

A wide-angle photograph of a lake with a dense forest of autumn-colored trees (orange, yellow, red) lining the shore. The water is calm, reflecting the surrounding colors. The sky is overcast.

Athens-Clarke County

Stormwater Fee
Review - Phase I

November 13, 2018

Lake Chapman

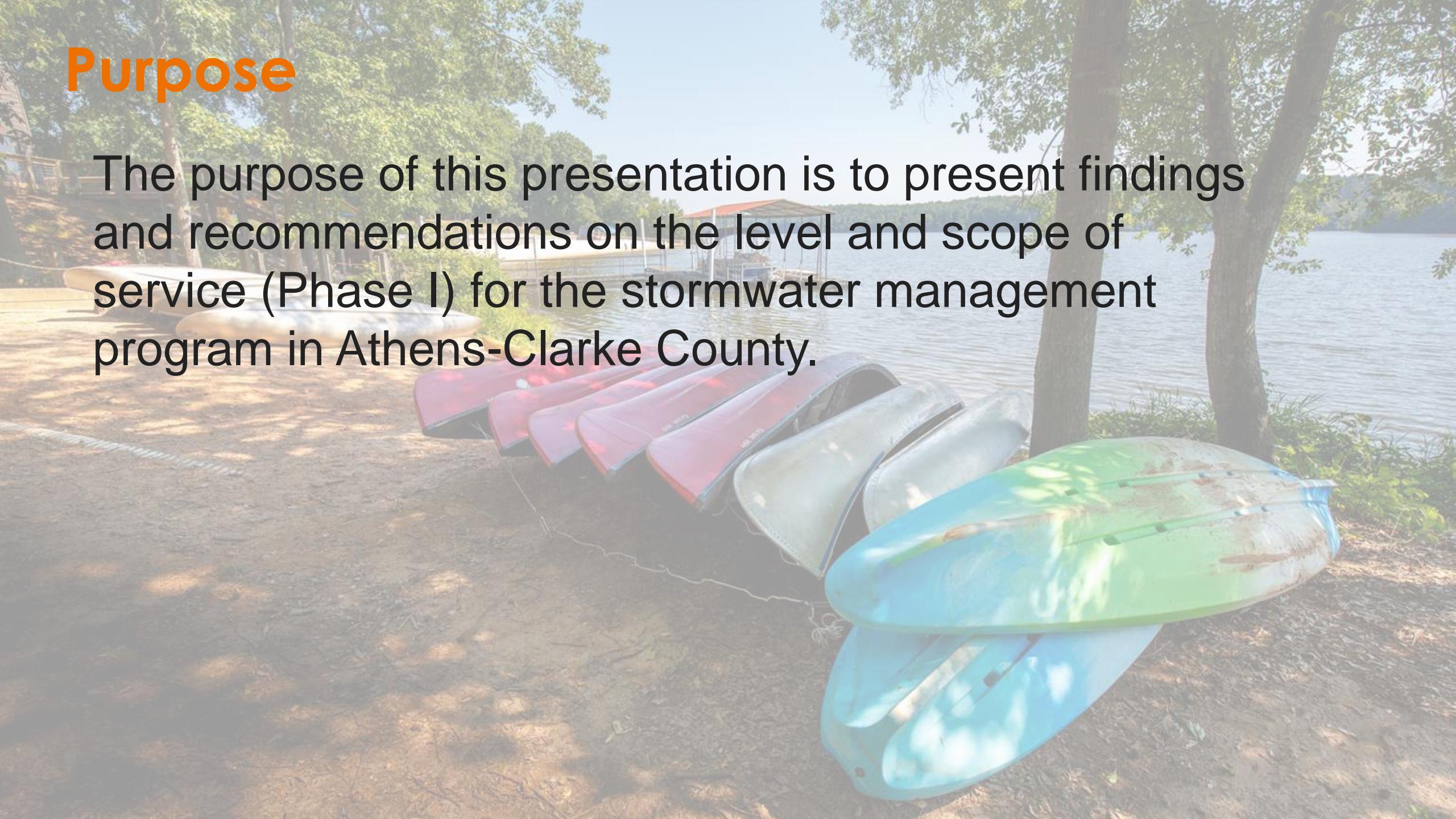
Stormwater Rate Study

ACCGOV has engaged a team consisting of Stantec and the Ecological Planning Group to conduct a comprehensive rate study for the stormwater system. The scope of work includes:

- **Phase I (currently phase)** focuses on services the stormwater management program will provide and the costing of these services.
- **Phase II** will focus on the stormwater fee rate and credit structure

Purpose

The purpose of this presentation is to present findings and recommendations on the level and scope of service (Phase I) for the stormwater management program in Athens-Clarke County.



Phase II

Following M&C determination of level and scope of service, Phase II recommendations regarding the stormwater fee rate structure and credits are scheduled for Spring 2019.

History

- On **February 4, 2003**, Mayor and Commission (M&C) approved the Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County (ACCGOV) Stormwater Management Program for compliance with the NPDES Phase II Stormwater Permit. This program specified the **level and scope of service** and identified tasks that ACCGOV would undertake over a five year period to comply with regulations identified in the Phase II Permit.
- On **April 1, 2003**, M&C authorized the Manager's Office to create a citizen/staff Stormwater Advisory Committee (SAC) to assist with the implementation of the Stormwater Management Program. The SAC's charge was to review the current funding structure for the stormwater program and to make recommendations as to how the program would be funded in the future.
- On **November 4, 2003**, M&C designated the following sources as the primary methods of funding for the stormwater management program:
 - Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST)
 - Additional Development Fees, and
 - Stormwater Enterprise Fund (Stormwater Utility).
- On **January 6, 2004**, M&C awarded a contract to Earth Tech, Inc. to assist staff and the SAC with developing recommendations for a rate structure for a stormwater utility.

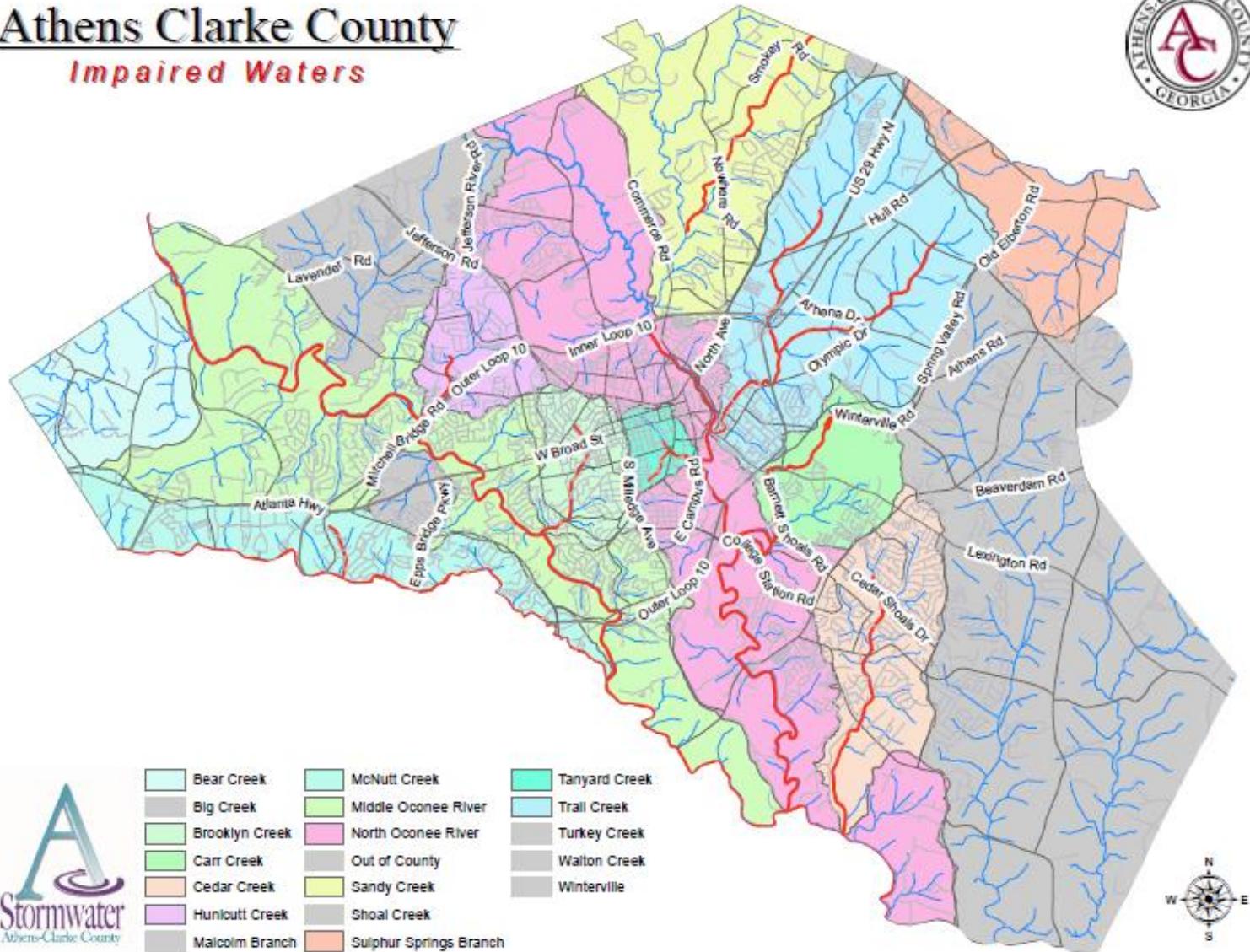
History

- On **December 7, 2004**, M&C adopted the stormwater utility ordinance (Chapter 5-5) describing proposed rate structure, fees, service areas, and credit policies
- On **July 1, 2005**: The stormwater utility fee was fully implemented. The Millage rate was reduced from 13.40 to 12.80 to reflect the shift of \$1.7 million from the general fund to the new stormwater utility fund.
- On **March 14, 2017**, T&PW staff recommended proceeding with a consultant to conduct an assessment of the stormwater utility's equity and effectiveness to make recommendations on adjustments to the level of service and rate/credit structure as necessary.
- On **December 5, 2017**, M&C awarded a contract for the Stormwater Funding Review to Stantec Consulting Services, Inc. Work began in March 2018
- On **August 16, 2018**, T&PW hosted two public meetings to discuss the Stormwater Funding Review.
- On **September 11, 2018**, preliminary findings of the level and scope of service were presented to the M&C work session.

ACCGOV Manages Stormwater to Address

- Maintenance of public stormwater systems
- Clean Water Act requirements

Athens Clarke County *Impaired Waters*



Level of Service Alternates



LOS A : Current Level of Service

Approved February 4, 2003 by M&C

Level of Service	Extent of Service		
	Public	Quasi-Public	Private
LOS A1: Maintenance	Maintenance of public stormwater infrastructure	Performs stabilization of discharge points that lie slightly outside of ROW (Residential only)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Emergency basis only, must be a threat to public safety or property (Residential only)• DIAs required
LOS A2: Regulatory	Complies with NPDES Phase II MS4 permit requirements		

LOS A – Maintains existing level and scope of service

LOS B : Potential Increased Levels of Service

Level of Service	Extent of Service
	Public
LOS B1:	Contract Maintenance <ul style="list-style-type: none">Increased maintenance within public detention basins, bioretention facilities and roadside ditches
LOS B2:	Camera Truck and Televising Crew <ul style="list-style-type: none">Dedicated crew to allow for televising and inspecting stormwater pipesWould allow ACC to identify stormwater piping issues and proactively manage system
LOS B3:	Vac Truck Crew <ul style="list-style-type: none">Dedicated crew for vac truck operationsWould ensure full operations of vac truck
LOS B4:	Expanded Street Sweeping <ul style="list-style-type: none">Quarterly sweeping of collectors and arterials not currently sweptIncrease quarterly routes to monthly during Fall

LOS B - Increases frequency and effectiveness of existing services

LOS C : Potential Increased Level of Service

Level of Service	Extent of Service		
	Public	Quasi-Public	Private
LOS C	No change	<p>Development of a “Private Easement Crew”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• One full crew dedicated to address stormwater issues related to quasi-public and private drainage issues• Address items such as connected pipes on private easements, driveway pipes, and public water zone of influence areas.• Would require DIA and ACC would only provide labor and minimum materials or additional capital funding	

LOS C - Extends where ACC provides services

Capital Funding – Potential Partial Funding with Stormwater Fee

- Majority of stormwater capital projects are currently funded with SPLOST with some Stormwater Enterprise Funds
- Stormwater utility revenues could fund all or portion of capital needs

Type of Capital Project	Description	Projects	Cost (\$ current)
Master Plan - Level I Pipes	System pipe capacity related issues causing wide ranging impacts	26	\$11,700,000
Master Plan - Level II Pipes	System pipe capacity related issues causing local issues	71	\$36,700,000
Pipe Replacement - Priority I	Identified failing pipes with immediate consequences	26	\$15,900,000
Pipe Replacement - Priority II	Identified failing pipes with long-term issues	28	\$6,100,000
Other Rusted Pipe Replacement	Identified rusting pipes that will need replacement	25	\$5,700,000
Watershed Management Program	Project identified in Watershed Master plan	9	\$16,700,000

All identified capital projects (\$92.8 million)

Four Scenarios to Consider:

Scenario	FY28 Fee (Monthly)	FY28 Fee (Annual)	FY28 Revenue (Total)	Capital Funding (10-years)
Scenario 1: LOS A (current level maintenance, no capital or other enhancements)	\$ 3.50	\$ 42.00	\$ 4,600,000	SPLOST: \$ 40m SW Capital: \$ -
Scenario 2: LOS A + LOS B2 + LOS B3 (current level maintenance + camera truck/tv crew + vactor truck)	\$ 3.50	\$ 42.00	\$ 4,600,000	SPLOST: \$ 40m SW Capital: \$ -
Scenario 3: RECOMMENDED Scenario 2 + minimum capital (current level maintenance + camera truck/tv crew + vactor truck + live stream pipes capital only)	\$ 5.02	\$ 60.24	\$ 6,500,000	SPLOST: \$ 18m SW Capital: \$ 22m
Scenario 4: LOS A + enhanced capital (current level maintenance, live stream pipe, watershed and area-wide stormwater projects)	\$ 6.01	\$ 72.12	\$ 8,000,000	SPLOST: \$ - SW Capital: \$ 40m



Next Steps

- M&C approval of target level of service in November / December Cycle
- Begin Phase II: Stormwater Fee Rate and Credit Review
- Present Phase II recommendations to M&C in Spring 2019