



## City of Harrisonburg Stormwater Advisory Committee

### *Meeting Minutes*

June 15, 2015 5:00 – 6:50 p.m.

**Members in attendance:** Daniel Michael, Rob Alexander, Joanna Mott, Dale Chestnut, Eldon Kurtz

**Staff/Other in attendance:** Thanh Dang, Kelley Junco, Tom Hartman, Dan Rublee, Poti Giannakouros, Linda Richie

#### **Public Comment**

Poti encouraged that the Stormwater Advisory Committee adopt a broader mission than just the utility fee in order to implement practices like green alleys. He also expressed that the forms are difficult to fill out and assumes all residents are property owners. He proposed that the maintenance agreement inspection time (currently 24hours notice) be extended and that a letter be sent by the City.

Linda represented the Meadowpoint Drive community homeowner's association and expressed a strong opposition to the stormwater utility fee, especially the fact that the impervious area data is based upon 2011 imagery and therefore said the information is inaccurate. She also was concerned by the fact that she lives in a duplex and is paying \$10.50 more than the individual in the unit beside her when their living area is identical.

#### **Purpose of SWAC**

Thanh reviewed the committee's purpose, as outlined in the bylaws, and asked that a chair and vice chair be determined by the next meeting. A proposed meeting schedule was outlined for the first Wednesday of November, February, and May at 5:00pm and an additional meeting on July 29<sup>th</sup> of next month to discuss issues that need to be resolved prior to the first billing cycle.

#### **Background**

See Attachment A, powerpoint slides.

Thanh reviewed background information including an overview of the the Virginia Stormwater Management Program (VSMP) Regulations and the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit Regulations. The two separate regulations are for stormwater management, but it is the MS4 Permit Regulations, which include six minimum control measures and the Chesapeake Bay/Local TMDLs, that drives the need for a stormwater utility fee. The Chesapeake Bay TMDL permit requirements were explored in more detail, including the required nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment pollutant reductions by the City of Harrisonburg and the required timeline to achieve these pollutant reductions. Dan asked for clarification regarding the required pollutant reductions breakdown. Tom explained that the permit

gives five year goals for municipalities which are required and that the total cumulative pollutant reduction must be reached in 15 years.

Thanh then gave an overview of the current and projected stormwater program needs as well as the current and projected stormwater budget needs. She then introduced the Stormwater Utility Fee Ordinance and the basic background of the fee and the credit program for Residential and Non-Residential. Thanh highlighted that over twenty other Virginia communities have stormwater utility fees. Joanna asked where our fee falls in comparison to others and Thanh answered that we fall in the middle, but that other municipalities don't have a credit program established that is geared towards Residential properties and others raise revenues through Real Estate Tax which does not dedicate the revenue to stormwater needs. Joanna asked if the fee may rise if the state changes the pollutant reduction requirements. Tom and Thanh answered that Council will adjust the fee as needed according to a budget assessment and an evaluation of pollutant reduction achieved up to that date.

### **Overview of Future Tasks**

Thanh encouraged SWAC members to review the Residential and Non-Residential Credit Manuals in order to address the appeals and credit questions that need to be discussed by the committee in future meetings. Other future tasks include developing a citywide Stormwater Improvement and Pollution Reduction Plan and a city-private cost-share program or grant program. Rob asked if the Improvement Plan would include projects associated with aging infrastructure. Tom and Thanh explained that although this is not the driving factor, it may be an ancillary benefit of stormwater facilities. Pollution reduction and water quality will be more heavily weighed than the age of infrastructure.

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on July 29<sup>th</sup> from 5-7pm at the Public Works Department.

# A History of Harrisonburg's Stormwater Program

Stormwater Advisory Committee

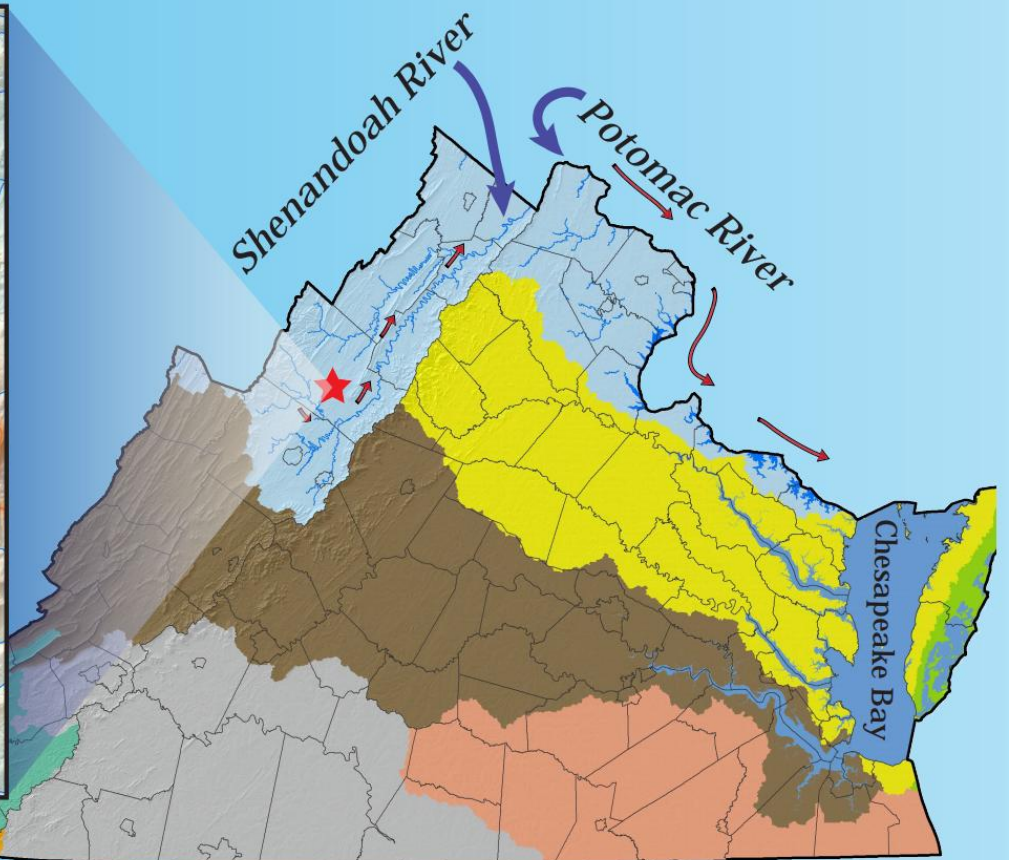
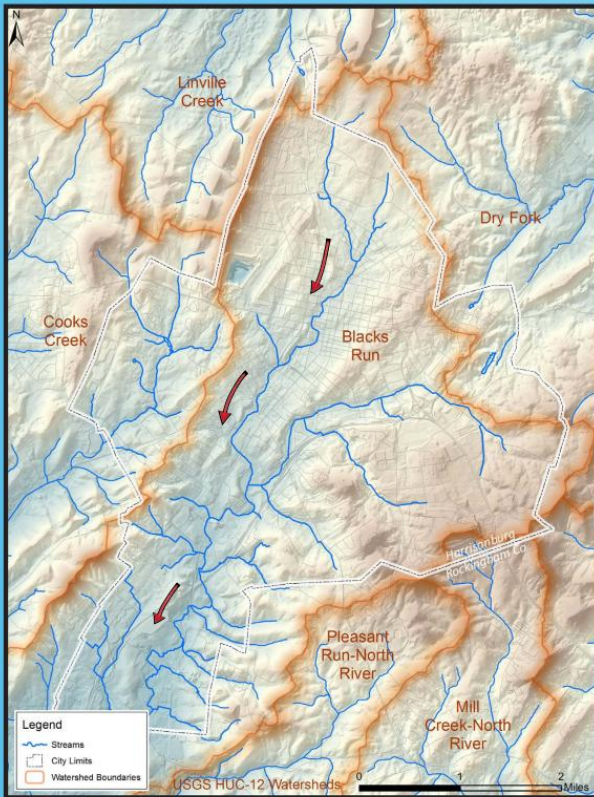
June 15, 2015



# Why Do We Care?

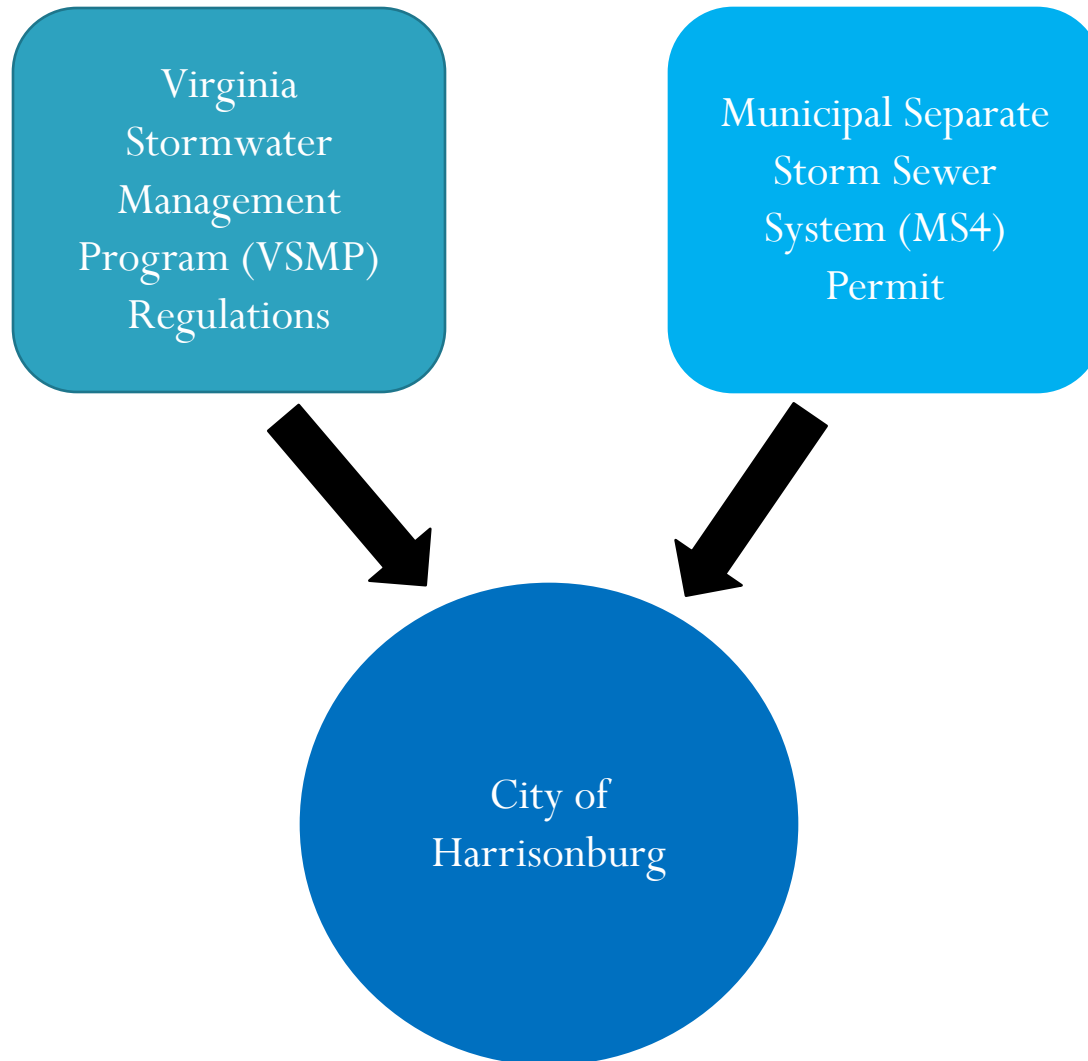






**KEEP IT CLEAN,  
HARRISONBURG**  
STOP POLLUTED RUNOFF

# Regulations Impacting the City



# Acronyms

- VSMP = **V**irginia **S**tormwater **M**anagement **P**rogram
- SWM = **S**torm**W**ater **M**anagement
- BMP = **B**est **M**anagement **P**ractices
  - (Stormwater facilities, BMP practices, Stormwater BMPs)
    - ✓ Bioretention
    - ✓ Permeable Pavers
    - ✓ Water Re-Use (Cisterns)
- LID = **L**ow **I**mpact **D**evelopment

# Acronyms

- MS4 = **M**unicipal **S**eparate **S**torm **S**ewer **S**ystem
- TMDL = **T**otal **M**aximum **D**aily **L**oads
  - ✓ Maximum “load” of pollutant a stream can assimilate
  - ✓ Allocation of specific pollutants deemed acceptable
  - ✓ Applies to all surface water bodies not just Chesapeake Bay
- WLA = **W**aste **L**oad **A**llocation



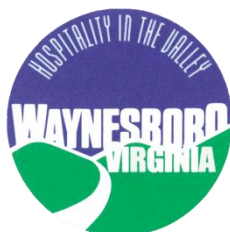
# MS4 Definition

- "Municipal separate storm sewer" means a conveyance or system of conveyances otherwise known as a municipal separate storm sewer system or "MS4," including roads with drainage systems, municipal streets, catch basins, curbs, gutters, ditches, man-made channels, or storm drains:
  1. Owned or operated by a federal, state, city, town, county, district, association, or other public body, created by or pursuant to state law, having jurisdiction or delegated authority for erosion and sediment control and stormwater management, or a designated and approved management agency under § 208 of the CWA that discharges to surface waters;
  2. Designed or used for collecting or conveying stormwater;
  3. That is not a combined sewer; and
  4. That is not part of a publicly owned treatment works.

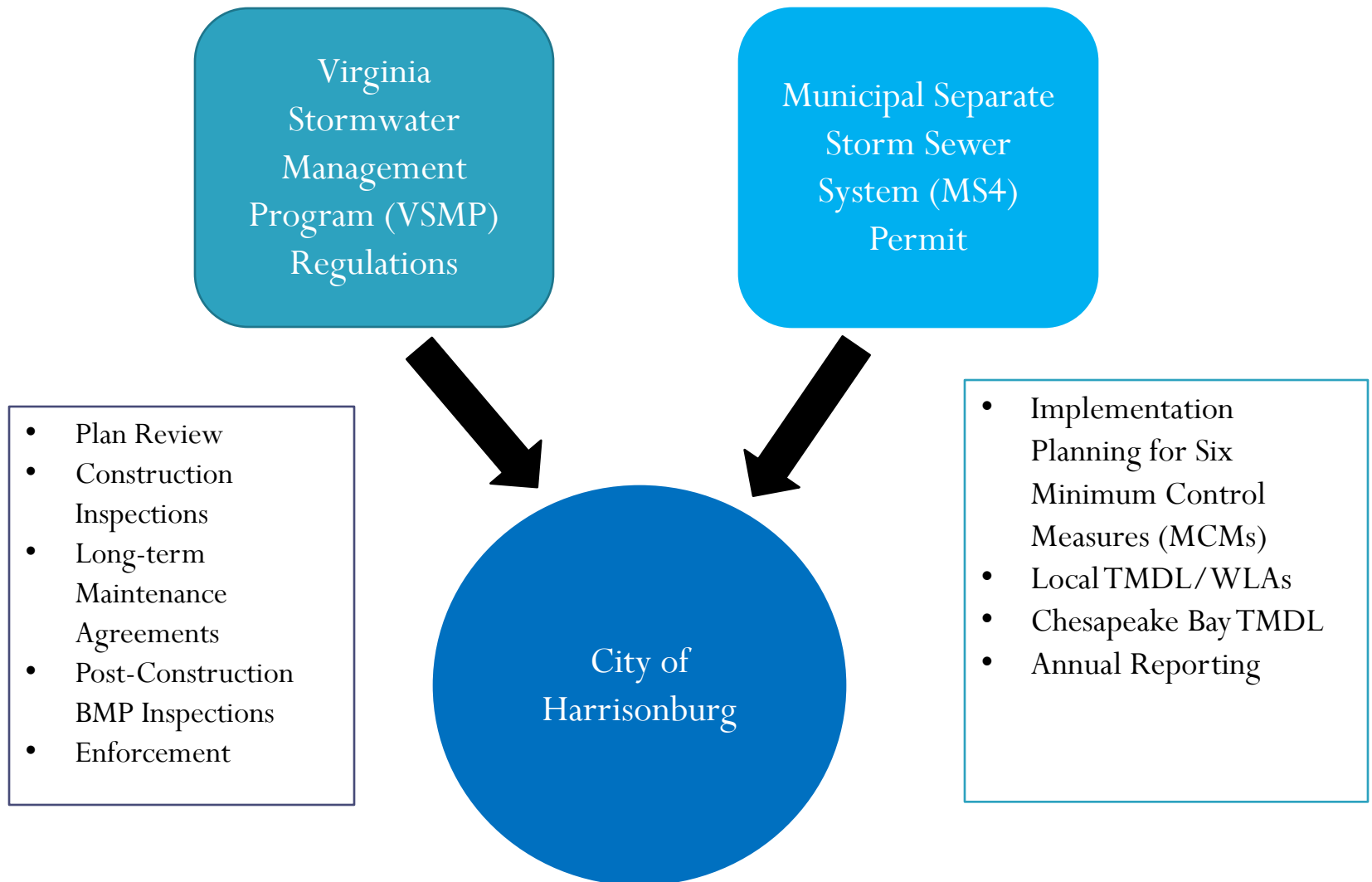
- *Code of Virginia, Stormwater Management Act*

# MS4 – Virginia Public Bodies

- Early 1990s - Large (Phase I) MS4 Permits
  - ✓ 11 Localities with Over 100,000 Population
- 2002 to 2008 - Small (Phase II) MS4 permits
  - ✓ 89 Localities, Colleges, State and Federal Facilities
- 2013 – 17 New MS4 Permit Notifications



# Regulations Impacting the City



# Minimum Control Measures (MCMs)

1. Public Education & Outreach on Stormwater Impacts
2. Public Involvement & Participation
3. Illicit Discharge Detection & Elimination
4. Construction Site Stormwater Runoff Control
5. Post-construction Stormwater Management in New Development and Redevelopment
6. Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping for Municipal Operations

# Chesapeake Bay TMDL Special Conditions

Pollutant	1 <sup>st</sup> Permit Cycle (2013-2018) [5%]	2 <sup>nd</sup> Permit Cycle (2018-2023) [35%]	3 <sup>rd</sup> Permit Cycle (2023-2028) [60%]	Total Estimated Pollution Reductions Required [100%]
Nitrogen (lbs/ year)	374	2,430	4,167	6,944
Phosphorus (lbs/ year)	34	236	404	673
Sediment (lbs/ year)	37,978	265,848	455,739	759,566

- Based on acres of regulated pervious and impervious lands within city limits (estimated 41% impervious)

# Implementation



# Stormwater Program

1. Develop a city-wide Stormwater Improvement and Polluted Runoff Reduction Plan to meet Chesapeake Bay TMDL requirements
2. Design and construct stormwater capital projects (including cost shares with private property)
3. Coordinate 6 Minimum Control Measures (MCMs)
4. Maintain and operate city-owned stormwater drainage and stormwater management facilities.
5. Stormwater Utility Program Administration



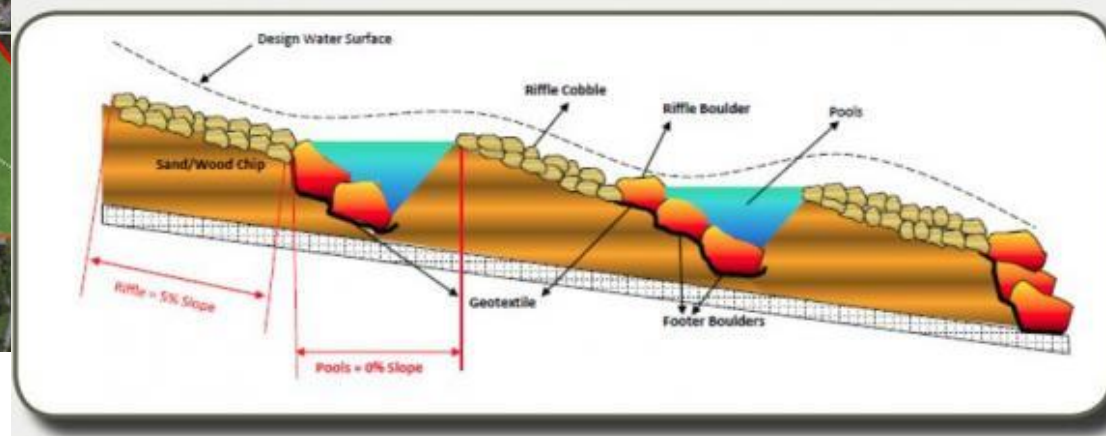
# East Market Street Stormwater Regenerative Conveyance

- \$303,198 Grant from DEQ/ Stormwater Local Assistance Fund. (Plus \$303,198 Local Match)
- Removal of 18.56 lb Total Phosphorus/ year (\$32,672/ lb TP removal)

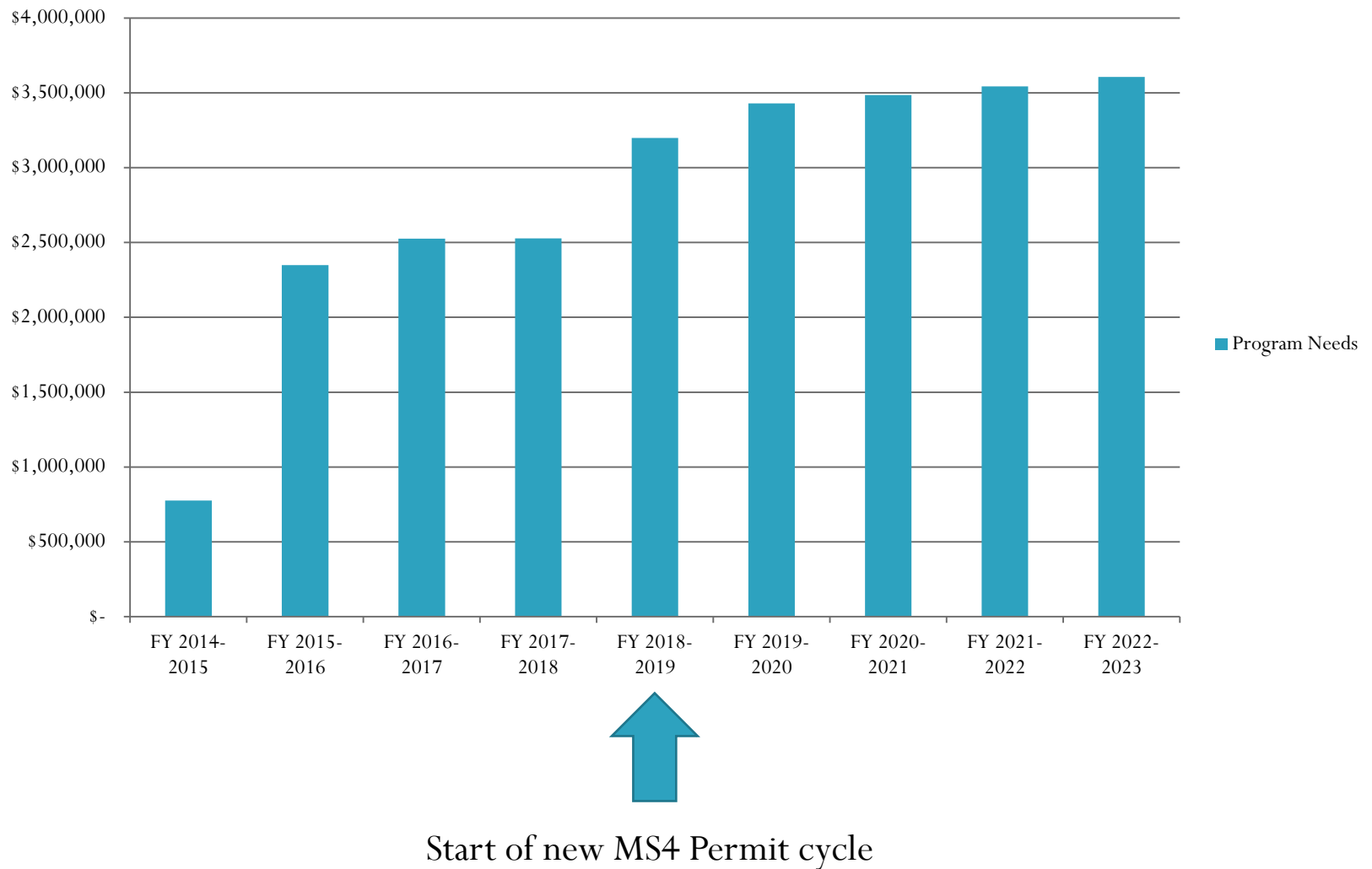


## Project Schedule

- Summer 2015 – Design Begins
- Early 2016 – Design Completed
- Spring 2016 – Construction Begins
- Fall 2016 – Project Completed



# MS4 Stormwater Program Projected Needs



- Stormwater Utility Fee Ordinance
- Stormwater Utility Credit Manuals



# Impervious Area

- *Impervious area*: Roofs, driveways, parking lots, streets, and other hard surfaces



# Stormwater Utility Fee Ordinance

- Stormwater Utility Fee
  1. Applies to every parcel/ property
  2. Billing unit = 500 sf of impervious area, rounded to nearest whole number
  3. Billing rate = \$10.50 / billing unit / year
  4. Effective Date is July 1, 2015
  5. Property owners billed half the fee 2 times per year. Will appear on real estate tax bill in Dec and April.



# Utility Fee Credit Manuals

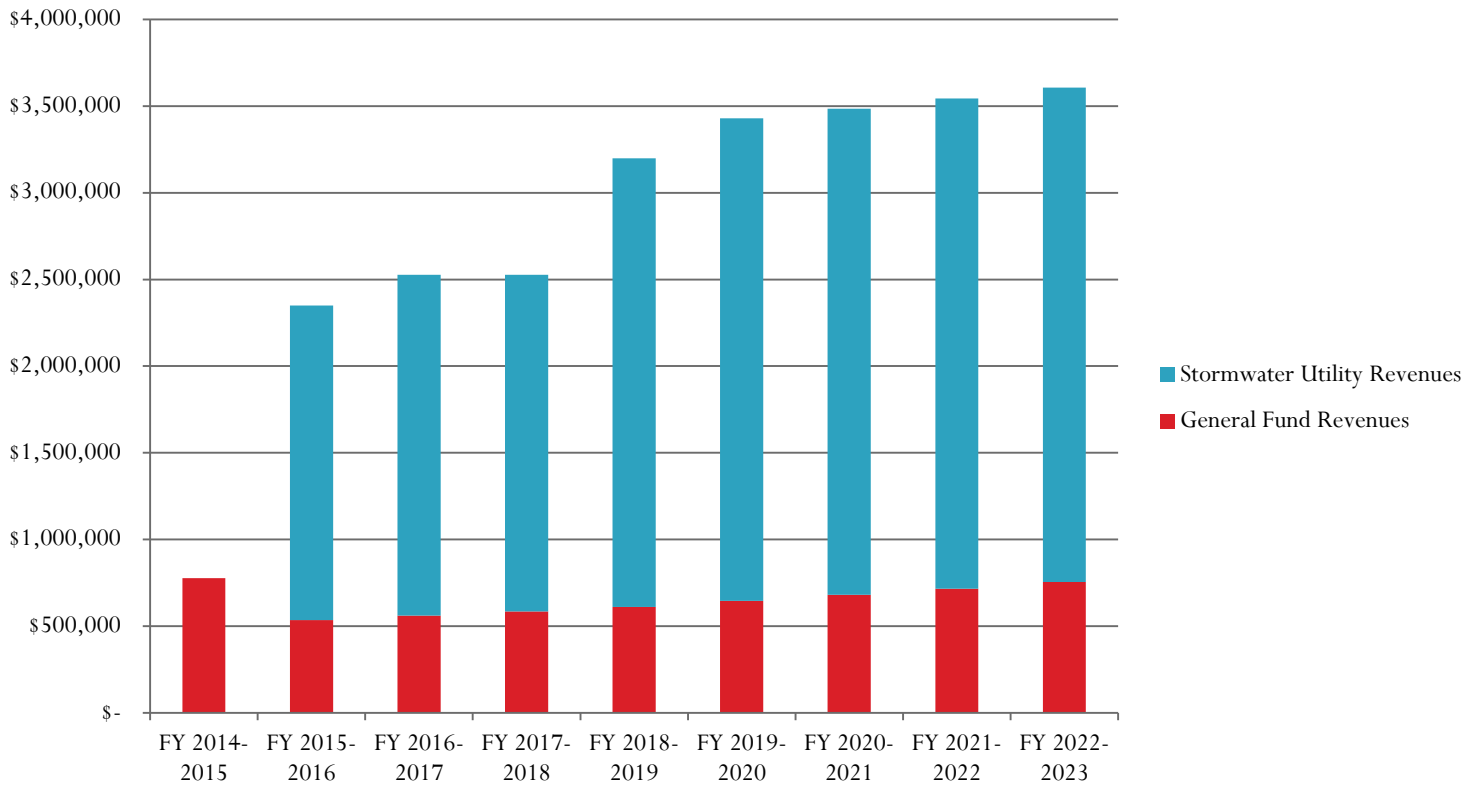
- Non-Residential Manual
  - VA DEQ Stormwater Design Specifications – disconnection, grass channels, vegetated roofs, rainwater harvesting, permeable pavement, bioretention, swales, constructed wetlands, extended detention, etc.
- Residential Manual
  - VA DEQ Stormwater Design Specifications – same as above
  - Chesapeake Bay Program: Homeowner Guidance – disconnection, rain garden, vegetated filter strip, rain barrels/ cisterns, urban tree planting, conservation landscaping, nutrient management, etc.
- Maximum credit allowed per parcel is 50% of annual fee
- Practices on private properties will be part of meeting City's pollution reduction requirements, as allowable by VA DEQ

# MS4 Stormwater Program

	FY14-15	FY15-16	FY16-17	FY17-18
Projected Stormwater Utility Revenue/ Expenditure	\$0	\$ 1,814,605	\$ 1,965,000	\$ 1,942,000
Projected General Fund Expenditure	\$777,000	\$ 535,000	\$ 561,000	\$ 585,000
Total Stormwater Expenditures	\$777,000	\$ 2,349,605	\$ 2,526,000	\$ 2,527,000

- 62% of Total Stormwater Expenditures on Capital Projects to meet TMDL (77% of Stormwater Utility Revenue going to Capital Projects)

# MS4 Permit Projected Future Needs



Start of new MS4 Permit cycle

# Stormwater Utility Fee Credit Applications Received

- 53 approved applications (all residential)
  - Credit breakdown:
    - 20% - 2
    - 30% - 15
    - 40% - 22
    - 50% - 14
  - Most popular credits applied for:
    - Downspout Disconnections - 42 Approved
    - Nutrient Management - 54 Approved
    - Tree Canopy - 24 Approved
    - Rain Barrel - 15 Approved
    - Conservation Landscaping - 4 Approved
    - Rain Garden - 2 Approved
- 10 applications under review (2 are commercial)
- TMDL pollutant removal credits for measures above TBD

- Comments?
- Questions?

# Future SWAC Tasks

- Receive Appeals & Discuss Utility Fee Credits
- Develop Citywide Stormwater Improvement & Pollution Reduction Plan
- Develop City-Private Cost-Share Program (“Grant”)



Meeting Date	Topics
June 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Welcome/ Background</li> </ul>
August 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Appointment of Chair and Vice-Chair</li> <li>•Receive Appeals &amp; Discuss Utility Fee Credits</li> <li>•Start Cost Share Discussion</li> <li>•Introduce Stormwater Improvement Plan</li> <li>•TMDL Action Plans Questions and Discussion</li> </ul>
November 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Receive Appeals &amp; Discuss Utility Fee Credits</li> <li>•Update of Appeals/ Credits</li> <li>•Cost Share Discussion</li> <li>•Updates on Stormwater Improvement Plan</li> <li>•MS4 and TMDL Action Plans Annual Reports</li> </ul>
February 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Receive Appeals &amp; Discuss Utility Fee Credits</li> <li>•Review Revenues Received</li> <li>•Recommend Cost Share Program to Council</li> <li>•Begin Developing Stormwater Improvement Plan</li> </ul>
May 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Receive Appeals &amp; Discuss Utility Fee Credits</li> </ul>

- Next Meeting July 29, 2015 at 5pm
- Assignments
  - Review Stormwater Utility Credit Manuals,  
<http://www.harrisonburgva.gov/stormwater-utility>
  - Public Comment Period for Chesapeake Bay TMDL Action Plan