Stormwater Utility

- Focus efforts
- Comprehensive approach
- Stable funding
- Meet requirements
Where Do We Start?

- Basics
- Details
- Challenges
- Help
Basics

- Vision
- Public awareness
- Technical & legal foundation
Inclusive Vision

- County Engineer
  - drainage problems outside r-o-w
- Citizens Committee
  - do we have a community problem?
  - if so, what needs to be done?
Stormwater Utility Mission:

To ensure that stormwater systems are planned, developed and maintained to prevent flooding, protect water quality and preserve natural stormwater systems.
Think About Linkages

- Development
- community
- Engineers/Planners
- Lenders

Letting the Land Tell Us Workshop
Linkages . . .

Community change agents

General public – fair booth

Get Your Feet Wet Forum
Linkages... Stormwater Policies
Comprehensive Land Use Plan

**Goal:** Stormwater runoff should be managed to minimize the risks to life and property and to protect the community from stormwater problems such as erosion, flooding, property damage, potential devaluation of property and impaired ground and surface water quality.
Technical/Legal Foundation

- Feasibility study – options
- Cost of service/rate study
Details

- RCW 36.89 for counties
- Resolution establishing utility and service area
- Timing: political support
Details . . .

- Loan from Road Department for startup
- Simple & defensible billing structure
- Rate ordinance
Resolution

a) Authority (36.89 RCW – counties)
b) Justification & process
c) Service area
d) Source of start up funds (for developing the utility billing & accounting system)
e) Set ceiling for rates
Simple Billing System

- Flat rate residential; Non-residential fees based on impervious area
- Equivalent Residential Unit: 3,160 sq ft impervious
- Condos, apartment buildings, mobile home parks
- County roads, public properties, tax-exempt properties
Billing System

- Digital orthophotos (partners)
- Geographic Information System – digitize impervious coverage
- Line item on tax statement
Remember the Ratepayer

- Heads up to major customers (keep records of letters & meetings)
- Train extra help to field phone calls
- Handle substantive billing questions (rate adjustment form)
- Resolve appeals
Challenges

Questions

- What am I getting for my fee?
- Why should I pay? No runoff leaves my site.
- Why should I pay for problems from new developments?
Challenges . . .

- Bureaucratic
- Re-organization
- Incorporation/annexations
- Coordination across department/jurisdictional lines
Adaptive Management

- Old guidelines to new stormwater manual
- Integration of stormwater NPDES & Underground Injection Control (UIC) facility & outfall inventories
Stormwater Utility (1992)

- Inventory of stormwater facilities
- Basin planning
- Regional stormwater facilities
- Flooding/water quantity
- Water quality (aquifer) and MS4
Ask for Help

✓ Other jurisdictions
✓ Consultants
✓ Citizens
✓ StormCon

http://municipalcodes.lexisnexis.com/codes/spokaneco/index.htm
Spokane County Code Chapter 9.70
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