

Ann Arbor Stormwater Level of Service and Rate Analysis Advisory Group Meeting Summary Friday, September 30, 2016 – 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.



1. Participants (Attachment #1)

2. Welcome and Introductions – Jennifer Lawson

- a. Jennifer welcomed the group and then led the group on a tour of the Storm Crew Yard.

3. Storm Crew Yard Tour – Wheeler Service Center

- a. The group was introduced to the pipeline inspection crew that run the camera truck. This crew is in the field everyday surveying sanitary and stormwater piping. The videos are saved and reviewed to determine where maintenance and repair are required. If an issues is discovered during a survey it is generally addressed by the crew immediately. They use an iBot brand of robot that has interchangeable wheels to accommodate pipe size.
- b. The group viewed a sewer Vactor truck. The trucks cost in the neighborhood of \$350k, water Vactor trucks cost approximately \$450k. The trucks generally last 10 years, they perform storm line cleaning on a 5-year rotation and do jetting every day. A crew of 6 are dedicated to running Vactors. During storm events the Vactor is out cleaning problem areas.
- c. The refuse area is used to collect the refuse collected by the Vactors, it is dumped, filtered and has street sweepings added to it to dry up the sediment. The dried remnants go to landfill because it is considered hazardous waste. County and Township trucks also dump here and are charged accordingly.

4. Stormwater Survey Results

- a. A 12 question survey was posted on A2 Open City Hall during the month of August.
 - i. 109 responses were received - 107 residents and 2 business owners
 - ii. Approximately 80% stated that they were aware of the stormwater utility.
 - iii. Utility areas of importance were ranked as follows: Operations and Maintenance, Capital Improvements, Urban Forestry and Street Trees, Regulatory Compliance, Green Streets and Education/Outreach.
 - iv. Information is received about the utility primarily via email, A2 website, and Mlive.com.
 - v. Respondents have used landscaping, rain barrels and rain gardens to address stormwater on the property.
 - vi. Important stormwater utility principles ranked as follows: Protect public health, safety, welfare, and environment; use green infrastructure; consider climate change and resiliency; educate and inform the public about stormwater management.
 - vii. Approximately 50% of the residents know what they pay for stormwater services.
 - viii. The number one concern regarding stormwater is flooding of dwellings and structures (48%). Followed by pollution of rivers and streams (26%) and maintaining stormwater infrastructure (14%).
 - ix. Approximately 50% of respondents are involved in green infrastructure projects.
 - x. 62 respondents expressed ideas for improvements related to Infrastructure, O&M, Ordinance/Permitting/Planning/Regulatory, Outreach and Education, and Stormwater Funding.
 - xi. 44 respondents had suggested ways to convey information related to stormwater.

- b. Advisory Group Comments/Observations:
 - i. SW Utility Principles
 - 1. The Housing Code doesn't permit Xeriscaping or to let grass grow to manage stormwater.
 - a. Jennifer will review the code to understand the parameters.
 - ii. Infrastructure Improvements
 - 1. Address Allens Creek flooding on old west side.
 - 2. Consider how stormwater depth is measured and addressed.
 - 3. Review EPA report on resilient communities and how they deal with stormwater at the source. It was noted that Ann Arbor is heralded as a leader in addressing stormwater issues.
 - 4. Consider permanent gauges for sanitary and stormwater to increase data and reduce spending on temporary gauges.
 - iii. O&M Improvements
 - 1. It is challenging to clean 23,000 catch basins in the City.
 - iv. Ordinance/Permit/Planning/Regulatory Improvements
 - 1. Regarding the survey comment about subscribing to FEMA floodplain process: City/Village/Townships can opt-out/in from FEMA floodplain coverage. Ann Arbor has recently become a FEMA Community Rating System partner.
 - v. Outreach & Public Engagement Improvements
 - 1. Marker kits are available from the City to mark storm drains prominently.
 - 2. Suggestions to promote green infrastructure programs:
 - a. Magnetic signage on buses, City vehicles that highlights gallons of stormwater addressed, pounds of dirt/metals/hazardous waste kept from the river.
 - b. Outreach to schools. Ann Arbor participates in Ann Arbor Public Schools Urban Hydrology classes and invites students on field trips.
 - c. Get good stories into the press!
 - d. Tie into Riverfront Cascades trail signage.
 - vi. Other Improvements
 - 1. Make the stormwater budget more visible so that people know what the funding is spent on.
 - 2. Encourage U of M to be a partner in addressing stormwater issues.
 - a. U of M staff volunteered to present the most recent projects that included green infrastructure components at an Advisory Group Meeting.

5. Updates to Financial Forecasting Model

- a. Andy and Kyle explained that updates have been made to the model. Updates included CIP (stormwater model), Best Management Practices, CCTV frequency, Field Services, and Green Infrastructure Maintenance.
 - i. The CCTV budget recommendation is \$700,000 - \$425,000 for annual cleaning and \$275,000 for inspection. The premise is that 80% of the pipes are self-cleaning and 15-20% typically have issues. This is more than the city currently spends but provides a systematic and strategic approach to maintenance.
 - ii. This is a cash flow forecasting model. Adjustments can be made as they are available.
 - iii. The next step for the CIP regarding Asset Management is to prioritize projects.

6. Cost of Service Framework

- a. Presentation of functionalized costs – see Attachment #2.

7. Residential Impervious Area Analysis

- a. Updates of all parcels from 0 to 10,000 square feet - 10 years ago versus today. No disallocations were apparent and structure is fair.
- b. Key findings for residential:
 - i. Review of a graph depicting cost by tier indicated that break points indicate behavioral shifts at 1500 sf, 4500 sf, and 8500 sf.
- c. Key findings for commercial:
 - i. Tiers are capturing target fees.
 - ii. There appear to be fewer parcels than the CDM report indicated and data is being verified.
 - iii. Question: What does commercial pay? A: Approximately a 50-50% split by area.
 - iv. Question: Do other communities use a tiered model? A: Some have one size fits all but most are going to tiered systems.

8. Credit Discussion

- a. Potential updates to existing credits
 - i. Method for credit calculation on rain barrels.
 - ii. Focus on run-off to provide economic benefit for green infrastructure measures.
 - iii. Public education credits for schools.
 - iv. Tighten up credits to create economic incentives.
 - v. Look at credit for gray water use.
 - vi. Impervious area reductions for green roof for non-residential.
 - vii. Tree canopy credits for non-residential.
 - viii. Treebate program.
 - ix. Porous pavement.

9. Action Items

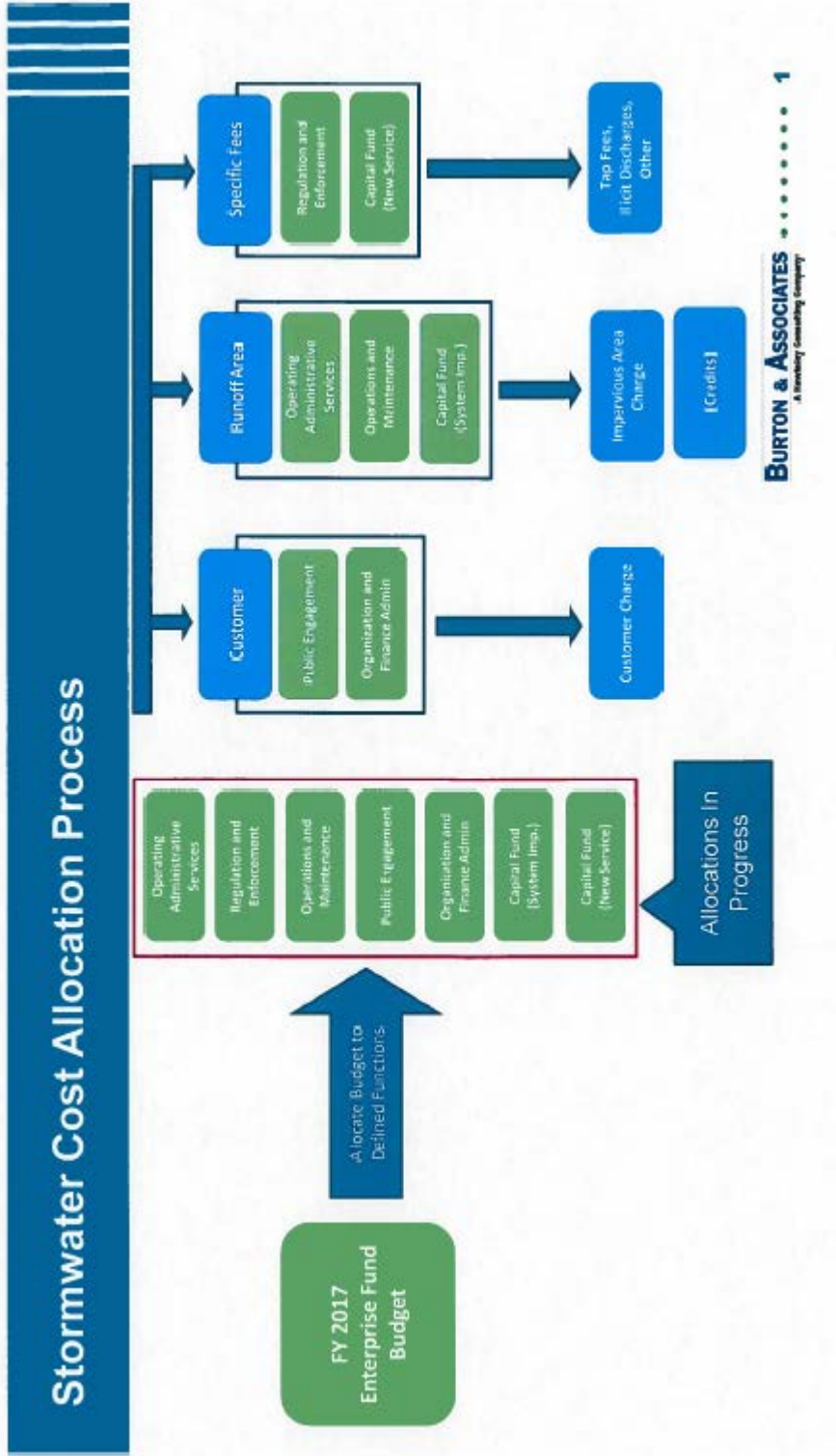
- a. Advisory Group asked to review and consider the following for discussion at the next meeting:
 - i. Tree Canopy Credit information – see Attachment #3.
 - ii. Survey results.
 - iii. Integration of Level of Service.
 - iv. Public outreach.
 - v. Cost Allocation Process.
 - vi. Consider of tier structure.
- b. Future Topics:
 - i. Permanent gauges
 - ii. U of M presentation on green infrastructure strategy and projects.
- c. Stormwater LOS and Rate Analysis Project Update at City Council Work Session on 10/10.

10. Next Meeting

- a. October 21 from 10 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Wheeler Service Center – 4251 Stone School Rd., Ann Arbor 48108.

ATTACHMENT #1 – Participant List

Last Name	First Name	Organization	Email
Community Stakeholders			
Boucher	Ed	WCA	rboucher@kotsangster.com
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Project Consultants			
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Stevens	Kyle	Hawksley Consulting	kyle.stevens@hawksley.com



ATTACHMENT #3 – Tree Canopy Credits

Tree Canopy Credits

Pros

- Encourages tree planting and tree maintenance
- Reduced impact on stormwater system (volume, water quality)
- Can encourage maintenance of existing mature trees during redevelopment
- Lowers overall cost of stormwater system

Cons

- Administrative burden of managing credits due to potential volume
- Revenue impacts from residential parcels depending on structure and availability of credit
- Unaware of tree canopy credit program offered to residential parcels
- How to handle old vs. new trees
- Auditing of tree canopy credits

Consider Alternative - Incentive Program (for all or residential parcels)

Treebate Program

- Goal of the program is to encourage new tree planting
- Property owners receive a rebate on the purchase of one or more qualifying trees
- Can be offered as a one-time credit on the utility bill or set amount of funds made available each year and provided on a first come first serve basis
- Specific guidelines on size and type of tree with specific \$ limits size