

# **Moon Township**

## **Stormwater Utility Fee**

### **Resident Informational Meeting**

**AUGUST 7, 2019**



Est. 1965

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**Lennon, Smith, Souleret  
Engineering, Inc.**

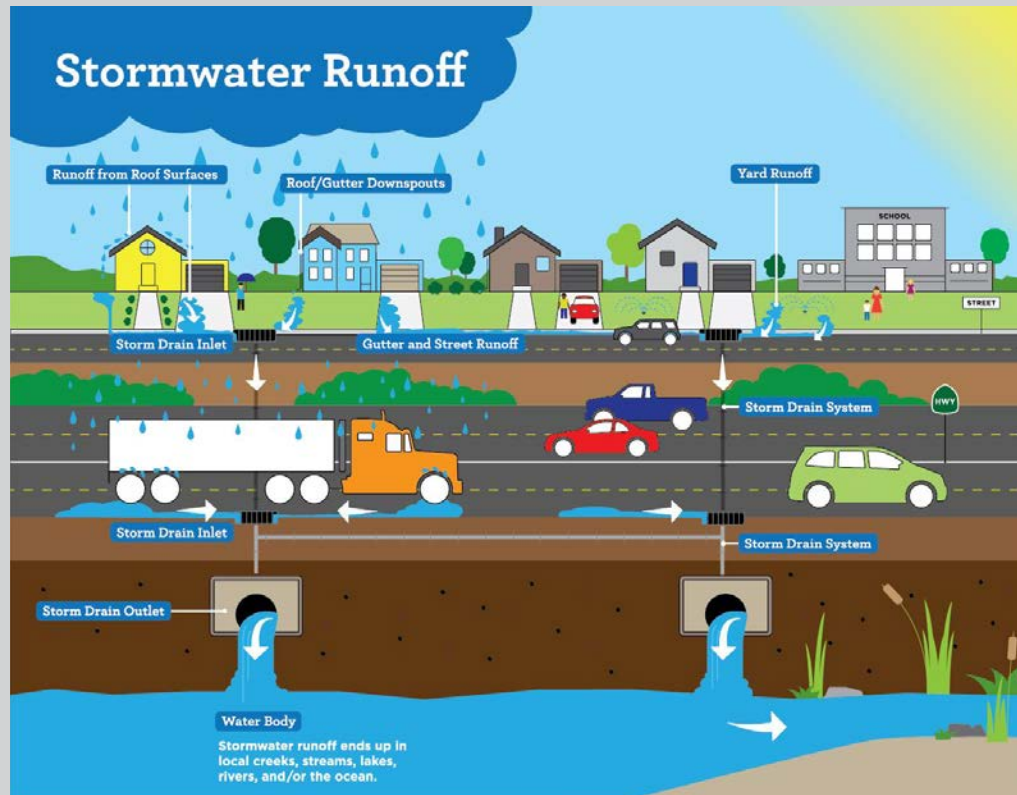
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Civil Engineers and Surveyors

# WHAT IS STORMWATER?

- **What is Stormwater Runoff?**

- Stormwater runoff is rainfall that flows over impervious surfaces that do not allow water to soak into the ground.



# WHAT IS STORMWATER?

## ● Impervious Surface and its Impact

- Impervious surfaces are hard surfaces that do not allow rain or snowmelt to infiltrate at the same rate as natural surfaces such as grass or dirt including rooftops, driveways, patios, parking lots, sidewalks and other man-made structures.
- Impervious surfaces increase the amount and speed of water runoff to become contaminated with pollutants before entering streams and other water bodies.



# STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

- **Operation and Maintenance**

- Moon Township is responsible for operation and maintenance of the Township's public stormwater infrastructure.
- This infrastructure must be maintained to manage impact of stormwater runoff and minimize potential negative effect of runoff to public and private property.
- The Township is required to maintain stormwater infrastructure in compliance with state/federal regulations.



# STORMWATER - REGULATORY COMPLIANCE

## ● Regulatory Compliance

- The Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) is regulated by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PaDEP) under the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) established as part of the federal Clean Water Act administered by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).
- Compliance with the NPDES Permit requires a Stormwater Management Plan designed to reduce the discharge of pollutants from the MS4 and protect water quality.
- These include unfunded mandates.

## ● NPDES MS4 Permit

- Initial Issuance 2003, First Renewal in 2013
- Most recent Renewal 2018 – Additional regulatory requirements (Pollutant Reduction Plan)



# STORMWATER – REGULATORY COMPLIANCE

## WHAT INITIATED THE NEED FOR THIS USER FEE?

- **The Township holds a DEP-issued, federally mandated MS4 permit. The 2018 MS4 permit includes provisions which has increased annual expenses including but not limited to:**
  - Provisions requiring that the Township to reduce the amount of pollutants discharge to impaired waters including construction of stormwater management facilities during this 5 year cycle (2018-2023) with new requirements anticipated in the next 5 year permit.
- **Pollutant Reduction Plans (PRPs) were developed as required by PADEP to meet the following requirements:**
  - All permittees that discharge to waters impaired for the following pollutants require PRPs:
    - Nutrients (Nitrogen and Phosphorus)
    - Sediment
  - The following reductions must be achieved within 5 years of permit issuance (March 2023)
    - Achieve 10% reduction in pollutant loading of sediment



# STORMWATER – REGULATORY REQUIREMENT

## WHAT INITIATED THE NEED FOR THIS USER FEE?

- Each Permittee will have 5 years to implement the Pollutant Reduction Plan (PRP) and construct the projects identified to achieve pollutant reductions



# WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF PROPER STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

- **Improved Water Quality**

- Recreation
- Wildlife Habitat
- Drinking Water Sources



- **Management of Runoff**

- Reduce Flooding
- Reduce impact of stormwater to public safety and property





# STORMWATER UTILITY FEE

- **Why is a Stormwater Utility Fee necessary?**

- Funds for managing the storm water system have typically come from the general fund
- This is no longer financially feasible given the following:
  - Increased severity of storm water runoff issues.
  - Increased regulatory requirements enacted in 2018 to comply with unfunded state and federal mandates.
  - Increased operation and maintenance costs for aging stormwater infrastructure.



# STORMWATER UTILITY FEE

- **Why is a Stormwater Utility Fee equitable?**

- In addition to financial infeasibility, funding of stormwater expenses through the general fund budget based on real estate tax income is not equitable.
- A separate stormwater utility fee establishes an equitable and fair system where users pay a proportionate share of stormwater costs.
- All properties benefit from the Township's stormwater infrastructure and water quality improvements. Properties that have the most impervious area have the largest impact.



# DEVELOPMENT OF AN EQUITABLE FEE STRUCTURE

- **Establishment of the ERU**
  - ERU (Equivalent Residential Unit) is the basis of the Fee Structure
  - The ERU represents the average impervious area on a typical single-family lot within the Township.
  - Imperious area properties were determined using aerial photography
  - Statistical analysis of Township results:
- **1 ERU = 3,800 square feet of impervious area**



# SUMMARY OF TOWNSHIP PROPERTIES

## ● **Basis of Fee Assessment**

- Single Family Detached Residential – 1 ERU
- Single Family Attached Residential – 0.5 ERU
- Multi Family (2-4 dwelling units) Residential Property – 0.5 ERU per dwelling unit
- Non-Single Family Residential Properties (i.e. commercial, industrial, institutional, multifamily greater than 4 units etc.) – Based on actual impervious area, converted to number of ERUs



# EVALUATION OF TOWNSHIP STORMWATER EXPENSES

- Township expenses were categorized for evaluation, though significant overlap exists between categories. Each category addresses different aspects of overall MS4 Permit Compliance:

- Administration
- Annual O&M
- Capital Improvements
- MS4 Permit Compliance

- **Summary of Expenses**

Expense Category	Anticipated Annual Expenses
Administration	\$39,093
Annual O&M	\$352,947
Capital Improvements	\$390,445
MS4 Permit Compliance	\$535,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,317,484.53</b>



# DETERMINATION OF ERU FEE AMOUNT

Enacted Stormwater Fees in Allegheny and Beaver County	
Municipality	Base ERU per Month
Brighton Township	\$5.50
Coraopolis Borough	\$7.00
Dormont Borough	\$8.00
Fox Chapel Borough	\$12.50
Monroeville	\$10.00
<b>Moon Township (Projected Fee)</b>	<b>\$5.50</b>
Mount Lebanon	\$8.00
New Brighton Borough	\$6.50
North Fayette	\$3.50
Whitehall Borough	\$8.00

- **Anticipated Fee Amount based on Expenses: \$5.50 per ERU/month or \$66/ERU annually**
  - Final ERU Fee to be determined based on finalization of study
  - All properties with impervious area(s) are subject to the fee
  - Township considering implementation for 2020



## QUESTIONS?

**Non-Residential/Commercial/Institutional/Industrial property owners may schedule with Township staff to review anticipated individual fees for your property.**

