Saving Costs through a Regional Approach to Water Infrastructure

Linking Water Infrastructure to Community & Economic Development in Smaller Places

Sustainable Communities Learning Network Workshop Wichita, KS, October 29th 2014

> Prepared by: Monica Billig, Program Manager University of Maryland Environmental Finance Center <u>www.efc.umd.edu</u>



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Session Overview

- 1. Regional Context
- Cost Saving Strategies to Managing Water Infrastructure (Stormwater)
- 3. Spectrum of Regionalization
- 4. Case Stories of Varying Degrees of Regionalization
- 5. Discussion Barriers & Opportunities to Regionalization



1. Regional Context





Local Challenges to Managing Stormwater

- Responsibilities dispersed amongst various departments/organizations
- Large capital costs and evolving landscape --
 - Aging infrastructure
 - Future development/growth
 - Water quality BMP implementation
- Long term maintenance
- Need for better data and tracking
- Requires staff capacity
- Extensive public education/outreach required



2. Cost Saving Strategies to Managing Water Infrastructure (Stormwater)

Green versus gray infrastructure

Asset management

Regionalization

Cost Saving Strategies to Managing Stormwater

(1) Green versus gray infrastructure

- Reduce implementation costs
- Deliver benefits that serve multiple community priorities
- Engage the private sector
- Spur behavior change through the marketplace
- Provide return on investment to local economies



Cost Saving Strategies to Managing Stormwater

(2) Asset management – do more with less

- Understand and visualize where assets are located
- Conduct condition assessment of assets
- Prioritize asset investments -- operations & maintenance and replacement
- Communicate with decision makers





Cost Saving Strategies to Managing Stormwater

(3) Regionalization

- Create efficiencies
- Fill resource and capacity gaps
- Tap into existing resources and capacity
- Become more attractive and competitive to funders





3. Spectrum of Regionalization



4. Case Stories of Varying Degrees of Regionalization

Lancaster City & County, Pennsylvania

City of Memphis & Shelby County, Tennessee

Blair County, Pennsylvania

Lake County, Ohio

Lancaster City, Pennsylvania



saveitlancaster.org

- Making the business case for GI
 - Cadillac model that does not extend to rural neighbors
- Pilot projects jump started comprehensive, long term program ultimately funded by a stormwater utility fee





6 Municipalities in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania



Project goals --

- Assess each municipality's stormwater program and provide financing recommendations to help improve the current program to create a more comprehensive and sustainable program over time.
- 2. Identify collaborative opportunities across municipalities to reduce implementation costs.

6 Municipalities in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania

Project findings (related to goal 2) --

- Peer-to-peer sharing sessions were most valuable for project participants
- Greatest opportunity for collaboration is through education and outreach
- Move toward regionalization in long term
- Additional planning and investment required by all 6 municipalities
- Opportunities to reduce costs through collaboration varies by geographic location, existing relationships, political will

6 Municipalities in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania

Project culminated in multi-municipal forum hosted by EFC and the Lancaster County Clean Water Consortium...



Don't let it end there. Keep the lines of communication open.

City of Memphis and Shelby County, Tennessee



Mid-South Regional Greenprint & Sustainability Plan

Mid-South Regional Greenprint Vision

How can projects be prioritized across a regional landscape?

What are the opportunities to implement this vision using a regional approach?



City of Memphis and Shelby County, Tennessee

Conducted 1-day workshop with Office of Sustainability, municipal representatives, and County representative to help move their vision forward





The Office of Sustainability is in unique position to *track* and *measure* all projects in region and fill gaps to ultimately realize Greenprint vision

13 MS4s in Blair County, Pennsylvania



Multi-faceted effort to build a **green infrastructure program** and **create sustainable stormwater solutions** across **all 13 MS4s** in Blair County.

This project builds on the Center for Watershed Protection's work to help develop TMDL and Chesapeake Bay Pollutant Reduction Plans.

Lake County, Ohio



Regional Stormwater Management Program

- 13 member communities contract with County Stormwater Management Department
- Pay impervious-based stormwater fee to County and receive services defined in MOU

Two levels of participation --

- Level 1 Basic services received
- Level 2 Covers cost of all Minimum Control Measures under MS4 permit; additional funds given back to community

5. Discussion: Barriers and Opportunities to Regionalization

- What are your region's barriers to managing stormwater, or water infrastructure, regionally?
- Do you have examples to share of successful regional approaches (anywhere along the spectrum)?
- What are the current and future opportunities for managing water infrastructure regionally?

Creating a solution: Thinking long term

First hand observation reveals...



Thank you!

Questions? Contact:

Monica Billig Program Manager Pennsylvania Satellite Office <u>mbillig@umd.edu</u> 240-786-8664

