1. Stormwater Utility and Rate Structure

2. Kitchener’s Residential and Non-residential SW Credit Programs

3. Applicability of SW Utility Fees and Credits to a Rural Setting

4. Rural Property Levies in the U.S. and in Kitchener, ON

5. Stormwater BMPs for Farming Operations
Kitchener’s Stormwater Utility

- Stormwater Infrastructure historically funded through property taxes.

- KW moved to stormwater utility funding model effective January 1, 2011

- Rate structure is based on impervious area measurements.

- Higher imp area = higher SW charge
Single Detached Medium

Building Footprint: 226 m²
Monthly Charge: $9.73
Annual Charge: $116.76

Rate Code 2
Non-Res Largest

Impervious Area: 74,336 m²
Monthly Charge: $1,980.91
Annual Charge: $23,770.92

Rate Code 13
What Are SW Credits?

Encouragement to Manage Stormwater

Implementation of Best Management Practices

Financial Incentives and Environmental Benefits
Residential Approved Best Management Practices (BMPs)
Non-Residential Approved Best Management Practices (BMPs)
Do Stormwater Levies Work in a Rural Setting?

• Arguments against:
  • Little impervious area on rural properties
  • Infiltration capabilities of the property are not diminished when compared to “natural” conditions
  • Many of the day-to-day activities that farmers perform in the interest of agricultural production also benefit water quality and quantity.
  • Less stormwater infrastructure to fund in a rural setting (no storm sewers, stormwater ponds etc.)
Do Stormwater Levies Work in a Rural Setting?

• Arguments for:

  • Runoff from agricultural/rural properties is typically greater due to the loss of the rainfall retention properties of forests

  • pollution and sediment loading is far greater than in the natural state

  • Roadside ditches, culverts are funded by the stormwater utility
Different Storm Water Utility Programs in the U.S.

• **Baltimore, Maryland**
  - Agricultural land has its own requirements and is not subject to the stormwater remediation fee. However, any farm parcel that includes a residence will be assessed the flat rate for a single-family, detached home.

• **Portage County, Wisconsin**
  - Agricultural credit program to encourage producers to implement BMP’s into their farming operations. 50% Maximum Credit with a farm plan approved by the USDA.

• **Annapolis, Maryland**
  - Farms, as defined in the legislation, are entitled to a reduced rate for their Stormwater Fee.
Kitchener’s Stormwater Utility

• Kitchener, Ontario

• Every property in the City is subject to the stormwater user rate based on the amount of impervious area on the property

• No imp area = no charge

• No specific agricultural fee structure or credit program (few agricultural properties in the City)

• Kitchener treats rural properties as residential (versus non-residential) for the purposes of billing (i.e. no additional charge for imp area >237m²)
• Conservation Tillage

• Conservation tillage - Leave 30% or more crop residue cover on the soil surface after planting. This practice maximizes volume reduction in agricultural runoff and contaminants associated with sediment loss.
Stormwater BMPs for Farming Operations

- Protection of Environmentally Sensitive Areas
  - Owners of agricultural land can provide on-site stormwater management that effectively protects an environmentally sensitive area
Stormwater BMPs for Farming Operations

- Fencing Livestock Out of Waterways
  - Improve stream quality by installing fencing or by building a crossing device that prevents livestock from accessing streams along their properties and or along creeks, streams, and waterways.
Stormwater BMPs for Farming Operations

• Riparian Reforestation
  • Trees, shrubs, and other types of vegetation protect the waterway from the impacts of surrounding land use. Minimum reforestation width of 30 meters is Recommended.
Stormwater BMPs for Farming Operations

- **Stream Buffers**
  - Stream buffers are naturally vegetated areas along stream banks. Buffers should exceed 8 meters from the top of the bank.
Stormwater BMPs for Farming Operations

- Stream bank Stabilization
  - Stabilize stream banks to reduce the impact of soil erosion on surface water quality.
Stormwater BMPs for Farming Operations

• Conservation Easements / Watershed Improvement Project Participation
  • Protect farmland in a predominately natural state by means of a conservation easement or provide access for watershed improvement projects
Contact Information

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