TOWN OF OXFORD

Stormwater Management on a Budget

Cheryl Lewis, Town Administrator, Town of Oxford, 2013
Every Community is Different

Oxford is surrounded by water...
Tidal water and Stormwater have the same impact in the Town of Oxford
And this will not change...
Why Stormwater Management?

For the Town of Oxford

Flooding was the problem that kicked started the discussion.

Other possible reasons for looking at Stormwater include:

Local Water Quality
Chesapeake Bay Concerns
State and Federal Mandates

What is unique to your community?
Engage the Public

Technical Assistance from the Environmental Finance Center
University of Maryland
Provide through an award from National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

**STORMWATER IN THE TOWN OF OXFORD**

*Stormwater* is water runoff generated when rain and snowmelt events flow over land, structures or other impervious surfaces and does not percolate into the ground.

**Why does stormwater matter?**
- Because local waterways and the Bay matter.
  - The natural beauty of Town Creek, the Tred Avon River and the Chesapeake Bay are highly valued in the Town of Oxford. Poorly managed stormwater can pollute our waterways and Bay, cause erosion and flooding, and damage property and habitats.
- Because property and community matter.
  - The regular occurrence of storm events, particularly when coupled with tidal events, can not only delay emergency response during events, but also threaten homes and public infrastructure such as roads and utilities. Recent history shows that the Oxford community is vulnerable to major storm events (e.g., Hurricane Isabel and her 6 ft surge).
- Stormwater management systems require long-term maintenance.
  - The Town’s infrastructure requires regular maintenance and upgrades to mitigate heavy rainfall, manage runoff, and reduce the inflow of tidal waters.

What is the Town doing about this?
With funding support from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, the Oxford Stormwater Task Force has been convened to develop a long-term management and financing plan for the Town.

We are tapping into the knowledge and passion of community stakeholders as well as the experience of outside groups with specialization in stormwater and financing.

We are also reviewing maps and engineering reports to conduct an inventory of existing stormwater infrastructure as a first step towards prioritizing future upgrades and enhancements.

What can WE do?
- Encourage activities that minimize stormwater runoff.
  - Identify options such as bio-swales, detention ponds or constructed wetlands that could alleviate flooding and pollution runoff associated with major storm events.
  - Limit the amount of solid surfaces – parking lots, large buildings, and roadways – or use permeable materials that allow rain to naturally soak into the ground.
  - Allow buffers of vegetation alongside waterways to filter and slow runoff, and plant native trees, shrubs and groundcover to absorb rainwater. Consider a rain garden or rain harvesting to manage runoff from your property.

Find ways to reduce the amount of litter, sediment, and other debris entering waterways through the stormwater collection system.

To Learn More Contact:
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Environmental Finance Center
University of Maryland
1210 Preinkert Field House
College Park, MD 20742
T: 802-578-5399
E: sw46@umd.edu

With assistance from partners we are seeking solutions to minimize our impacts on the environment due to storm and tidal water runoff.
Why adopt a Stormwater Utility?

Most communities have some Stormwater Mgmt expenses already in their annual budgets; street sweeping, drainage cleanouts, swale and ditch maintenance, tide gates, stormwater grates, etc.

A Designated Enterprise or Business Fund for all Stormwater needs

Clearly identify the Funding Source: Taxes or Fees

Clearly identified within the Municipal Budget

Rollover funding to a Capital Improvement Fund for Stormwater

Funds are dedicated and cannot be diverted to some other use
Oxford’s Stormwater Utility:

**S**tormwater **M**anagement **S**horeline **P**rotection (SMSP)

Includes all publically owned stormwater and shoreline infrastructure
Ditches, Swales, Culverts, Tide gates,
Outfalls, Living Shorelines, Bulkheads,
Beaches, Rain Gardens, Rain Barrels, and
all improvements that reduce or filter
rain water runoff and returning tidal water

Make it your own!
Flat Fee vs Tax Based Fee

Stormwater Utility (SMSP) Funding Options with final Proposal

Proposing an additional .03 to the current tax rate - establishing $100,000 of collected real property taxes designated to Stormwater Utility Fund in Budget Ordinance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment</th>
<th>SMSP</th>
<th>Fee</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$200,000</td>
<td>0.03</td>
<td>$60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$300,000</td>
<td>0.03</td>
<td>$90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$400,000</td>
<td>0.03</td>
<td>$120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$500,000</td>
<td>0.03</td>
<td>$150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$600,000</td>
<td>0.03</td>
<td>$180</td>
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</table>

* Mean/average

Proposed Stormwater Fee (SMSP) Addition: $104,662 estimated additional funds

Total Proposed FY 2015 Real Property Rate: 0.2783

* Based on assessed value of all properties
* Tax Exempt locations would not be billed unless we elect to bill manually in the future
* Lots with no structures would also be billed
** Mortaged properties would have fee distributed with mortgage payment
** Virtually no administrative cost to bill and no additional administrative cost to collect
** Easily designated to Stormwater Fund as a Budgeted permanent deposit to this account

Initial recommended Flat Fee on all properties based on Water/Sewer billing accounts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Flat Fee</th>
<th>Residential</th>
<th>530</th>
<th>$175</th>
<th>$92,750</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Commercial**</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>$350</td>
<td>$10,500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Need consideration for size of commercial facilities

Total: $103,250

* No distinction between 1000 Sq Ft homes and 4000+ Sq Ft homes
* No distinction between large and small Commercial some 50 to 90% impervious
* Will require administrative effort to bill, receive and collect
** We were going to look at a tier rate for Commercial if we went with flat rate fees

Flat Fee or Percentage Fee based on Square Footage of primary building/impervious surface

* Most administratively intensive requiring data base to track square footage
* No consideration for higher impervious coverage without even more intensive GPS tracking
* Rate would need to be based on collection of square footage data
Adopted One Ordinance titled:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF OXFORD TO ADOPT CHAPTER 18 OF THE OXFORD TOWN CODE TO CREATE A STORMWATER MANAGEMENT AND SHORELINE PROTECTION FUND AND TO ESTABLISH THE AUTHORITY FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A STORMWATER MANAGEMENT AND SHORELINE PROTECTION TAX OR FEE IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 4-204(d) OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL ARTICLE OF THE ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND

Included one line in the Annual Budget:

Section 3. The Commissioners as part of this budget, allocate $100,000 of real property tax revenues collected to be deposited into the Stormwater Management Shoreline Protection Fund (SMSP) Enterprise Account as demonstrated under Capital Outlay in the attached Exhibit A, and which if not utilized in the current year will remain as a contribution to the SMSP Enterprise account for future use.
The first year’s budget...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income</th>
<th>FY 2015</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>41000 · Real Property Tax</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41100  Real Estate - General</td>
<td>970,912.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>41101  Real Estate - SMSP Dedicated</td>
<td>-100,000.00</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expense</th>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>57100 · Stormwater Mgmt/Shoreline Protect</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>57101  Stormwater/Shoreline Salaries</td>
<td>30,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>57102  Administrative Salaries</td>
<td>10,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>57110  Stormwater M&amp;R</td>
<td>5,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>57111  Stormwater - Improvement</td>
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<tr>
<td>57120  Shoreline M&amp;R</td>
<td>5,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>57130  Shoreline - Improvement</td>
<td>25,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total 57100 · Stormwater Mgmt/Shoreline Protect</td>
<td>100,000.00</td>
</tr>
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</table>

| 80000 · Capital Outlay               |                  |
| 81000  Enterprise SMSP               | 100,000.00       |

Total Funds dedicated to Stormwater: 200,000.00

20% of tax revenue, 10% of total budget
Educate the Public...
Rethink Stormwater Mgmt

Filter, Filter, Filter
Educate your employees

Traditional drainage

Biorention Swale constructed by Public Works Dept.
The new swale has saltwater tolerant plantings and offers additional “holding” area for tidal water.
Get Volunteers Involved!
Building Code Enforcement
Rain Barrels - Stormwater Retention Ponds

Oxford Community Center 2013

Oxford School House 1928

Photos: June 6, 2013
Lead by Example
Private participation

Sustainable Planting manages normal stormwater, yet able to survive significant events.

Plantings courtesy of Preservation Green, Oxford, MD

Isabel – 2003 – (photo Don Biresh ©)
Living shorelines manage the impacts of tidal water, reducing shoreline erosion, while also filtering runoff from developed areas.
Think outside the box!

Our stormwater markers let citizens know how high the stormwater/tidal water is on town roads.

Conceptualized, constructed and installed by Oxford Staff. Photos: June 6, 2013
Seek grant assistance!

National Fish and Wildlife Technical Assistance: www.nfwf.org/chesapeake
“The obsession with researching and reducing the human effects on climate has obscured the more important problems of how to build more resilient and sustainable societies...”

Daniel Sarewitz, director of Arizona State University’s Consortium for Science, Policy & Outcomes