

Stay Tuned: FINAL STAKEHOLDER GROUP MEETING – June

Question of the Month

Where does your community stand with respect to a stormwater utility? [Please click the survey link to provide your answer.](#)

Project Update

Stakeholder Group - The Level of Service (LOS) Memorandums for each municipality were emailed to the Stakeholder Group and posted on the project website. Information on the Funding Plan will be posted on the website shortly.

The next Stakeholder Group meeting is in June.

Steering Committee - The Steering Committee is currently finalizing the Funding Plan. Look for updates soon to be posted on the website. The Committee is also assisting with development of the framework and implementation plan for two alternatives:

- A. One regional district
- B. Two regional districts - North: Central Falls, Pawtucket, Providence and East Providence and South: Cranston and Warwick.

The final Steering Committee meeting will be scheduled for mid to late May.

Current Work

Funding Plan - CDM Smith has provided the financial impacts of targeting various LOS as well as impacts of prospective regionalization strategies. The Funding Plan was developed using a simple planning level financial tool. CDM Smith increased expenses for each community from what is currently being spent (refer to the LOS Memorandums) to achieve a LOS C.

These costs have been allocated as follows:

- Program Management - 10%
- MS4 Compliance - 5%
- Operation & Maintenance - 40%
- Capital Improvement Program - 45%

Current expenses for all six municipalities are approximately \$4.7 million. For one regional district to achieve a LOS C the total expenditures are projected to increase to over \$11.4 million.

Alternative Regional Framework - Three alternatives are currently being evaluated with respect to framework:

Alternative 1 - each municipality implement a utility district for their own city.

Alternative 2 - Create a regional utility for all six participating cities.

Alternative 3 - Set up two regional utilities split between North and South.

Implementation Plan - The general approach to the implementation plan is summarized in three activities: identifying legislative authority, determining utility organization, and setting up budgeting and utility billing plans. CDM Smith is currently developing the implementation Plan for a regional stormwater management district.

In the News

The Trust for Public Land - Founded in 1972, the Trust for Public Land is an organization that aims to create parks and protect land for current and future generations. Their Climate-Smart Cities program is now available to the six-city metro Providence area. The program helps communities with the planning, design and building of green spaces to meet climate challenges. [Click here for more information.](#)



EPA Green Infrastructure Webcast Series

On April 6, 2016 the EPA's Green Infrastructure webpage was updated with new information regarding the Green Infrastructure Webcast Series. Initiated in 2014, the EPA's Green Infrastructure Webcast Series provides hosts leading academics and professionals that share information related to green infrastructure. The Webcast was designed for public officials and specialists interested in enhancing current (or implementing new) green infrastructure programs. The public can access upcoming webcasts, past webcasts and related webcast series. [Click here to read more.](#)

RI Water Quality Projects Receive \$815,000 in Grant Funding

On January 11, 2016 Patch reports that 11 projects in RI and MA will be receiving \$815,000 in grant funding. In an effort to improve water quality and protect coastal resources across Narragansett Bay, nine communities will implement a variety of projects that address the current issues. [Click here to read more.](#)

Among the recipients were:

Cranston - will plan and build one or more stormwater infiltration projects in the Stillhouse Cove portion of the Providence River.

East Providence - will build a stormwater mitigation project at Sabin Point Park on the Providence River to help address elevated bacterial levels.

Pawtucket - will focus on stormwater mapping and green infrastructure design to prioritize projects for the City's 45 stormwater outfalls.

Warwick - will install a series of bioretention basins and vegetated swales within the medians of Suburban Parkway to help improve water quality in the vicinity of Oakland Beach and City Park Beach.

Filtering Stormwater with Trees

The Ecological Landscaping Alliance on February 15, 2016 reported that the Northern RI Conservation District received a state grant for the development and installation of bioretention systems to mitigate nutrient loading from pollutants entering a reservoir's watershed. As part of Phase II of the pollution mitigation plan, StormTree installed tree filter systems that treat stormwater while infiltrating and holding water at high capacities. [Click here to read more.](#)

Upcoming Events

[Creating a Revenue Stream for Stormwater Management](#)

Massachusetts Rivers Alliance
Stormwater Management Workshop
Tuesday, April 26, 2016 – Salem, MA

Stakeholder Group Meeting #3

Meeting topics include:

- Funding Plan
- Management District Framework
- Implementation Plan
- Draft Report

The Final Stakeholder Meeting will be in June, Date TBD.

Project Background

Six municipalities at the head of the Narragansett Bay (Central Falls, Cranston, East Providence, Pawtucket, Providence and Warwick) are exploring regional solutions to a wide range of shared challenges including flooding, stormwater pollution, and degraded drainage infrastructure. With funding from RIDEM, the six municipalities are exploring the creation of a regional stormwater management district as a coordinated approach to a long term, sustainable solution to stormwater management.

