

WATER POLLUTION



Recognizing that Pennsylvania communities face increasing pressure to manage stormwater and protect residents from floods and pollution, the state legislature passed Act 68 in July, 2013. This law authorizes localities to create new stormwater authorities, or add stormwater responsibilities to any existing authorities that serve their residents.

FLOODS



The organizations that have created this brochure are all standing by to you explore this option and determine if it is right for your community. We have prepared the following materials for your use:

- Sample FAQs for you to customize and present to ratepayers
- A collection of photos to illustrate stormwater problems and solutions
- A customizable PowerPoint presentation that you can use to brief community groups and civic organizations

You can download sample briefing materials at:
<http://stormwater.pennsylvaniawatersheds.org>

SIX REASONS A STORMWATER AUTHORITY MIGHT BE RIGHT FOR YOUR COMMUNITY

Funding. Authorities can use the dollars for stormwater management, comply with state and federal requirements, and match grants.

Maintenance. Fee dollars can be used to maintain the stormwater system, reducing flooding and water pollution.

Choices. Fees can be set several ways to best address each community's situation.

Green Infrastructure. Stormwater funds can be invested in rain gardens, tree planting, wetland construction, stream improvements, etc.

Focus. Authorities can concentrate activities and funding exclusively on stormwater management, rather than all other responsibilities faced by municipalities.

Compliance. Many authorities already manage DEP and EPA pollution permits and other regulations that will impact stormwater management responsibilities.

Funding and content for this brochure provided by:



STORMWATER AUTHORITIES

A new option for Pennsylvania local governments to protect your water supplies, reduce floods, and improve their communities.

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WILL RESIDENTS SUPPORT A NEW FEE?

Our research found that a majority of residents will most likely accept a fee if you:

1

Call it a "Pollution Control and Flood Reduction Fee" or something similar. The name should emphasize the benefits rather than describe the problem.

2

Clearly show ratepayers how the money will be invested. Most importantly, use "before and after" photos such as you see here.

3

Present the fee as a solution to local problems and providing local benefits, and not as a way to meet Chesapeake Bay or other regulatory requirements.

4

Present the fee in its smallest increment: (e.g. per household per month) rather than it's overall target (e.g. \$3 million over 5 years).

5

Affirm to ratepayers that the money will be used for its stated purposes -- and that the funds will not be "raided" for other priorities.

HOW CAN I LEARN MORE?

The Pennsylvania Municipal Authorities Association, Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs, Pennsylvania Association of Townships are all conducting workshops throughout the year to help their members evaluate this new option. There are a variety of private consulting firms standing by to help local governments research their individual situation, determine whether a stormwater authority is the right fit, and design the program if it is.

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CURRENT CONDITIONS



Storm sewer pipes are clogged or corroded, so they handle less water runoff.



Rain falls onto streets and sidewalks. Most of it becomes runoff.



Eroding streambanks fill streams with mud, and these streams flood more quickly.

IMPROVED STORMWATER MANAGEMENT



Storm sewer pipes in good repair can handle larger volumes of water runoff.



Rain falls into trees and other green areas, so less of it becomes runoff.



Restored streams retain their soil and flood less often.