

## Notes from the Stormwater User Fee Feasibility Study Public Meeting #1 – March 21, 2018

11 attendees, 3 staff, 2 consultants, 1 SAC member

Public Questions / Comments *and Response in Italics:*

1. Biggest problem experienced is water off the highway. How is that addressed in the program? *Other MS4 permit holders will also be included within the considerations.*
2. Developers have spent money on planning and construction of stormwater basins. Are we double dipping on the fees? Is that fair? *If a need exists for infrastructure improvement, what is the best way to fund it? If not a fee, then it would be an existing tax fund. More recent developments have a component of water quality that doesn't exist in developments prior to 2003.*
3. Feels that stormwater costs should be used out of the current revenue funds.
4. Observations of source water and groundwater. Karst geology leads to stormwater entering the groundwater. This leads to a reduction in the impacts of stormwater on the Township system. Do the cost estimates presented take into consideration the cost saving aspects of the geology of the region that doesn't make it to the system? Can the fee structure consider the geology of the individual properties? *Is there a different level of service in the rural area verses the urban area? There has not been any correlation to soils. There is concern about not making the program too difficult to manage.*
5. Cost estimates provided are to provide the highest level of service. Feels that the level of service can be reduced without sacrificing the overall quality of the stormwater program and therefore reduce fees. *Program costs as presented are the high level of service. There is an on-going process to review and finalize.*
6. It is important in fee structure formula to have incentive for property owners to mitigate stormwater impacts with constructing BMPs by offering a credit on the stormwater fee. Recharging stormwater into the ground is important too to replenish the aquifer for drinking water. *The type of BMP needs to be considered since some BMPs don't infiltrate stormwater.*
7. Consider strongly the impact that developers have had on the stormwater system; specifically, the requirements to meet permitting and ordinance requirements. When developing assessment fees consider what property owners have already paid for the stormwater infrastructure that does not need repairs. *Developer/property owners to pay for capital costs, but not maintenance or rehab. That is what this fee is for – address needs as presented.*
8. Consider the way staff currently operates. Can part time staff be used to complete some tasks, or existing staff, instead of hiring new employees? *No response.*
9. How will fee be assessed to homeowner associations? *Fee would be developed for parcels, so it will depend upon how the association is created.*
10. For private BMPs that remain private, how can credits be gain for those BMPs? *That has not been determined. Some conveyance systems that are private carry public MS4 stormwater and the private entity that owns the system is not able to maintain the system properly.*
11. Would Township assist with helping where upstream stormwater discharges onto downstream property? *Depends upon policy decision of Board of Supervisors.*
12. Discussion has prompted ideas to compartmentalize the different costs associated with the program. Some are mandated by DEP, others are conveyance, etc. Permit compliance requirements are something that BOS must deal with. Conveyance has been dealt with well in

the past. *Currently some of the conveyance improvements have been funded with street improvements. That has not addressed any of the stormwater facilities that are not in the street.*

13. This feels more like an impact fee verses a user fee. *No response.*

*Definitions (added to notes after meeting):*

*An **impact fee** is a fee that is imposed by a local government on a new or proposed development project to pay for all or a portion of the costs of providing public services to the new development. Impact fees are considered to be a charge on new development to help fund and pay for the construction or needed expansion of offsite capital improvements. These fees are usually implemented to help reduce the economic burden on local jurisdictions that are trying to deal with population growth within the area.*

***User Fee** a fee charged for the use of something, as one charged by a city government for its services, as garbage collection or fire protection. The charge of a **user fee** is to recover the cost of providing certain services to the public that confer a benefit to the recipient (e.g., stream health, flood protection, improvement to water quality).*