The Maine Drain: Stormwater Management Strategies and Solutions
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Portland’s Approach

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Clean Water – Clean Growth

“You can’t build a vibrant economy on crumbling infrastructure”
Our Obligations

Clean Water Act

- National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES).
  - EPA Combined Sewer Overflow Control Policy (CSO)
  - EPA Sanitary Sewer Collection System and Dry Weather Overflow Policy
- Maine Pollution Discharge Elimination System (MEPDES)
  - Municipal Separated Storm Sewer Systems (MS4)
  - Residual Designation Authority (Long Creek)

Maine Law

- Maine DEP, Chapter 570, Combined Sewer Overflow Abatement rules
- Combined Sewer Overflow Long Term Control Plan
- Urban Impaired Streams (4 in Portland)
- Provision for waiver where local program addresses stormwater
Challenges Overcome

- 1991 – City of Portland and Portland Water District enter into Consent agreement with Maine DEP to address overflows
- Since then over 100 projects completed
- 11 of 43 overflows completely eliminated
- Since 1993, reduced overflow volumes by 42%
- Separated over 20 miles of pipe.
- Cost $70 Million
The Next Challenge

The City Council formed a Task Force to figure out:

- How to PAY FOR $170,000,000 CSO investments over next fifteen years and an expected tripling of the sewer rate during that time.
- How to PAY FOR maintaining the stormwater and combined systems
- Possible funding sources included
  - Sewer fees
  - Property taxes; or a
  - Modified sewer rate structure
- The Task Force considered

**Fairness and Equity.**
Where Will Investments be Made?

- 15 Million Gallons of storage to reduce combined sewer overflows
- Upgrades at wastewater treatment plant to improve performance
- New storm and sewage collection lines to reduce back-ups
- Stormwater system improvements
Why These Investments?

- Priority Separation/Storage Alternative Exceeds Objectives for Less Cost
- Tier III study estimated $525M for conventional sewer separation VS. $170M for integrated approach
- Enhances Pollution Control VS. Separation

*Source: PWSA Basis of Cost for CSO Control Technologies, March 2007
How Do We Pay Now?

Currently, the sewer fee is the ONLY way to pay for wastewater system improvements.

The sewer fee is set based on sewer discharged into the system.

Only properties who pay for water pay a sewer bill.
Notes:
- Fee in Dollars per Month
- MGY = Millions of Gallons Per Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Sewage</th>
<th>Runoff</th>
<th>Sewer Fee</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Apartment</td>
<td>6 MGY</td>
<td>3 MGY</td>
<td>$385</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industry</td>
<td>20 MGY</td>
<td>10 MGY</td>
<td>$2,768</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government</td>
<td>0.1 MGY</td>
<td>1 MGY</td>
<td>$761</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parking Lot</td>
<td>0.0 MGY</td>
<td>3 MGY</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>House</td>
<td>0.07 MGY</td>
<td>0.04 MGY</td>
<td>$41</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Task Force Recommendation

Split the current fee into two parts.

Sewer fee pays for sewage system and half of combined system costs.

Stormwater fee pays for storm sewer and half of combined system costs.
**RECOMMENDATION**

**Apartment**
- Sewer Fee = $261
- Stormwater Fee = $48
- versus
- Sewer Fee Only = $385

**House**
- Sewer Fee = $28
- Stormwater Fee = $13
- versus
- Sewer Fee Only = $41

**Industry**
- Sewer Fee = $1,883
- Stormwater Fee = $438
- versus
- Sewer Fee Only = $2,768

**Government**
- Sewer Fee = $518
- Stormwater Fee = $341
- versus
- Sewer Fee Only = $761

**Parking Lot**
- Sewer Fee = $0
- Stormwater Fee = $55
- versus
- Sewer Fee Only = $0

**Combined (Stormwater & Sewage)**

**Note:**
- Fees in Dollars per Month
- Future fees are for example properties and will vary by impervious cover and sewer use.
Property Owners can lower their stormwater fee if they make site improvements that reduce stormwater impacts from their property.
Is This Uncommon?

This is NOT a novel concept.
Over 1000 municipal entities are already doing this.
How It Works?

- All revenue is dedicated; called an Enterprise Fund.
- Dedicated funds for sewer and stormwater improvements, maintenance and operations; mandated by local law.
- Doesn’t compete with Police, Fire, Schools and other Public Services.
Next Steps

- Finance Subcommittee Considers Modified Rates
- Sewer Ordinance Revised
- City Identifies Operational Efficiencies
- City Considers Reprioritization of ALL Clean Water Act Requirements to Reduce Overall Spending and Maximize Clean Water Benefit (Integrated Planning)
- Public Outreach

Visit www.portlandmaine.gov/sustainablestormwaterfunding.htm
CLEAN WATER equals CLEAN GROWTH

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