



# STORMWATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

**CDM  
Smith**

Presented to City Council

March 5, 2013

**TIMMONS GROUP**   
YOUR VISION ACHIEVED THROUGH OURS.

# Purpose of the Stormwater Advisory Committee (SWAC)

---

- To represent a wide cross-section of interest groups.
- To engage public participation.
- To make recommendations on the following:
  - Stormwater management priorities;
  - Appropriate and affordable level of service;
  - Recommendations of various stormwater management needs assessments, financial requirements, and funding mechanisms.

# Key Project Findings

---

1. Current resources are not sufficient to meet regulatory requirements
2. The SWAC arrived at consensus on the need for a higher level of service
3. A user fee (i.e. stormwater utility) is more equitable than a tax to fund stormwater management.

# The City's Stormwater Level of Service Should Be Increased to LOS 3

| Level of Service | Program Management   | Regulatory Compliance                              | Operation and Maintenance                                | Capital Improvement Projects                  | Total Program Cost |
|------------------|--|--|--|---|--------------------|
| 5                | \$341,000  | \$210,000  | \$958,000  | \$560,000                                     | \$2,069,000        |
|                  | Comprehensive Planning & Full Implementation Capabilities        | Exemplary Permit Compliance                        | Fully Preventative/<br>100% Routine                      | Prioritized / Fully-Funded                    |                    |
| 4                | \$226,000  | \$175,000  | \$719,000  | \$410,000                                     | \$1,530,000        |
|                  | Pro-Active Planning & Systematic CIP Implementation Capabilities | Pro-Active Permit Compliance                       | Mixture of Routine and Inspection Based                  | Phased Implementation / Allocated Budgets     |                    |
| 3                | \$149,000  | \$140,000  | \$599,000  | \$260,000                                     | \$1,148,000        |
|                  | Priority Planning & Partial CIP Implementation Capabilities      | Full Permit Compliance                             | Mixture of Inspection and Responsive Based               | Complaint, Inspection-Based / Moderate Budget |                    |
| Existing LOS     | \$54,000   | \$70,000   | \$479,000  | \$110,000                                     | \$713,000          |
|                  | Responsive to Customers Minimal Longrange Planning               | Minimal Permit Compliance Addressing Consent Order | Reactive-Based system Maintenance Annual Street Sweeping | Critical Needs Only / Minimum Budget          |                    |

Note\*: The SWAC ranked Master Planning and O&M as the highest priority program elements for the early phases of the improved stormwater program.

# The SWAC Recommends An Initial Rate of Approximately \$2 per ERU (i.e. billing unit)

## Revenue & Rate Requirements

| Level of Service | Estimated Annual Revenue Need | Stormwater User Fee (\$/mo) |
|------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 5                | \$2,069,000                   | \$6.50 - \$7.50             |
| 4                | \$1,530,000                   | \$5.00 - \$5.50             |
| 3                | \$1,148,000                   | \$3.75 - \$4.25             |
| Compliant        | \$915,000                     | \$3.00 - \$3.50             |

## SWAC Recommended Funding

| Fiscal Year | Stormwater User Fee (\$/mo) | Estimated Stormwater Utility Revenue | General Fund Contribution |
|-------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| FY13 - 14   | \$ 2.00                     | \$ 623,000                           | \$ 525,000                |
| FY14 - 15   | \$ 2.50                     | \$ 779,000                           | \$ 369,000                |
| FY15 - 16   | \$ 3.00                     | \$ 935,000                           | \$ 213,000                |
| FY16 - 17   | \$ 3.50                     | \$ 1,091,000                         | \$ 57,000                 |
| FY17 - 18   | \$ 4.00                     | \$ 1,247,000                         | n/a                       |

# Additional SWAC Findings/Recommendations

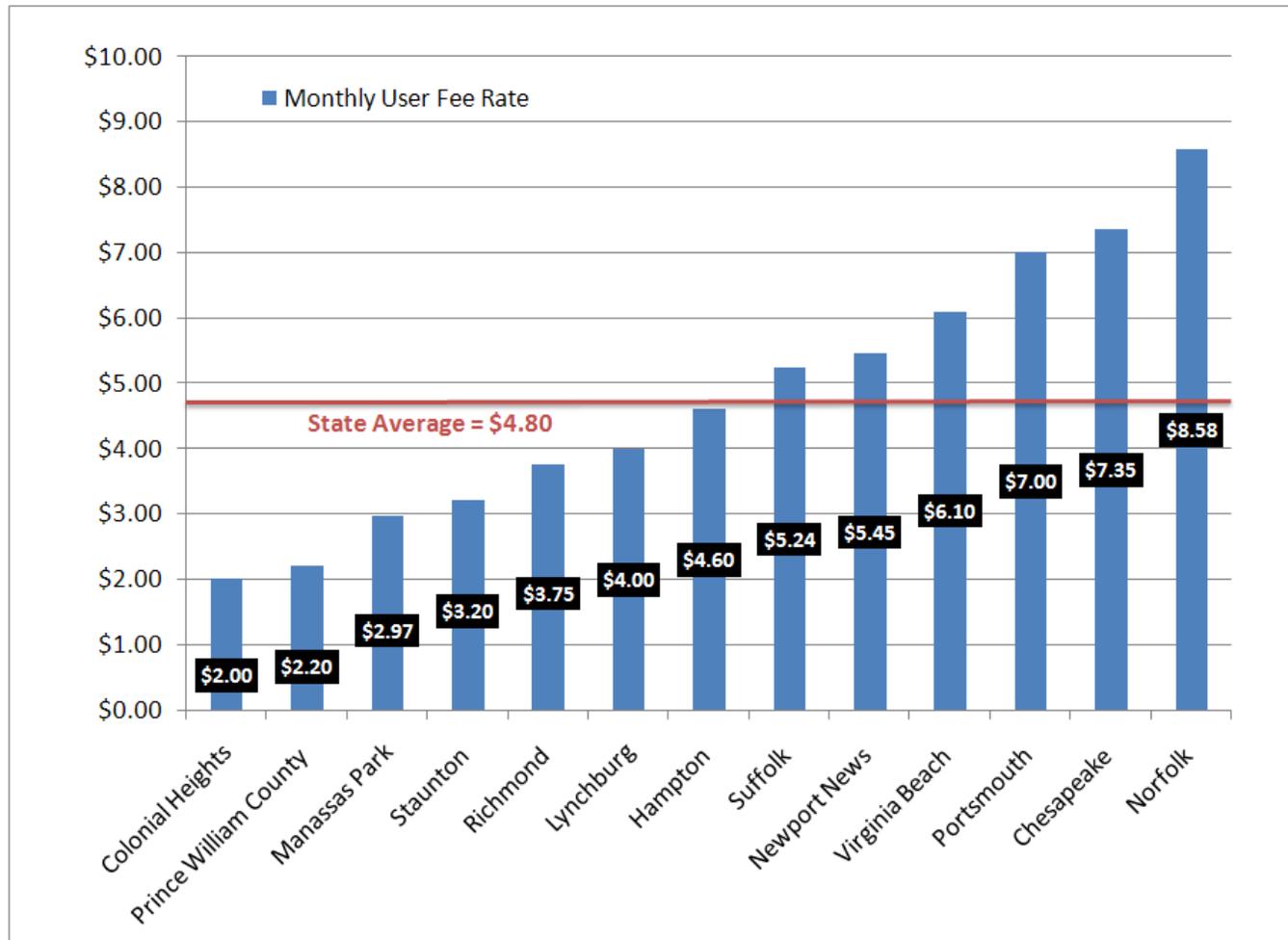
---

- Consensus was not reached by SWAC on the rate structure (i.e. Flat Rate vs. Tiers for Residential)
- The fee and level of service should be re-evaluated at the 5-year mark (to coincide with the NPDES permit cycle)
- A comprehensive education/outreach program regarding the new stormwater utility should be rolled-out to inform the public

# Trending Towards Dedicated Stormwater Funding Across Virginia

| City/County           | Est. Population | Funding Method | Status      |
|-----------------------|-----------------|----------------|-------------|
| Fairfax County        | 1,015,302       | Dedicated Tax  | Implemented |
| Virginia Beach        | 435,619         | User Fee       | Implemented |
| Prince William County | 379,166         | User Fee       | Implemented |
| Henrico County        | 296,415         | n/a            | Feasibility |
| Norfolk               | 229,112         | User Fee       | Implemented |
| Chesapeake            | 220,560         | User Fee       | Implemented |
| Arlington County      | 217,483         | Dedicated Tax  | Implemented |
| Richmond              | 192,913         | User Fee       | Implemented |
| Newport News          | 178,281         | User Fee       | Implemented |
| Hampton               | 145,017         | User Fee       | Implemented |
| Alexandria            | 143,885         | Dedicated Tax  | Implemented |
| Portsmouth            | 101,377         | User Fee       | Implemented |
| Roanoke               | 91,552          | User Fee       | Pending     |
| Suffolk               | 81,071          | User Fee       | Implemented |
| Lynchburg             | 72,000          | User Fee       | Implemented |
| Charlottesville       | 41,487          | User Fee       | Pending     |
| Petersburg            | 32,500          | n/a            | Feasibility |
| Staunton              | 23,853          | User Fee       | Implemented |
| Colonial Heights      | 17,800          | User Fee       | Implemented |
| Manassas Park         | 14,450          | User Fee       | Implemented |

# Comparison of Stormwater User Fee Rates in Virginia



# How is the Fee Calculated?

## *Residential Customers*



Single Family Units  
Multi-Family Units  
Condominiums  
Mobile Homes



Each is assigned 1 or less **Equivalent Residential Unit (ERU)** depending on type and number of dwelling units.

**Fee = ERU x Rate (\$ per ERU per month)**

# How is the Fee Calculated?

## *Non-Residential Customers*



**Non-Residential  
Impervious Area  
(6,348 sq. ft.)**



**Residential Average  
Impervious Area  
(2,116 sq. ft.)**

In this example, the non-residential customer pays three times the amount as the residential customer

$6,348 \text{ sq. ft.} / 2,116 \text{ sq. ft.} = 3 \text{ ERUs} \times \$2 \text{ per ERU per month} = \$6 \text{ per month}$

# Fee Credits Shall Be Offered for On-Site Reductions in Runoff and Pollution

- Structural Stormwater Controls for Quantity and/or Quality
  - Stormwater ponds, wetlands, low impact development (LID) practices
- Non-Structural Stormwater Controls
  - Permit holders, education, lawn care management, and maintenance programs

Note: Fee Credits are required by Virginia State Law (§ 15.2-2114) for Stormwater Utility Programs



# Additional Findings/Recommendations

- Staff supports an alternative recommendation to fund the program at the full LOS 3 starting in Year 1 (estimated at approximately \$3.75 - \$4.25 per ERU)
- A comprehensive education/outreach program regarding the fee has been established:
  - Monday, March 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 P.M. – Union Station, 103 East River Street (Wards 3, 4, and 5)
  - Thursday, March 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 P.M. – A. P. Hill Elementary School, 1450 Talley Avenue (Wards 6 and 7)
  - Friday, March 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 P.M. – Faith and Hope Temple Church, 1800 East Washington Street (Wards 1 and 2)

# Next Steps

---

- March 19 - Council Consideration Regarding Establishment of a Stormwater Utility (Ordinance Adoption)
- March 19 – Council Consideration of Stormwater Utility Fees
- June 1 – Development of Credit Policy
- July 1 - Stormwater Utility (enterprise fund) effective

Questions and Discussion

Thank You For Your Time