

Stormwater Financing and User Fee Workshop Outline

Registration: 8:30 – 9:00 am

Part 1: Current Stormwater Funding Scenarios and Overview of Alternatives

Exercise 1: Group Breakdown

- 1) Current municipal state of funding for stormwater infrastructure
 - Conventional methods of financing stormwater infrastructure

Exercise 2: Current Stormwater Financing Mechanisms

- Types of stormwater infrastructure and services typically funded
- Current state of funding for capital and operating costs and shortfalls

Exercise 3: Determining Unmet Needs

- 2) Stormwater financing models
 - Rationale for moving to a stormwater user fee
 - Overview of range of user fee and charge structures and sample jurisdictions where in effect

Case study: The experience of other municipalities (Kevin Yaraskavitch, City of Newmarket)

Part 2: Steps to Developing a Stormwater User Fee or Charge

- 3) Stormwater financing study and assessment of funding needs
 - Stormwater Financing Study
 - Stormwater Master Plan
- 4) Developing guiding principles to steer the process and outcomes

Exercise 4: Guiding Principles Discussion

- 5) Assessment of resources
 - Determining roles, staff resources and expertise
 - Property identification and assessment resources
 - Data management resources
 - Billing resources and options
- 6) Assessment of public dynamics and preferences

Exercise 5: Assessing Public Dynamics

BREAK

- 7) Developing stormwater user fee structure
 - Selecting a structure, including different options for different types of properties
 - Flat fees
 - Tiered fees
 - Individualized assessments
 - Advantages and drawbacks of each type

Exercise 6: Match Property Type to Stormwater Charge Structure

- Examples of types of properties with different user fee structures
 - Residential
 - Multi-residential
 - Industrial, Commercial, Institutional
 - Farms and agricultural properties
 - Structure for appeals/disputes
 - Operational considerations
- 8) Council and municipal staff education and buy-in
 - Framing the need for a stormwater charge
 - Education on stormwater management and user fees
 - Identifying (or creating) a stormwater charge champion
 - Ward-specific issues
 - Providing support to Council
 - Addressing stormwater charge-related education and financial supports for non-stormwater municipal staff and departments
 - 9) Public consultation and outreach

Exercise 7: Public Understanding of Stormwater Poll

- The need and opportunity for broader stormwater management education and engagement
- Approaches and appropriate uses for stormwater charge outreach
 - Public information centres
 - Advisory groups
 - Mail-outs
 - Websites and online tools
 - Social media
 - In-person outreach
 - Other options
- Structuring messaging

Exercise 8: Matching Outreach Approach to Audience

- 10) Developing policies and by-laws
 - Considerations regarding scope (flexibility versus defensibility)
 - Policy maintenance and updating needs

Exercise 9: Find the Policy Quiz

LUNCH

Part 3: Incentives and Reductions for Stormwater Charges

11) Exemptions

- Legal basis for exemptions in Ontario
- Legal exemptions versus technical exemptions
- Assessment of potentially exempt properties

12) Credits and Incentives for Best Management Practices

- Potential rationales for granting credits for stormwater best management practices
 - Incentive
 - Perception
 - Avoiding legal challenges

Exercise 10: Discussion on the Current Status of Stormwater Best Management Practices

- Credit structures
 - What could be considered a “stormwater best management practice”?
 - Performance-based versus technology-based
 - Residential versus non-residential
 - Assessment of credits
 - Terms, conditions and operational considerations
 - Strengths and drawbacks of credits, including barriers to uptake

Opportunities for communal best management practices (BMPs) on private property – the Drainage Act

- I. Challenges with communal BMPs
 - a. Ensuring maintenance of BMPs on Private Property
 - b. Damage, repair, replacement and who pays?
 - c. Easements
- II. The Drainage Act (DA)
 - a. Introduction
 - b. The process – tools within the DA
 - c. Southdown Case Study – how it could work
 - Technical feasibility
 - Financial feasibility
 - Next Steps
- Other incentives
 - Rebates
 - Grants
 - Incentives for best management service providers
 - Non-monetary recognition
- Taking advantage of partnership opportunities

13) Subsidies and Compassionate Relief

- Rationale for providing financial relief to certain types of properties
- Limitations and drawbacks posed by compassionate relief subsidies
 - Financial implications
 - Political implications
 - Threats to integrity of stormwater charge

Exercise 11: Identifying Compassionate Relief Properties

- Identification, assessment and operational considerations for eligible properties

Exercise 12: Build a Stormwater Charge

Part 4: Summary - Bringing It All Together

14) Important considerations for your next first steps

- Your rationale for implementing a stormwater user fee
- Who will “own” the stormwater charge?
- Your guiding principles
- Available and needed resources
- Identifying and building critical internal and external partnerships
- Your Council champion(s)?
- Determining mechanisms for stormwater charge relief
- Showing the public why a well-funded stormwater system is important