

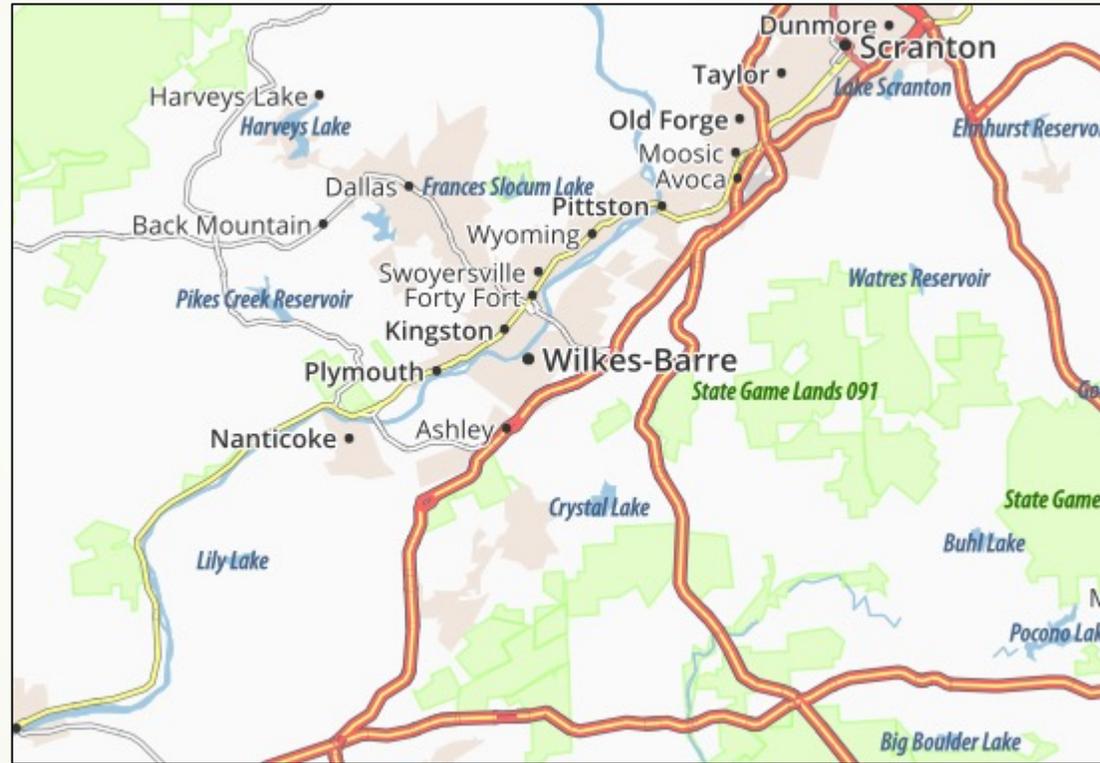


WWSA's Regional Collaboration & Compliance Program

University of Connecticut

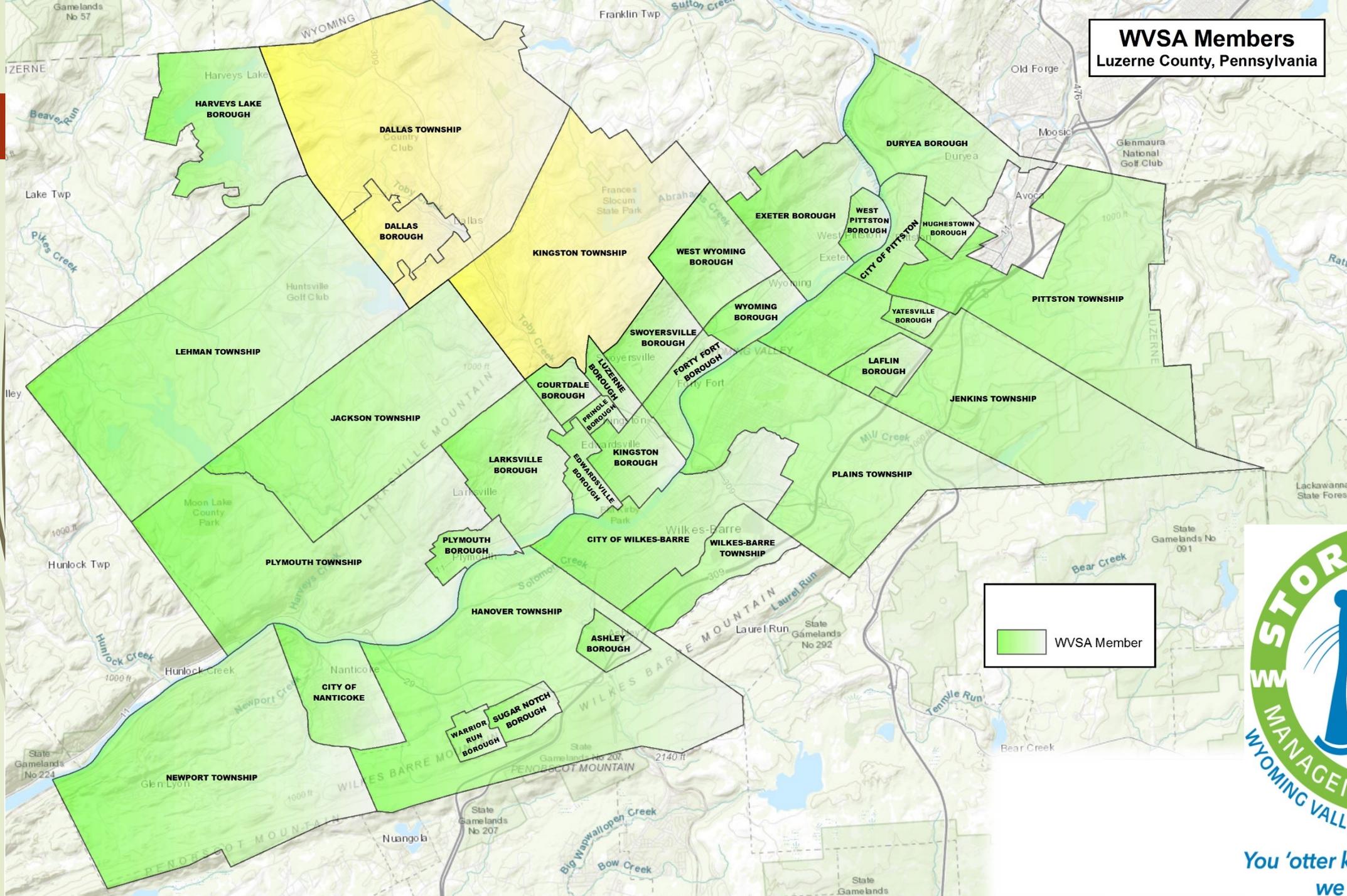
Jeff Colella, WWSA Stormwater Division Manager

32 Towns Centered on Wilkes-Barre



You 'otter know...
we all live downstream.

WVSA Members
Luzerne County, Pennsylvania



 WWSA Member



*You 'otter know...
we all live downstream*

Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority



- Wastewater treatment (1962)
- Stormwater program (2017)
- 14 original municipalities
- 36 current wastewater municipalities
- 32 current stormwater municipalities
- More than 200,000 serviced residents
- Stormwater services began in 2019



You 'otter know...
we all live downstream.

A screenshot of the Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority website homepage. The header includes the logo, navigation menu, and contact information. The main content area features a large image of a river with a bridge and a group of people on a boat. A red banner at the bottom of the image area contains the text "Protecting our environment for all generations".

WYOMING VALLEY SANITARY AUTHORITY
Together, we put water in its place.

570-825-3416 (Emergency 24/7/365)
Non-Emergency Contact Information

Billing Services Who We Are What We Do Stormwater Management Contact Us **I Want To...**

May Board of Directors Meeting...Customer convenience matters...Check out our new payment drop off locations Read more >

Protecting our environment for all generations

Regional Wastewater Program



- Mid 1990s
 - Operations & Management (O&M) responsibility from the charter member municipalities for their sanitary sewer lines.
 - Began to assume ownership of the pump stations for the municipalities.
- Program for non-charter member municipalities for O&M
- Baseline that started our Stormwater Division

‘The WVSA has demonstrated that regionalization can work, given half a chance, and the rewards are lower costs and better service’ - The Citizens’ Voice



You 'otter know...
we all live downstream.

Regional Wastewater Program



- **95,000 EDUs**
- **More than 200,000 people served**
- **25 MGD of sewage treated (ADF)**
- **50 Diversion Chambers (combined sewer outfalls)**
- **800 miles of sanitary line**
- **14,800 sewer manholes**
- **64 pump stations**

MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems)

Chesapeake Bay Agreement:

- ❑ Executed in 1983
- ❑ Signed:
 - Governors - Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania
 - Mayor of D.C.
 - Administrator of E.P.A.
- ❑ 2000 set new goals
 - Delaware, New York and West Virginia joined
- ❑ **2023 set goal to reduce 10%**
 - Municipalities required to meet goals



**Federal
Mandate**



Municipal Stormwater Challenges

#1: Polluted streams

#2: Tightening regulations

All municipalities in WWSA's Service Area have MS4 Permits issued by DEP, requiring:

- Best Management Practices (BMPs) to reduce suspended solids entering waterways by 10% over the next five years.
- Compliance with Minimum Control Measures (MCMs)
- Stormwater Infrastructure Mapping

#3: Aging infrastructure

#4: Increased development = more stormwater, flooding

#5: Level funding

Historically, municipalities have funded stormwater costs through tax revenues that have remained stable despite growing costs

Regional Cost Savings

Regional stormwater service reduces overall cost by:

50-70%



Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreements

- Wastewater
 - 1965: 14 municipalities joined.
 - 1993 to Present: 22 additional municipalities joined.
- Stormwater
 - Met with 36 Municipalities to promote idea of a Joint Pollution Reduction Plan (PRP).
 - 2018: 32 Municipalities joined the program.
 - Billing for Stormwater services began in January 2019.
 - Regionalized PRP approved by Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) in December 2019.



Why Stormwater Management?

Municipalities asked WVSA to help with Stormwater Management due to:

- ▶ Economies of scale
- ▶ Most local municipalities are regulatory deficient
- ▶ History of community fines
- ▶ Regional entities attract more grant dollars
- ▶ Ability to fund local projects

50 to 70% cost savings for each municipality in WVSA's program

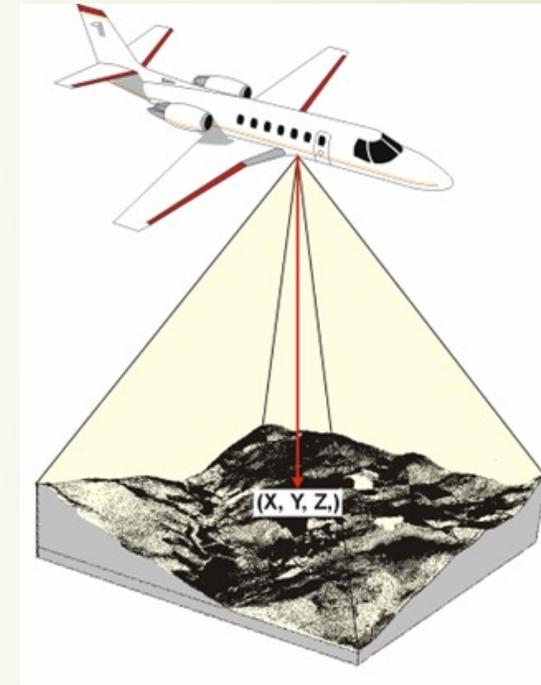


What are WVSA responsibilities?

- Municipalities maintain ownership of MS4 permits and local control of existing stormwater infrastructure. They adopt ordinances, assist with MCMs and submit annual reports.
- WVSA
 - Administers the MS4 permits.
 - Completes Minimum Control Measures (MCMs) requirements.
 - Executes Best Management Practices (BMPs), performs street sweeping, etc., to meet pollution reduction requirements.
 - Assists municipalities with infrastructure maintenance and improvements.
 - Maps municipal infrastructure.
 - Reimburses each municipality for a portion of stormwater infrastructure improvement costs.

Starting a Stormwater Authority - Fee Development

- Find and utilize experienced, competent and qualified consultants and advisors
 - Experienced consultants will lead you in the right direction
 - Reach out to other stormwater authorities for recommendations
 - Research
- Take a slow approach and research all options
 - WWSA had a multi-year approach to startup
- Ensure the rate structure chosen is fair, equitable, and legally defensible
 - Many types of rate structures
 - Must be legally defensible and equitable



Stormwater Fee Rate Structure

Fee to be based upon IA (impervious area) per property

Tier	Tier IA Range (sq. ft.)	Monthly Charge
0	0-99	No Fee
1	100-499	\$1.00
2	500-6,999	\$4.80
3	7,000+	\$1.70 per 1000 sq. ft. IA

Getting Ahead...Community Outreach

Key steps prior to customer billing...

- Meetings at senior citizens' centers
- Public presentations at the start of the public municipal meetings
- Separate open-to-the-public presentation
- In-person meetings with any rate payer charged >\$3,000 a year
- Top 50 rate payers attended meeting with the Board of Directors and Executive Director
- Newspaper Ads
- Direct informational mailers to all ratepayers
- New and or updated website



Public Outreach & Education Strategies

- Stormwater Credit Program
- Campaign for Otter Mascot
- Public Surveys
- Municipal Steering Committee
- Rebranding/Website Upgrades
- Billing Upgrade/Newsletter Insert

STREAMLINE
WYOMING VALLEY SANITARY AUTHORITY NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2021

HELLO! MY NAME IS: STORMY

Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority's (WVSA) Stormwater Management Division is pleased to announce the conclusion of its **Name the Otter Mascot Contest**.

While the selection of winners among local participating students (grades 4-6) was disrupted due to the public health crisis, WVSA reached teachers of participating classrooms and rewarded all top-place students, eight of whom submitted the winning entry "Stormy."

WVSA extends its gratitude and appreciation to all participating students and teachers.

Let It Snow THE CLEAN WAY

Pile snow in locations with the most opportunity to infiltrate into the ground and where water doesn't pond, such as lawns.

when it rains IT STORES

Rain garden project at Korn St. Park in Kingston

Whether they're in your front yard or a local park, rain gardens have many community benefits.

Not only do they reduce the amount of polluted stormwater runoff reaching our local waterways, they also filter pollutants such as pesticides, fertilizers and bacteria. You may have noticed some newly installed rain gardens in your town, which are essential, community projects supported by the Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority's (WVSA) Stormwater Management Program.

A rain garden is a shallow depression vegetated with native grasses and plants that collect stormwater runoff from downspouts, driveways and roads. Rain gardens typically maintain the water on the landscape so it can be absorbed by plants and grass instead of filtering into streets or down a storm drain. They also help reduce the potential for local flooding, prevent stream erosion, and create diverse habitat for

Home » Stormwater Management

Stormwater Management Public Survey (February 8 – May 8, 2021)

Consistent with our efforts to gauge customer awareness and understanding of WVSA's Regional Stormwater Management Program, we welcome and encourage your participation in the following brief survey.

Your responses will prove valuable to the ongoing assessment of our program and the implementation of necessary changes going forward.

Please choose **one answer** for each of the following questions:

Prior to WVSA's implementation of its Regional Stormwater Management Program, were you aware of state and federal regulations concerning stormwater pollution prevention and management?

Yes
 No

Have you contacted WVSA about a stormwater-related matter (e.g., storm drains, catch basins, street sweeping, etc.)?

Yes
 No

Do you know you can contact WVSA's Stormwater Management Division via email through its website?

Yes
 No

Have you noticed WVSA's storm drain stencils within your community?

Yes
 No

Have you reviewed WVSA's Stormwater Fee Credit Policy?

Yes
 No

I'm not a robot

Submit

Home » Stormwater Management

Stormwater Management by the Numbers

2019 STORMWATER MANAGEMENT BY THE NUMBERS...

LAUNCHED
754 CATCH BASINS
A Twitter account @WVSAStormSewer

CLEARED
2,302 YARDS OF DEBRIS

CLEANED
754 CATCH BASINS to reduce flooding & stem pollutants

SWEPT
2,558 SQUARE MILES and 4,883 STREETS

REPLACED
117 CATCH BASINS

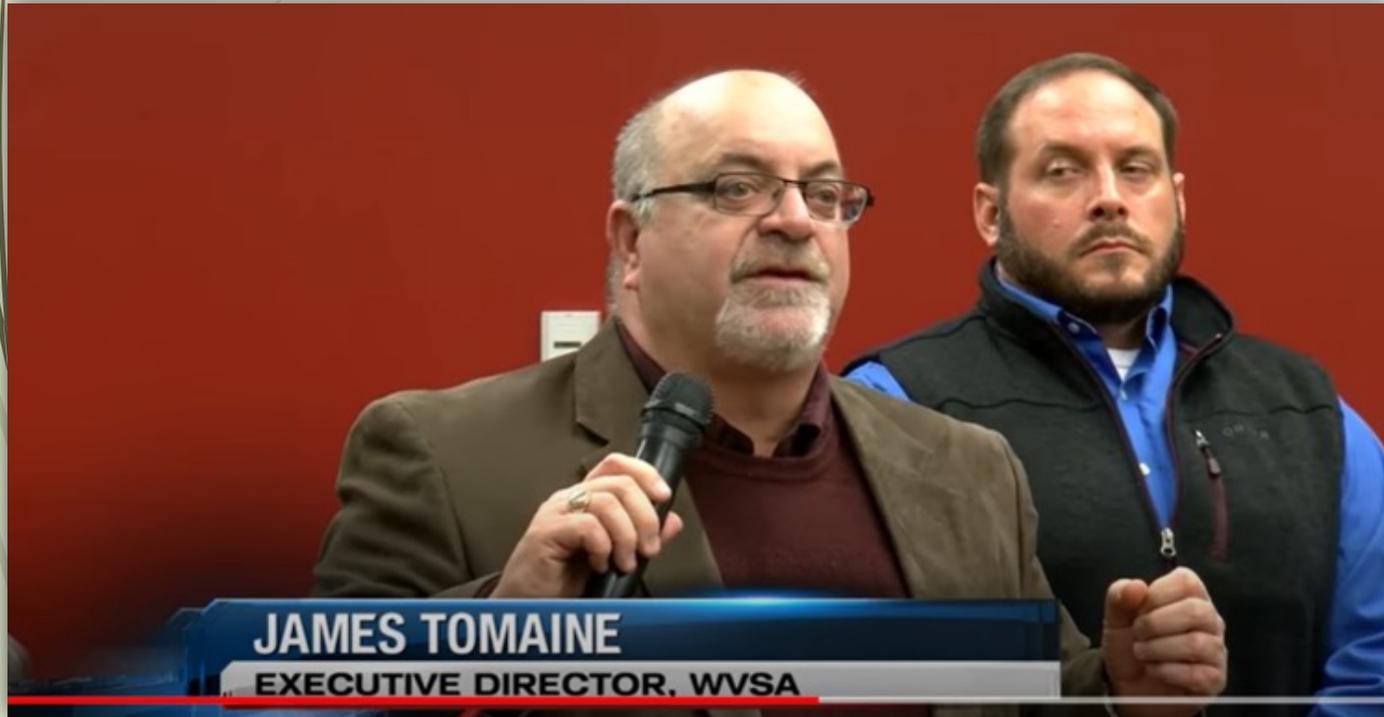
SPONSORED
1 COMMUNITY CLEANUP EVENT IN WILKES-BARRE TWP.

COSPONSORED
4 COMMUNITY OUTREACH EVENTS

Spotlight

Public Outreach & Education

- Stormwater Fee & Program Goals



Customer Partnerships: Who needs to be involved?

- Largest Commercial Property Owner
- Casino
- Retail
- Governments
 - Authorities
 - Member Towns
- Homeowners

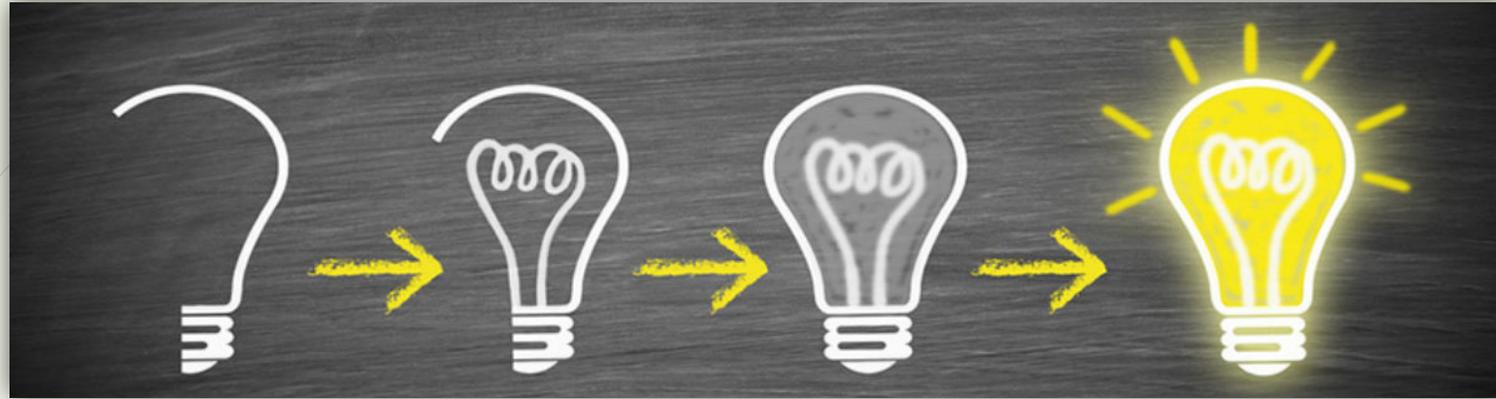


Running an Authority

- State, Federal, and Other
- Additional power with grants by partnering
- Extra attention to the program by elected leaders
- Be very aggressive including speaking to PADEP about grant opportunities
- Gained momentum based on success
 - \$10,000,000 to date in Grant Funds. This includes funding for Engineering, MCMs, and Construction



Lessons Learned...



- **Partnerships & Easements** - much easier for some projects (Stormwater Basin Retrofits), much more involved for others (Stream Restoration).
- **Public Outreach & Education** is key to building support.
- **Grant opportunities** are available - promote your program.
- **Continually evaluate** for cost-effectiveness, environmental impact, & new project opportunities.

WVSA Recognition for the Regional Stormwater Management Program



Committed to regional efficiencies and collaboration, WVSA earned recognition from the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) for its Regional Stormwater Management Plan and MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems) compliance program.

The plan organizes 32 municipalities to collectively improve their storm and sewer infrastructure to meet standards set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency that will reduce pollution in the Chesapeake Bay.

It's estimated that municipalities will save more than \$200M over the next 20 years while ensuring the long-term sustainability of regional stormwater systems.

Pictured from left: Jeff Colella, Stormwater Division Manager, WVSA; Cindy Adams Dunn, Secretary, PA Dept. of Conservation & National Resources; Sandy Bartosiewicz, Director of Budget & Finance, WVSA, Davitt Woodwell, President of the Pennsylvania Environmental Council; Patrick McDonnell, Secretary, PA Dept. of Environmental Protection; James Tomaine, P.E., Director, WVSA, and Bernie Biga, Director of C



WVSA Recognition for the Regional Stormwater Management Program



On November 9th, 2022, Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority was presented with the Integrated Water Resources Management Award during a conference and award ceremony in Seattle, Washington. As bestowed by the American Water Resources Association, the award commemorates projects and practices aimed at improving local water resources.





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we all live downstream.*



THANK YOU