CLEAN WATER equals CLEAN GROWTH
Clean Water – Clean Growth

“You can’t build a vibrant economy on crumbling infrastructure”
Portland’s Wastewater System
Wastewater Facts

- Portland’s wastewater system dates back to 1870
- East End Treatment Plant online in 1979
- In 1983 City establishes dedicated Sewer Fee
- During wet weather, raw sewage can overflow into Casco Bay making swimmers sick and contaminate seafood.
- Stormwater runoff is polluted, but there is no major active treatment system for stormwater.
Our Obligations

Clean Water Act

• National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES).
  – Requires a discharge permit for all discharges to navigable water bodies.
  – Prohibits Sanitary Sewer Overflows or Dry Weather Overflows.

• Maine Pollution Discharge Elimination System (MEPDES)
  – Maine is a delegated state and issues permits
  – Establishes required discharge limits and testing requirements.

• EPA Combined Sewer Overflow Control Policy

Maine Law

• Maine DEP, Chapter 570, Combined Sewer Overflow Abatement rules
• Combined Sewer Overflow Long Term Control Plan
  – Required and updated every five years or at the end of a phase.
Our Obligations

Clean Water Act

• Municipal Separated Storm Sewer Systems
  – Five year general permit – 6 management measures
  – Progress required cleaning up urban impaired streams

• Residual Designation Authority (Long Creek)

Maine Law

• Urban Impaired Streams (4 in Portland)
• Provision for waiver where local program addresses stormwater
1991 – City of Portland and Portland Water District enter into Consent agreement with Maine DEP to address overflows

Since then over 100 projects completed

11 of 43 overflows completely eliminated

Since 1993, reduced overflow volumes by 42%

Separated over 20 miles of pipe.

Cost $70 Million
The Next Challenge

The City Council formed a Task Force to figure out:

- How to PAY FOR $170,000,000 CSO investments over next fifteen years and an expected tripling of the sewer rate during that time.
- How to PAY FOR maintaining the stormwater and combined systems.
- Possible funding sources included:
  - Sewer fees
  - Property taxes; or a
  - Modified sewer rate structure
- The Task Force considered

*Fairness and Equity.*
Currently, the sewer fee is the ONLY way to pay for wastewater system improvements.

The sewer fee is set based on sewer discharged into the system.

Only properties who pay for water pay a sewer bill.

Current Sewer Fee Pays For:
Sewage
Stormwater
Combined
Example Annual Fees

MGY = Millions of Gallons Per Year
Task Force Recommendation

Split the current fee into two parts.

Sewer fee pays for sewage system and half of combined system costs.

Stormwater fee pays for storm sewer and half of combined system costs.
Example Annual Fees

MGY = Millions of Gallons Per Year
Businesses can lower their stormwater fee if they make site improvements that reduce stormwater impacts from their property.
Is This Uncommon?

This is NOT a novel concept.
Over a 1000 municipal entities are already doing this.

Western Kentucky University
2010 Stormwater Utility Survey
How It Works?

- All revenue is dedicated; called an Enterprise Fund.
- Dedicated funds for sewer and stormwater improvements, maintenance and operations; mandated by local law.
- Doesn’t compete with Police, Fire, Schools and other Public Services.
How it Will Work?

Runoff generated = Stormwater fee

Sewage generated = Sewer fee
Where Will New Investments be Made?

- 15 Million Gallons of storage to reduce combined sewer overflows
- Upgrades at wastewater treatment plant to improve performance
- New storm and sewage collection lines to reduce back-ups
- Stormwater system improvements
Other Potential Benefits

Planning for Growth

- Creates opportunity for targeted capital improvements for commercial growth districts

Courtesy Adam Kessler
What Can We Expect?
Next Steps

- June 4th Council Workshop on Task Force Recommendations
- If Recommendations are Accepted:
  - Ordinance Development
  - Administration Considerations
  - Further Public Notice
- Get involved!

Visit [www.portlandmaine.gov/sustainablestormwaterfunding.htm](http://www.portlandmaine.gov/sustainablestormwaterfunding.htm)
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