

## Stormwater Financing and User Fee Workshop Outline – Preliminary

**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***

### **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