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# The Stormwater Funding Discussion . . .

*Session 3: Harnessing Technical Assistance and Tools to Access  
and Plan for Stormwater*

Stormwater Finance Forum, University of New Hampshire



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# The Logical Argument for Stormwater Funding

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1. We have real and growing stormwater needs.
2. We can solve these problems and there will be tangible benefits.
3. It will cost more than we are spending now.
4. We need to fully consider all available funding options and implement the best and most fair approach.





# Compelling Case and Due Diligence

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## Make the case for stormwater funding and do your homework

1. Evaluate stormwater issues and needs.
2. Develop a thoughtful stormwater management program with costs.
3. Engage and inform the public in the evaluation.
4. Pursue the desired funding option.

**“Outcome should be a stormwater business plan with funding options and actions to move forward.”**





# Basic Funding Options

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## Primary options for significant operational and capital costs

### 1. General Fund (taxes)

- a. Based on property value
- b. Funds allocated to DPW or other account
- c. Competes with community-wide funding

### 2. Stormwater Utility

- a. Rational nexus between stormwater runoff and related costs
- b. Dedicated funding
- c. Flexible with credits
- d. Often seen as “more fair”





# New England Examples

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## Orleans, Massachusetts

- ▶ Population = 6,175
- ▶ Annual budget = ~\$29.6M
- ▶ General fund for stormwater



## Water Resources Management:

- ▶ Orleans Pond Coalition
- ▶ Orleans Water Quality Advisory Panel
- ▶ Marine & Fresh Water Quality Task Force (est. 2000)
- ▶ Pleasant Bay Resource Management Alliance
- ▶ “Arbor Day Celebration” – 5 days of activities
- ▶ “Celebrate our Waters” – 2 days, 2,000 participants



# New England Examples

## Portland, Maine

### ► Clean Water, Clean Growth Plan

- Protect Casco Bay and other water bodies
- Make funding system improvements equitable
- Improve sewer and stormwater infrastructure
- Promote economic growth



**CLEAN WATER equals CLEAN GROWTH** Fact Sheet

**Portland is investing from the ground up to remain one of America's most livable cities.**

In order to keep our city livable, while supporting economic growth, Portland is launching a Clean Water, Clean Growth Plan to improve its sewer and stormwater infrastructure. The Plan will:

- Protect Casco Bay and other water bodies
- Make funding system improvements equitable
- Improve sewer and stormwater infrastructure
- Promote economic growth

You may be asked about the challenges Portland is facing, the Plan to address them and the proposed means to pay for them. This Fact Sheet provides information to help answer these questions.



**What challenges are we facing?**  
Much of Portland's sewer and stormwater infrastructure is deteriorating and in need of repair or replacement. The systems are designed to handle three kinds of pollution - stormwater runoff, sewage, and a combination of the two. Portions of the systems convey sewage and stormwater via a single pipe; when it rains, the combined system is overwhelmed and pollutants dump directly into local water bodies. Even in dry weather, the deteriorating infrastructure releases pollutants. Without reliable infrastructure, the City cannot promote development.

**Do we have to do this?**  
Portland is required by federal law to reduce pollution to Casco Bay and other water bodies. Pollution reaches water bodies through deteriorating sewer pipes, combined sewer and stormwater pipes, and direct stormwater runoff. Improving the City's infrastructure to reduce these pollution sources is required.



*Portland's wastewater infrastructure contains sanitary sewer, stormwater and combined systems.*

*Rain events, such as this one in December 2009, overwhelm the city's sewer and stormwater systems. This, in turn, can result in compromised public safety due to impassable roads, damage caused to streets and businesses, and pollutants being dumped into Casco Bay and other water bodies.*



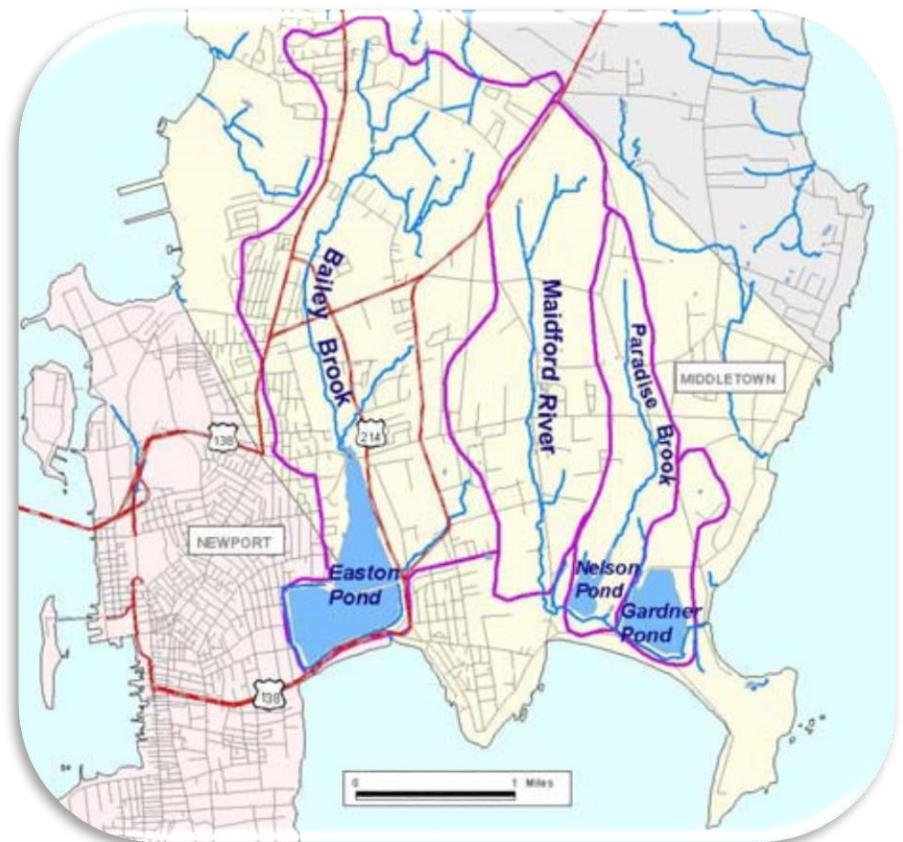
# New England Examples

## Middletown, Rhode Island

### ► Stormwater utility implementation by July 1, 2017

### ► Top drivers

1. Water quality & TMDLs
2. Funding approach (fair)
3. Aging infrastructure
4. Planning and compliance
5. Flooding





# New England Examples

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## Franklin, Medway and Milford, Massachusetts

- ▶ **s319 Grant for Regional Stormwater Funding Study (Phase II)**
  - ▶ Evaluation of needs and costs
  - ▶ Potential regional activities and benefits
  - ▶ Regional framework and legal issues
  - ▶ Funding framework may take multiple forms
  - ▶ Scalability to other Charles River watershed communities





# Closing Thoughts

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- ▶ Make the case for better stormwater management
- ▶ Engage the public with strong leadership
- ▶ Make an informed decision on how to fund the program

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