Road Map

- Why SWUs can be fairer than other funding methods.
  - 7 questions answered

- So you want a SWU?
- I will answer your questions.

Questions?

Questions answered

Recommendations

What is a SWU?
What is a stormwater utility?

A recurring non ad valorem fee, not a tax.

Money goes into an enterprise fund to be used for the stormwater program only.
Who forms SWUs?

- Cities, towns, villages, burroughgs, townships
- Counties
- Sanitation or sewer districts
- Watersheds
Questions

What trends have you seen in stormwater utilities over time?
## State Clubs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>States with more than 200 SWUs</th>
<th>States with no SWUs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Minnesota – 229</td>
<td>AK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida – 212</td>
<td>HI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>LA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>States with more than 100 SWUs</strong></td>
<td><strong>States with no SWUs</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MN - 229</td>
<td>MS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FL – 212</td>
<td>NH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WA - 146</td>
<td>NJ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OH - 138</td>
<td>RI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TX - 137</td>
<td>WY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WI – 137</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IN – 125</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IA – 111</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NC - 103</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What has the increase in stormwater utilities looked like? Do you have a projection and any predictions for the coming years?
Forecast

Current database – 2057
Could have easily gotten to 2100
High confidence on 2500
Good chance there are 3000 U.S. SWUs

Formation strongly affected by regulatory and political environment
If some flood-prone states get their 1st SWU, rate could increase

Failing this, I see a gradual tapering off from the 2020 - 2021 rate of around 30 per year.
Is there any particular type of stormwater utility that seems to be gaining more traction?
Choose
- Soil type
- Standard storm

Calculate
- Runoff per acre of single-family residential parcel
- Runoff per acre for non-residential parcels
- Ratio of the two
- Fee = base fee x ratio x parcel size in acres
Tier System
Types of Fees

- Equivalent Residential Unit (ERU)
- Residential Equivalent Factor (REF)
- Tier
- Dual
- Flat

Increasing Cost, Complexity, Fairness
Do you see more individual municipalities with SWUs or more regionalization?
Are there any causative factors?

- Regulatory Environment
- Major Floods
- Legislation
  - CA Prop 218
- Covid 19
- Lack of Clear Statutory Authority
Surprising Non-Factors

NJ and CT Enabling Legislation

Politics
Surprising Non-Factors
Are there any trends in the type of communities with stormwater utilities?

Garner’s Creek Watershed – 1998
Vadnais Watershed – 2007
South Washington Watershed District – 2010
Long Creek Watershed – 2010
Lake Whatcom – 2017
Muskingum Watershed - ?
In a state, after one SWU forms, others begin to form often in geographic proximity to the 1\textsuperscript{st}.

Rate of formation varies from state to state. Examples: Philadelphia - 2011, at least 59 in PA. Louisville – 1987, only 15 in KY today.
Have you seen any trends with fee increases over the years?

Most increase with inflation.

A few fees are decreased. KY Sanitation District 1 went from $5.04 in 2020 to $4.94 in 2021.

A few are tied to the CPI.

Some ordinances show fee amounts over a period of years.

Most do not keep up with inflation.
Interested in forming a SWU?

Hire an experienced company to do it. No money? Begin with flat fee or 3000 sq ft ERU.

Put some teeth into your ordinance. Take to court. Lien on property. Turn off water and power 😊

Mount a multimedia campaign – rule of thumb – 1 year.
Who will oppose SWUs?

About 1 out 177 SWUs will be repealed.

Who Opposes?

Churches
Airport Authorities
Railroads
School districts
Opportunistic politicians
Residents
Questions?

Warren Campbell
School of Engineering and Applied Sciences
Western Kentucky University
1906 College Heights Blvd.
Bowling Green, KY 42101

warren.campbell@wku.edu

https://digitalcommons.wku.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1003&context=seas_faculty_pubs

https://www.wku.edu/seas/undergradprogramdescription/stormwaterutilitysurvey.php