedings nor am	
16 I financially interested in the action;	
17	
18 - 50.00	
T TOO S	
119 I nomas S. Hilipparo ir	
19 Thomas S. Hubbard, Jr. 20 Freelance Court Reporter North Carolina	
20 Freelance Court Reporter North Carolina 21	

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