# Stormwater Financing 101: Getting Started on Financing your Stormwater Management Plan

Joanne Throwe Environmental Finance Center University of Maryland Barboursville, WV July 9, 2013



### The Environmental Finance Center: Who are we?

• One of 10 University-based centers across the country



- Provide innovative solutions to
  managing the costs of environmental
  protection and improvement by
  assisting communities:
  - Address internal capacity
  - Develop organizational capacity
  - Assess, recommend, and implement watershed protection financing programs
  - Identify funding and financing opportunities
- Address the issue of "how to pay" by working across sectors



### Elements of a Comprehensive Stormwater Program

- 1. Administration
- 2. Billing and Finance
- 3. Public Education and Involvement
- 4. Technical Support
- 5. Engineering and Planning
- 6. Operation and Maintenance
- 7. Capital Improvements
- 8. Regulation and Enforcement



### **Stormwater Today: The Impact on WV Municipalities**

- Many new MS4 Phase II
- *More attention to Phase II communities than ever before*
- Additional responsibility to meet TMDL

All this at a time when too few resources and limited capacity available to properly manage stormwater





### **Don't Confuse Funding with Financing**

### FINANCING

- Provides a revenue
- Often dedicated
- Sustainable
- Can be invested

### FUNDING

- Provides a revenue
- Finite
- Volatile
- Unsustainable





# You are Not Alone: Stormwater Financing Around the Country

**Stormwater Utilities 2012** 



Source: Western Kentucky University Stormwater Utility Survey 2012; report surveys 1,314 stormwater utilities across 39 states and DC



## Where Does It All Begin?

- It starts with a comprehensive strategy
- Estimate annually but plan for the long term
- Make program transparent and cost effective
- Get to know your system above and below the ground
- Engage public early and often







### No Time like the Present to get Started

- Know what you are responsible for
- Get more familiar with your permit
- Develop a strategy short and long term
- Better organize your stormwater department
- Build a communication strategy
- Write, record, and document EVERYTHING!
- Create your Stormwater Champion(s) locally



### **Minimum Control Measures**

- 1. Public Education and Outreach: Written plan, list of targeted audiences
- 2. Public Involvement and Participation: Promoting, tracking and soliciting feedback
- 3. **IDD&E**: Tracking inspections/complaints
- 4. Construction Site SW Runoff Control: Track progress
- 5. Post Construction SW Management: Procedures, written O&M schedule
- 6. Good Housekeeping/Pollution Prevention: Cleaning schedule, training



### Understanding Local Stormwater Financing

### Is there:

Enough data?
Measurable goals?
A tracking system?
Ways to create efficiencies?

# Making the right decision should be:

- Fair
- Transparent
- Adequate revenue
- Equitable



# Easy Ways to Improve Program on a Limited Budget

- Get departments to communicate better
- Centralize stormwater responsibility
- Let others do some of the work for you without guilt
- Work together to reduce costs, create efficiencies



## **Technical Steps to Take Now**

- Step 1: Conduct assessment of current stormwater program through data gathering
- Step 2: Evaluate existing program structure; evaluate current capacity; identify trends in funding
- Step 3: Identify gaps in existing program and evaluate future needs
- Step 4: Determine where current program fits into LOS; evaluate exact costs
- Step 5: Develop and finalize proposed stormwater program budget for year 1; project out budget



# **Designing a Level of Service**

### **OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE**

• Maintain, inspect, and evaluate the effectiveness of BMPs owned or maintained by the City, as well as those which are privately owned. (General Permit)

Level of	Program Gap	Additional	Additional	Yearly/One	Capital
Service		Staff	Operating	Time	Cost
Options			Costs	Expense	
Minimal	Continue to perform maintenance on BMPs as resources become available.				
Medium	Systematically address backlog of City's BMP's maintenance by adding additional crew.	1 FTE to inspect a minimum of 1/3 of all facilities annually	\$30,000 - \$35,000 salary with and additional \$4,500 - \$5,250 in benefits; \$5,000 annually for vehicle maintenance	yearly	Cell phone, camera, laptop; \$40,000 for truck
High	Address all backlogs and add new BMPs around city.				

# Getting at True Costs is Important

Current\*

 Current Operating Expenditures
 \$376,600

True Costs for what is needed in 1 year is:
 \$1,638,945

 Current Capital Expenditures
 \$186,250

	(2013)	(2014)	(2015)	(2016)	(2017)	(2018)
Sub-Total	\$186,250	\$736,250	\$302,250	\$352,250	\$579,750	\$202,250
Capital Expen	\$186,250	\$766,250	\$317,250	\$352,250	\$579,750	\$202,250
Total Expend	\$562,850	\$1,638,945	\$1,211,762	\$1,269,125	\$1,519,547	\$1,165,542

Year 2

Year 3

Year 4

Year 5

Year 1



### **Document, Track, and Record!**

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## Have a Staffing Plan

Permit Activity Projection			Local Revenue From Permits				
Permit Application Growth Rates			State Share of Permit Fees	28%			
Year 1 - 5	4%						
Year 6 - 7	0%		Budget				
Year 8-11	3%		% of Current Year Permit Fees held in Reserve for future Monite	10%			
Number of New Permits in Year One							
less than 1 acre	20		Average # of Weeks Requiring Staff Activities for an Open Permit (Weeks)				
1-5 acre	10		less than 1 acre	10			
5 - 10 acre	4		1-5 acre	15			
10 - 50 acre	3		5 - 10 acre	30			
50 - 100 acre	2		10 - 50 acre	40			
greater than 100 acre	1		50 - 100 acre				
Staff Time Requirements Assumptions		am	greater than 100 acre	60			
Star Time Requirements Assumptions			Laber leflation Pate	404			
Time and Rea Construction Machine	60	minutes	Labor Innation Rate	470			
SWP Professional Time Per Weak Per Permit with an issues	20	minutes	SWP Labor Costs Vers One (Includes Taxes, Reporting etc.)	625			
SWP Protessional Time Per Week Per Permit with no issues		minutes	SWP Labor Costs Year One (Includes Taxes, Benefits, etc)	\$35			
E&S and Staff time per week per permit with no issues		minutes	E&S Houriy Labor Costs Year One (Includes Overhead)	\$35			
Support and Clerical Time per week per permit with no issues		minutes	Clerical Houriy Labor Costs Year One (Includes Overhead)	\$25			
Accepting Fees and Bonds, Enforcement, inspections, BMP Agreement Maintenance)		minutes	Administrative Hourly Labor Costs Year One (Includes Overhead)	\$35			
Increase in time per week due to a permit with issues Percentage of Permits that will have issues			Monitoring Hourly Labor Cost Year One (Includes Overhead)	\$35			
			Monitoring Support Hourly Labor Cost Year One Includes Overhead	\$25			
Percentage of permits with no issues	67%						
Professional Time per permits per Year for monitoring activites (Hrs)	1	Hours					
Support/Clerical Time per permit per Year for onitoring (Hrs)	0.5	Hours					



### **Output Flows into Budget**

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Assumptions

DashBoard 1

Labor Dashboard

### STAFFING BUDGET - Comparison of Estimated Revenue Fees to Estimated Labor Costs 2013 2014 2015 2016 2018 2019 2020 2021 2017 REVENUE Jurisdictional Share of Permit Fee Revenue Collected 58,824 61,177 63,624 66,169 68,816 71,568 71,568 71,568 73,715 75 Permit Fees attributable to future year monitoring transferred to reserve (5,882)(6, 118)(6, 362)(6, 617)(6, 882)(7, 157)(7, 157)(7, 157)(7, 372)(7 Net Fee Collection Current Year 52.942 55.059 57.262 59.552 61.934 64.412 64.412 64.412 66.344 68 Fee Collected in Prior Years transferred to current year for monitoring activities 588 1.200 1.836 2.498 3,186 3.902 4.617 5.333 6 Net Current Year Revenue from Permit Fees 52,942 55,648 58,462 61,388 64,432 67,598 68,313 69,029 71,677 74 EXPENSES Labor Estimated SWP 21,722 22,591 23,494 24,434 25,412 26,428 26,428 26,428 27,221 28, Estimated E&S 9.811 10,203 10,612 11.036 11,477 11,937 11,937 11,937 12,295 12. Estimated Clerical 7.008 7.288 7.580 7.883 8.198 8.526 8.526 8,526 8,782 9,0 Estimated Admin 6.563 6.825 7.098 7.382 7.677 7.984 7.984 7.984 8.224 8.4 Estimated SWP Monitoring 1,400 5,945 7,583 12,693 14,447 16. 2,856 4,370 9,286 10,989 Estimated Clerical Monitoring 500 1.020 1,561 2,123 2,708 3,316 3,925 4,533 5,160 5,8 Total Estimated Personnel Expense 47,003 50,783 54,715 58,803 63,055 67,478 69,789 72,101 76,128 80 Net (Permit Revenue Less Labor Costs Only) [Before Other 5.938 4.864 3.747 2.585 1.377 120 (1, 476)(3,072)(4.451)(5 Costs such as Equipment, Engineering, Education, Etc. Etc. Equipment and Support Expense Equipment Computer and Software Office Equipment and Supplies Vehicles and Gas Training/Travel/Per Diem ----Camera and GIS Montings and Outroach Education

Budget Dashboard

Staffing Budget Est Rev v. Est Labor

## **Project Approach: Technical Process**

- Conduct an assessment of current stormwater management program through data gathering
- > Evaluate existing stormwater management program
- > Identify gaps in program and evaluate future needs
- Develop proposed stormwater program budget
- Estimate revenue needs for short and long term
- Recommendations on supporting a sustainable stormwater program – find ways to pay for it!



# **Project Approach: Outreach Process**

One of the most important ways to achieve a high degree of accuracy in our recommendations is to engage local businesses and residents throughout the process

- Leveraged community partnerships
- Created an outreach and marketing plan
- Conducted outreach activities
- Collect and share information about stormwater with the community as a whole



### **Examples of Effective Outreach**

- Special activities
  - Economic Development Council
  - Chamber of Commerce activities
  - Homeowner Association picnics
  - Home and Garden Show
  - Local festivals
  - School or church events

- Stormwater written material
- City Meetings
- Stormwater Advisory Groups





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# Local Examples of Outreach for Stormwater



# KEEP TRASH, PET WASTE, AND CHEMICALS AWAY FROM STORMDRAINS.

### SUPPORT STORMWATER FINANCING IN OCEAN CITY







### **Storm Drain Graffiti**









### Mascots, Marketing Campaigns, and Commercials



EFC ....

### **Highlighting Stormwater at Local Events**







### **Stormwater Education Made Fun**









### **Engaging the Public Gives Them a Voice**





# **Public Engagement is Essential**



### Not Everything Has to Cost A Lot







### **Collaboration and Regionalization May be Key to Success**

- Create efficiencies through partnerships
- Think beyond municipal boundaries
- Explore innovative technologies together
- Share resources and combine local priorities





# Example of what Dedicated Funding can Do for you







Footer Text







**SAGE** is a donation-funded, municipality-managed program.

- Beautifies the local streetscape
- Helps to meet TMDL requirements through Green Infrastructure
- Alignment with local (municipality/city) stormwater management requirements

FFL.





### Cost Example

- 2 donors contribute \$12,500 each
- Garden construction \$5,000
- One year of maintenance is \$2,000
- \$25,000 renewal after 5 years







### Lynchburg, Virginia

- 55 sponsored gardens (10 acres total)
- \$1,200,000 5-year garden sponsorship value
- 92 donors
- 40 acres of meadow
- 1,300 street trees planted outside of gardens
- \$1.6MM in donations to date
- \$225,000 surplus currently in program account















### Thank you! Questions and Comments?

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