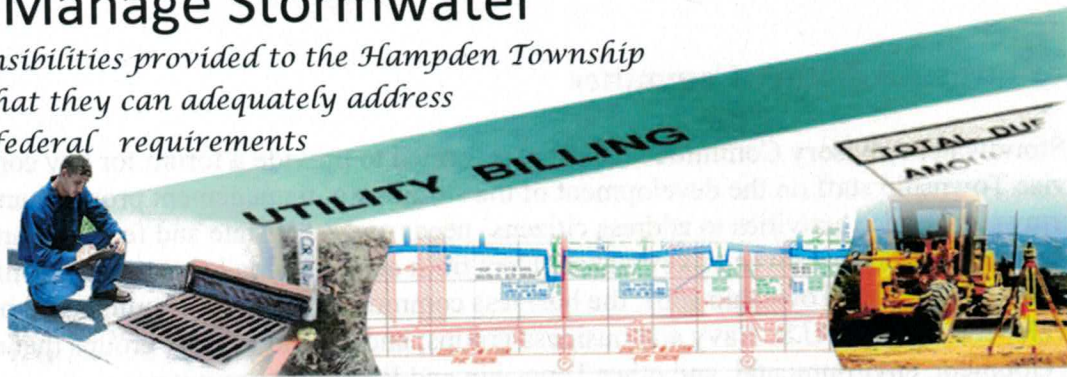


The Plan to Manage Stormwater

..... additional responsibilities provided to the Hampden Township Sewer Authority so that they can adequately address additional state and federal requirements and plan for future development.



In the March issue of the Township newsletter we began our discussion on the new stormwater management program in Hampden Township. We'd like to continue those discussions and provide some additional information to keep you informed on the progress made.

Authorization

The Hampden Sewer Authority initiated the process for long-term stormwater financial stability in December 2013. Following the passage of Pennsylvania Act 68 of 2013 the Township and the Authority began proactively exploring the creation and implementation of a stormwater program to fund necessary stormwater system improvements and meet its regulatory requirements. *A residential and commercial stormwater fee is being evaluated to support this program. Once established, all of the money collected will be used solely for the operation, maintenance, and management of the stormwater system.*

Program Goal

In addition to determining an appropriate level of service that residents and businesses can expect, the primary goals of the stormwater management program are to:

- Maintain aging stormwater system while providing for new growth;
- Provide a dedicated and reliable funding mechanism outside of the common tax base;
- Provide a fair and equitable allocation of costs to users;
- Serve to raise awareness of the stormwater program benefits and incentivize behaviors and construct projects to minimize runoff and protect water quality; and
- Maintain affordability while simultaneously meeting regulatory requirements.

Program Facts

As a Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4), Hampden Township is required by Section 2.g. of its permit to "... maintain adequate funding and staffing to implement and manage all provisions of ... (its) Stormwater Management Program." Hampden Township's stormwater management program and its dedication to providing proper stormwater services are critical in protecting the quality of life and property of local residents and businesses. A fiscally sound stormwater management program will allow the Authority to provide the services necessary in the prevention of flooding, maintenance of stormwater infrastructure, improvement of local water quality, and protection of the overall health of local streams and waterways within the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

Program Benefits and Public Meetings – April 8th and May 12th

All residents of the Township benefit significantly from properly operated and maintained stormwater and drainage infrastructure. Benefits include reduced flooding, site sustainability, reduced drainage issues, good neighbor/positive public relations and improved quality of life. To allow the general public an opportunity to help become more informed about the program we have scheduled two public meetings, one on **April 8th** and the second on **May 12th**. Both occur at **7:00 pm** in the Good Hope Middle School, 451 Skyport Road.

Stormwater Advisory Committee

A Stormwater Advisory Committee (SAC) was formed to provide a forum for key community stakeholders to advise Township staff on the development of the stormwater management program and recommend potential stormwater service activities to address citizens' needs and meet state and federal mandates. The SAC is composed of representatives of key stakeholders from across a broad spectrum of community interests including residents; Hampden Township staff; the business community, including commercial property owners, developers/ builders, U.S. Navy and business groups; and special interest groups that represent economic development, environmental, and other Township and Regional committees.

Frequently Asked Question

The proposed Hampden Township Stormwater Management Fee will be a dedicated funding source to address stormwater infrastructure improvements, meet regulatory compliance, minimize flooding issues, and create cleaner water for our community. Some frequently asked questions about the fee are addressed below:

How do I affect stormwater runoff?

If you have a roof, driveway, parking lot or other impervious surface on your property you impact the amount and quality of stormwater that runs off the property. Also, household tasks such as car washing and use of fertilizer can impact stormwater quality.

How much will I be billed for the stormwater fee?

While everyone with buildings, pavement and other impervious surfaces on their property will pay the fee, the amount will differ between residential and non-residential areas. Single family residential properties will pay a quarterly fee estimated to be in the range of \$10-16 (evaluation of financial requirements is ongoing). All non-residential properties will pay a multiple of that fee based on the impervious surface area of their property since runoff and pollution increases as the amount of impervious surface area on a property increases.

How did you come up with the cost of the stormwater fee?

A 5-year capital improvement and operations/maintenance forecast was created. A list of known problems, scheduled maintenance and improvements to the existing drainage infrastructure, and projected operational costs and projects to comply with regulatory requirements were used as a basis for the forecast. A 5-year budget projection was developed to establish near-term funding needs.

How will residential and non-residential properties be billed?

For those properties with an existing wastewater or trash bill from the Township, the stormwater fee will appear as a separate line item on that bill. For those without a current utility bill from the Township, a new quarterly stormwater bill will be issued.

Will tax-exempt properties such as churches, non-profit organizations, and public utilities have to pay a stormwater fee?

Yes, tax-exempt properties are required to pay for other utility charges including electric, water and sewer and the stormwater fee is no different.

Where does the money collected from the stormwater fee go?

By ordinance, all stormwater fees will be used solely for the operation, maintenance, and management of the stormwater system.

Role of Our Citizens

Attend the public meetings. We will have maps at the public meetings so that you can help us to identify areas of concern for you and in your neighborhood. Get involved in environmental protection activities. Participate in watershed associations activities. Visit www.hampdentownship.us and follow the links for stormwater.