

Example Regional Stormwater Utility Program

City of Lewiston, Maine

Background Information	
<i>Name of Utility</i>	City of Lewiston Stormwater Utility
<i>State</i>	Maine
<i>Regional</i>	No
<i>Partners</i>	None (City Only)
<i>Population</i>	36,500
<i>Year Established</i>	2007
<i>Governance</i>	City Council
<i>Contact</i>	Director of Public Works 27 Pine Street Lewiston, ME 04240 (207) 513-3000
<i>Description</i>	In FY 2007, the City Council approved the development of a stormwater utility that would enable the City to comply with various Clean Water Act requirements (both CSO and MS4) using a funding mechanism that provided a more equitable allocation of the burden. The imposition of the impervious area charge shifted expenses from the City's general fund and sewer enterprise fund. It should be noted that the utility is a funding source and is used to fund relevant expenses that are performed by DPW and City Administration staff and relevant contractors (The City did not create a stand-alone O&M staff but utilized existing departmental structures). The Stormwater Utility fee provides stable and dedicated funding for long-range planning and capital improvements to address existing as well as future concerns.
<i>Method of Billing</i>	Separate line item included on periodic water and sewer bill (some monthly, some quarterly)
<i>Annual Revenue</i>	\$2.7 million
Stormwater Program Paid by Revenue	
<i>Program Management</i>	Pays for Administration, including management billing, customer service, etc.
<i>MS4 Compliance</i>	Activities associated with MS4 compliance is paid for using revenue from the stormwater program.

<i>Operation & Maintenance</i>	O&M (labor, vehicle usage, etc.) of the stormwater system including street cleaning, catch basin cleaning, swale/ditch maintenance.
<i>Capital Improvements</i>	Debt service for capital projects including separation projects as part of the CSO compliance program as well as any storm capital projects.
Rate Structure	
<i>Basis of Fee</i>	Impervious Area; Billing unit based on an average impervious area for the residential class defined as single family and duplex structures
<i>ERU Impervious Area</i>	2,900 square feet
<i>ERU Relation</i>	Single Family, Mobile Homes, and Duplexes
<i>Single Family Rates</i>	Not Applicable
<i>Special Rates</i>	Mobile Homes = 1.0 ESU Duplex = 1.5 ERUs Other Properties (i.e. Condos, Municipal, Tax Exempt, Commercial, and Industrial) = Charged based on actual impervious area
<i>Non-Residential Rate Structure</i>	Impervious Area <i>divided by</i> 2,900 = ESU <i>times</i> rates, with a minimum charge of \$50 per year for all properties that have at least 100 sq ft of impervious area
<i>Fees by Service</i>	Not Applicable
<i>Basin Specific Fees</i>	Not Applicable
<i>Exempted Parcels</i>	Roadways, undeveloped land or parcels with less than 100 sq ft impervious area
<i>Credits Policy</i>	Credits are authorized at a maximum of 50%. Two credits authorized—one for properties that have no direct discharge to the public system. Second, for properties that provide a level of retention or treatment in excess of the development requirements at the time the property was developed.
<i>Rate (\$/mo or \$/yr)</i>	Varies by customer type, but current rate is \$50/ERU/year. Allocated across the customers normal water and sewer bill so if customer is quarterly customer that bill will include \$12.50/ERU/qtr.
Additional Information	
<i>Website</i>	http://me-lewiston.civicplus.com/index.aspx?NID=199
<i>Description of Program</i>	See attachment.

Lewiston Maine Stormwater Utility Program Description

The City of Lewiston enacted a Stormwater utility in FY 2007 to more equitably allocate the burden with the City's CSO and stormwater management programs. The City with an area of 35.5 square miles has 15,200 households and a population of 36,400 (2013 estimate). The City is bordered by the Androscoggin River, one of the largest rivers in the State.

The City has used the stormwater utility fee to pay for debt service on its CSO control program (primarily consisting of sewer separation projects) as well as the operations and maintenance of its stormwater management program (which is largely undertaken by the City's Public Works Department). The fee is currently set at \$50 per year per single family parcel and \$75 for two family parcels. All other properties, with at least 100 square feet of impervious area, currently pay a minimum of \$50 per year and then at a rate equivalent to \$50 per 2,900 square feet of impervious area after the first 2,900 square feet of impervious area.

The City ordinance authorizes two credits that property owners may benefit from that are equal to a maximum of 50 percent of the total fee. The City made the public policy that all properties in the City have an impact on and benefit from water quality improvements and approximately 50 percent of the costs of the City's stormwater program is related to water quality improvements. The first credit is available to property owners that build on site facilities to control stormwater from their property that exceed the applicable land use requirements at the time the facilities are constructed. This credit is also available to properties that construct over-sized facilities that provide control to stormwater from upstream properties and thus reduce the required size for publicly constructed infrastructure. The second credit is for properties that can demonstrate that the run-off from their site does not impact the public roadways or other stormwater control infrastructure.

The City charges all properties in the City, including the City itself, but excludes roadways (both City and State owned) from the charge. It should be noted that while the state does not pay for roadways, it does pay for parking areas, commuter parking areas near the turnpike and for the Turnpike rest area.

At the time the fee was being developed, 2,900 square feet was the average impervious area for the residential property class—defined as single and duplex parcels. Approximately 35 percent of the impervious area in the City is residential properties, but that represents nearly 55 percent of assessed value. Nearly 10 percent of the impervious area in the City is owned by tax-exempt and/or governmental agencies.

In FY 2016, the City's stormwater program will expend just over \$2.7 million, which includes \$1.3 million in debt service and \$226,000 for cash funded capital. The balance is for operation and maintenance of the system a significant portion of which takes the form of inter departmental transfers from the stormwater utility to the department that actually performs the work. In Lewiston, the utility has no staff of its own, but "purchases" labor and services from other City Departments. The stormwater fee is estimated to generate \$2.5 million and the City will make up the difference by drawing down available cash balances.

The following summarizes the City's ongoing maintenance activities:

Good Housekeeping – Storm Water Collection Systems Operations

Every Spring crews from each Highway District are assigned several duties including Street and Sidewalk Sweeping, Roadside Mowing, Catch Basin Cleaning and Inspections, and Maintenance of Storm Structures (pipes, catch-basins, ditches, culverts). These assignments begin as soon as weather conditions allow.

Street and Sidewalk Sweeping

In early spring, when weather and road conditions permit, two sweeping shifts (day/night) are established to address the build-up of sand left on the streets during the winter season. The night shift sweeps the inner core of the City. Because of the congestion in the downtown area, sweeping these streets at night increases production and avoids interfering with parking in the downtown area during the day. Once the night sweeping program is completed in the downtown area, maintenance sweeping begins and this continues until evenings are too cold (usually mid-November).

The day shift sweeping concentrates on sweeping the arterial streets outside the downtown area described above. The City is divided into three sweeping corridors (Main St., Lisbon St. and Sabattus St.). Main arterial streets and collector streets are first priority and are completed before all other streets in these corridors are swept. The remaining streets are swept in order of priority. The Department rotates the order each of the corridors are swept. In the spring, sidewalks are swept to remove sand and material left during the previous winter. This effort is coordinated so that the streets where these sidewalks are located are swept soon after the sidewalk sweeping is completed.

Sidewalk Maintenance

Litter Vacs are used for the purpose of cleaning sidewalks and gutter lines to remove debris, litter and leaves on its established routes in the downtown area. A larger utility truck is used for larger items, along with its scheduled cleaning of litter baskets and trash receptacles downtown and the removal of road kills in a prompt and proper manner with regard for employee and public health.

Shoulder and Ditch Maintenance

Of the approximately 188 miles of streets in the City, there are nearly fifty (50) miles of roads, which require regular maintenance of the road shoulders and roadside storm-water ditches. These listed streets do not include streets with curbs and underground storm drainage, but are limited to those areas having gravel or grass road shoulders and surface ditches / culverts.

Roadside Mowing

Every Summer one Highway Worker is assigned to a flail mower for roadside mowing of grasses and weeds. It is the goal of this department to do a complete pass through of all City streets that need roadside mowing on a yearly basis. It is always necessary to repeat the mowing on main arteries during high growth periods to maintain adequate visibility.

Cleaning and Inspections of Catch Basins

The City of Lewiston's cleaning schedule allows for all City owned catch basins to be inspected and cleaned, if necessary, during a two year period. As weather permits, two crews are assigned to catch basin cleaning using one of the City's vacator trucks. Depending on temperatures and weather conditions, the operation typically commences around mid-April and ends in mid-November. The amount of material and number of cleanings is recorded.