Purpose

• Review Stormwater Rate Study Progress
• Update on Phase II
• Discuss Public Engagement
• Discuss Fee Structure Recommendations
• Discuss Credit Recommendations
• Overview Next Steps
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:
  o Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST)
  o Additional Development Fees, and
  o 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.

• On December 7, 2004, M&C adopted the stormwater utility ordinance (Chapter 5-5) describing proposed rate structure, fees, service areas, and credit policies.
History

- 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, Transportation and Public Works (T&PW) staff presented an overview of the stormwater program at a scheduled M&C work session. 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 September 11, 2018, preliminary findings of the level and scope of service were presented to the M&C work session.

- On December 4, 2018, level of service and stormwater funding recommendations presented to and accepted by M&C. M&C recommended robust public outreach.

- Between January 24, 2019 and February 26, 2019, staff hosted five open house meetings to discuss to Rate Study.
Recap: Stormwater Rate Study – Phase I

Stormwater Service Recommendations

• Keep current extent of service (public right of way) with addition of “Public Water Influence Zone”
• Add dedicated crew for televising and inspecting stormwater pipes
• Add additional employees to enhance operations of the vacuum truck
• Replace identified failing pipes over next ten years

Stormwater Funding Requirements

• Additional operations can be supported with existing revenue
• Replacement of failing pipe would require a monthly increase of approximately $1.50 over the next 10-years
## Funding Scenarios and Fee Impacts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current Tiers</th>
<th>Current</th>
<th>FY 2028</th>
<th>Difference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tier 1 – 0.6 ERU</td>
<td>$1.93</td>
<td>$2.81</td>
<td>$0.88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tier 2 – 1 ERU</td>
<td>$3.50</td>
<td>$5.10</td>
<td>$1.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tier 3 – 1.8 ERUs</td>
<td>$6.30</td>
<td>$9.18</td>
<td>$2.88</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Options:
- Increase SPLOST funding and eliminate fee increase
- Eliminate SPLOST funding and only use Stormwater Revenue
- Keep SPLOST funding and reduce fee increase
- Keep SPLOST funding and use remainder for Flood Mitigation

### $22M in Capital Funding from Fee

### $11M in 2020 SPLOST Funding

### $11M in Capital Funding from Fee
Phase II examines revenue:

1) Public Engagement
2) Stormwater Fee Structure
3) Stormwater Credits

- How should ACCGOV recognize stormwater best practices?
- Are there steps that can be taken to further encourage best practices?
Public Engagement

Advertised: bill stuffer, postcard mailer, and online comment form

Six Open House Public Meetings

- ACC Library: January 24, 38 attendees
- J. J. Harris Elementary School: January 29, 18 attendees
- Barnett Shoals Elementary School: February 6, 21 attendees
- Timothy Road Elementary School: February 11, 27 attendees
- Winterville Depot: February 21, 19 attendees
- Follow up meeting at Winterville Depot: February 26, 7 attendees

Open Houses included:

- Stations to solicit input / provide information
- Q&A dialog with ACC Staff and Stantec / EPG
- Comment forms

Total of 130 attendees
Public Feedback:

Should the current single family residential fee structure be changed?

- Create Additional Tiers: 6
- Modify Tier Thresholds: 4
- Flat Rate for All SFR: 0
- Current Approach is Fair: 5

What Credits are of Interest to You?

- GSMM SW Facility/Detention Pond: 0
- SW Facility/Detention Pond: 1
- Agriculture: 3
- Industrial SW Permit: 1
- Gravel Driveways: 13
- Low Density: 17
- Tree Canopy: 28
- Environmental Education Program: 0
- Natural Area Preservation: 6
- GI/LID: 11
- Septic Tank Maintenance: 23
- Watershed Stewardship: 6
- Riparian Service Area: 8
Current Stormwater Fee Structure

Current fee structure links stormwater cost components with property characteristics to allocate costs

- **Fees**
  - Water Quantity Fee: $0.86/month
  - Water Quality Fee: $0.56/month
  - Base Fee: $2.07/month

- **Property Characteristics**
  - Impervious Area Units
    - Water Quality Factor

- **Bill**
  - Water Quantity Charge
  - Water Quality Charge
  - Base Charge
Preliminary Updated Residential Tiers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tier Size (sq ft)</th>
<th>Parcels</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tier 1 0 - 2,200</td>
<td>3,421</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tier 2 2,200 - 4,500</td>
<td>11,810</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tier 3 Over 4,500</td>
<td>7,235</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potential Tier 4 Over 7,200</td>
<td>1,857</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Calculated ERU 3,277 sq ft
Fee Structure Recommendations

- New impervious area layer should be developed based on 2018 aerials
- ERU definition and single family tiers should be based on analysis of updated impervious area
  - ERU based on median impervious area on single family home
  - Tiers based on statistical distribution around the median
  - Examine additional fourth tier
- Update naming convention for single family residential (instead of small, medium, large - Tier 1, 2 and 3)
- Cost components of fee should be updated to match cost of service results
Stormwater Credits
Current Credit Program

- **Riparian Area Credit** - Customers with property that drains into North Oconee River, Middle Oconee River, McNutt Creek and the lower portions of Shoal Creek and Cedar Creek automatically receive up to 100% credit on the quantity portion of their stormwater fee.

- **Education Credit** - Public and private schools are eligible for a credit of 5% to 20% on their total user fee bill for teaching an approved environmental science curriculum.

- **Stormwater Facility / Detention Pond Credit** - Parcels served by on-site stormwater facilities (e.g. detention ponds) are eligible for up to a 100% credit on the water quality and quantity charge.

- **Agricultural BMP Plan Credit** – A property that is in active agriculture and also has an approved Farm Plan from the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) is eligible for a 100% credit on the water quality charge.
Current Credit Program - Challenges

- Participation is low
- Credit application process is complicated
- There are very few credit opportunities and many properties cannot qualify
- Many customers are unaware that they are already receiving a Riparian Area credit
## Expanded Credit Program - Additional Credits

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Credit Name</th>
<th>Credit Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Watershed Stewardship</td>
<td>For groups of people who have volunteered with watershed events (like Rivers Alive)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Septic Tank Maintenance*</td>
<td>For properties with septic tanks that have been regularly serviced</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green Infrastructure</td>
<td>For properties with stormwater practices on site that successfully infiltrate the first 1.0” of rainfall or residential properties that have installed a rain garden or rain barrel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural Area Preservation</td>
<td>For properties that protected in a conservation easement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tree Canopy*</td>
<td>For properties with significant tree coverage that exceeds ACC’s requirements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low Density*</td>
<td>For properties where 90% or more of the total parcel is covered with forest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gravel driveways</td>
<td>For residential properties that have partially-pervious, gravel driveways.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industrial Stormwater Permit</td>
<td>For commercial properties who have complied with their NPDES Industrial Stormwater Permit and are in good standing with the Georgia Environmental Protection Division.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stormwater Facility / Detention Pond</td>
<td>For properties that have a detention pond on site that was built prior to 2008 and does not meet Georgia Stormwater Management Manual standards but has been maintained and is functioning as designed.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Received the most “votes” from the public at the Open House*
Expanded Credit Program - Recommendations

• Add additional credits to recognize programs and activities that reduce the burden on ACC’s drainage system or SWMP.

• Adopt a formal credit policy manual to provide direction to the public on credit eligibility and application process.

• Update the stormwater user fee bill to include information on the credits received by individual customers.

• Conduct public education to inform the public about any new changes to the credit program.
**Billing Statement**

- **Account Number:** 000716925-000126372
- **Customer Name:** STEVENSON CHARLES T & DEBORAH
- **Location Address:** 108 MEADOW CREEK DR, ATHENS GA
- **Mailing Address:** L 126 ELDERBERRY CIR, ATHENS GA 30606

**Prior Bill Activity Info**

- **Bill Date:** 06/11/2016
- **Due Date:** 06/31/2016
- **Bill Amount:** $46.69
- **Current Charges:** $46.69
- **Balance Forward:** $0.00

**Current Charge Detail**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Service Description</th>
<th>Comp</th>
<th>Detail Description</th>
<th>Consumption</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Rate Group</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ST</td>
<td>STORMWATER FEE</td>
<td>BASE</td>
<td>BASE CHG ACC MSF</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>$27.02</td>
<td>A/UI MS</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>QUAL</td>
<td>QUAL CHG ACC MSF 1.0</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>$7.44</td>
<td>A/UI MS</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>QUAN</td>
<td>QUANTITY CHG ACC MSF</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>$11.23</td>
<td>A/UI MS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Showing 1 to 3 of 3 entries

*Your current account balance as of 04/20/2019 is $0.00*
Next Steps

Public Outreach at
JJ Harris Elementary
Impervious Area Update

• ACCGOV staff has initiated an update of the impervious area database for stormwater billing

• Impervious area will be based on recent 2018 aerial imagery

• Staff estimate completion date of August 2019

• Schedule will allow for processing of data and final fee structure recommendations and adoption prior to FY 21
Next Steps

• Phase II Report to M&C in May / June Agenda Cycle
• Finalize Credit Manual
• Complete impervious area update
• Analyze data and develop fee structure recommendations
• Revise bill format
• Provide online payment option
• Finalize updates to fee/credits prior to FY21
• Community Rating System