

Example Regional Stormwater Utility Program

Sarasota County, Florida

Background Information	
<i>Name of Utility</i>	Sarasota County Stormwater Environmental Utility
<i>State</i>	Florida
<i>Regional</i>	Yes
<i>Partners</i>	Sarasota County and City of Sarasota
<i>Population</i>	369,000
<i>Year Established</i>	1989
<i>Governance</i>	County government; interlocal agreements with City
<i>Contact</i>	Stormwater Environmental Utility 1001 Sarasota Center Blvd. Sarasota, FL 34240 (941) 861-5000
<i>Description</i>	In 1989, the county determined that the system of stormwater management practices was not adequate to meet all the problems associated with stormwater management. To control water quantity, enhance water quality and effectively manage stormwater, a Stormwater Environmental Utility was established. The Stormwater Environmental Utility provides stable and dedicated funding for long-range planning and capital improvements to address existing as well as future concerns. It provides the ability to develop and implement a stormwater management plan to ensure that stormwater systems are properly planned, constructed, operated and maintained.
<i>Method of Billing</i>	Non-ad valorem Assessment (i.e., assessment billed on annual property tax bill)
<i>Annual Revenue</i>	\$17 million
Stormwater Program Paid by Revenue	
<i>Program Management</i>	Administration paid by uniform charge for each parcel (\$3.10/parcel); master planning, engineering, inspection, development review, design and program management paid by a Planning Assessment using an impervious-based fee (\$23.10 per ESU per year).
<i>MS4 Compliance</i>	MS4 compliance is paid for by the planning assessment.

<i>Operation & Maintenance</i>	O&M (maintenance of ditches/canals, cleaning and minor repair) is paid for with a Maintenance Assessment (\$64.45 per ESU per year).
<i>Capital Improvements</i>	CIP is paid for by a Capital Improvement Assessment which depends on the CIP needs of the basin and the desires of the citizens of the basin.
Rate Structure	
<i>Basis of Fee</i>	Impervious Area; Billing unit based on an average single family detached home.
<i>ERU Impervious Area</i>	3,153 square feet
<i>ERU Relation</i>	Single Family Detached Only
<i>Single Family Rates</i>	Small (< 8,100 sq ft) = 0.9 ESU Medium (8,100 to 14,600 sq ft) = 1 ESU Large (> 14,600 sq ft) = 1.7 ESU
<i>Special Rates</i>	Mobile Homes = 0.9 ESU Duplex = See Single Family Rates Condo (Residential) = Total Impervious Area (Max = 1.7 ESU) Condo (Nonresidential) = Impervious Area
<i>Non-Residential Rate Structure</i>	Impervious Area <i>divided by</i> 3,153 = ESU <i>times</i> rates
<i>Fees by Service</i>	Yes, see above.
<i>Basin Specific Fees</i>	Yes, Capital Improvement Assessment based on CIP needs of the basin and desires of the citizens in the basin. A basin plan is completed for known problems and alternatives are brought to the citizens for vote. If they elect to pay for the CIP, then the CIP is completed.
<i>Exempted Parcels</i>	Public Roads, undeveloped properties.
<i>Credits Policy</i>	Credits are authorized at a maximum of 74%. Retention Credit is that portion of a design storm stored within a retention system, rounded to the nearest 12.5%. Detention credit is 12.5% for a detention facility with control discharges for events greater than the 10-year storm event.
<i>Rate (\$/mo or \$/yr)</i>	Multiple depending on services; see above.
Additional Information	
<i>Website</i>	https://www.scgov.net/SEU/Pages/default.aspx
<i>Description of Program</i>	See attachment.

Sarasota County Environmental Utility Program Description

Sarasota County, Florida, started a county-wide stormwater utility in 1989 in conjunction with the City of Sarasota. According to the Florida Stormwater Association (FSA) 2014 Stormwater Utility Survey, the County's Utility covers an area of about 333,000 acres (520 square miles) and serves about 369,000 citizens. Of the 170,900 utility accounts, about 72 percent of them are single family homes. The utility is funded by a non-ad valorem assessment, billed on the Tax Collector's annual bill. The billing unit is 3,153 square feet based on the average impervious area for a single family detached home. The annual rate is \$90.60 per Equivalent Stormwater Unit (ESU), which generates about \$17 million annually. This revenue supports 105 full-time equivalents (FTEs) and covers all administrative and CIP expenses and most operation and maintenance (O&M) activities. The utility offers credits for private stormwater ponds. It should be noted that the County has separated the utility into an urban service area and the rural areas. The utility assessments are different for each service area since the services provided are different.

The regional program for Sarasota County and the City of Sarasota was originally based on a shared CIP and primary system O&M. Sarasota County collects and administers the stormwater utility revenues. These revenues are for administration, MS4 compliance and O&M. A portion of the revenue was returned to the City to fund the City's stormwater administration, MS4 compliance and secondary system O&M. Currently however, Sarasota County is now performing all stormwater maintenance activities in the County including in the City of Sarasota.

Capital improvements for the County and City were originally collaboratively completed. That is, there was a common CIP list including projects for the City and County with a prioritization process independent of governmental responsibility. The program would methodically move through the list so projects were fairly distributed to both the City and County based on the common priorities. Over time, however, after a number of the projects were completed, Sarasota County decided to complete stormwater CIP programs on a basin-specific basis with assessment based on the needs of the basin itself. As a result the CIP part of the Stormwater Environmental Utility (SEU) Assessment was changed to a special assessment based on basin needs and the citizens in the basin vote on necessity of the assessment. Today, therefore, there are two revenue sources: the Stormwater Environmental Utility Assessment and basin-specific assessments.

The SEU is funded through four separate revenues. The first three are part of the SEU Assessment. These components are:

- **Customer Service.** This is a uniform charge to fund the administration of the program (\$3.10 per parcel).
- **Planning Assessment.** This is based on the number of billing units on each parcel and covers master planning, engineering, inspection, development review, system design and program management (\$23.10 per ESU).
- **Maintenance Assessment.** This covers the maintenance of ditches and canals, cleaning and repair of stormwater assets, and low cost construction/replacement projects (\$64.45 per ESU).

The final component is a **Capital Improvement Assessment**. These are optional depending on the CIP needs of the basin and on the desires of the citizens within the basin.