



FEB 9 2023 @10:11

## Planning Board

Seekonk Town Hall  
Planning Board Meeting Room  
100 Peck Street, Seekonk, MA 02771  
1-508-336-2961

### AGENDA

February 15, 2023

6:00 p.m.

Selectmen Meeting Room  
Seekonk Town Hall  
100 Peck St  
Seekonk, MA

### **Type of Meeting: Special Meeting**

*More information on each item can be found on our website—[www.seekonk-ma.gov](http://www.seekonk-ma.gov) under  
Departments>Planning>Agenda items*

### **Special Meeting:**

1. Joint meeting with the Board of Selectmen to discuss Seekonk Stormwater Financing.



Planning Board  
100 PECK STREET  
SEEKONK, MASSACHUSETTS 02771  
508-336-2961

MEMORANDUM

Date: February 15, 2023

To: Shawn Cadime, Town Administrator

From: John J. Aubin III, Town Planner

Re: Seekonk Stormwater financing presentation

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Attached please find a presentation that has been prepared for the Board of Selectmen in coordination with SNEP Network environmental collaborative, University of North Carolina Environmental Finance Center, and the New England Environmental Finance Center. The presentation focuses on the Town's current and projected financial stormwater management needs and the potential for funding these needs through a stormwater fee. The presentation will review the follow:

- What a stormwater fees is
- How a stormwater fee differs from a tax
- Stormwater funding options (general fund vs dedicated fund)
- Current and projected stormwater needs and costs

This initial presentation is the first of three presentations intended allow the Board of Selectmen to further explore and consider the need and propriety of adopting such a fee for the Town of Seekonk via a feasibility study.

Thank you.

# Seekonk Stormwater Financing

SNEP Network

February 15, 2023

Anna Patterson – Project Director, NC Environmental Finance Center

Martha Shiels – Director, New England Environmental Finance Center



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## What is a stormwater fee??

- A fee that users pay for the management of stormwater that becomes surface water drainage.
- It pays for the maintenance of:
  - Pipes
  - Culverts
  - Ditches
  - Catch basins
  - Inlets
  - Permit requirements
- They are dedicated funds that can only be used for stormwater







How does a municipality pay for stormwater services if it DOES have a utility or fee?

Still a variety of sources!

Many utilities have not raised their fees in a substantial way for many years

Debt – Revenue Bonds, SRF Funds etc.

Plan to have some consistency in funding with a fee but it's not the end all of what you need



# New drivers for setting up a stormwater utility or fee

Influx of State and Federal funding to invest in stormwater projects which will need to be maintained

Increasing flooding issues

Source water protection

Emerging contaminants or other worsening water quality challenges

Growth!



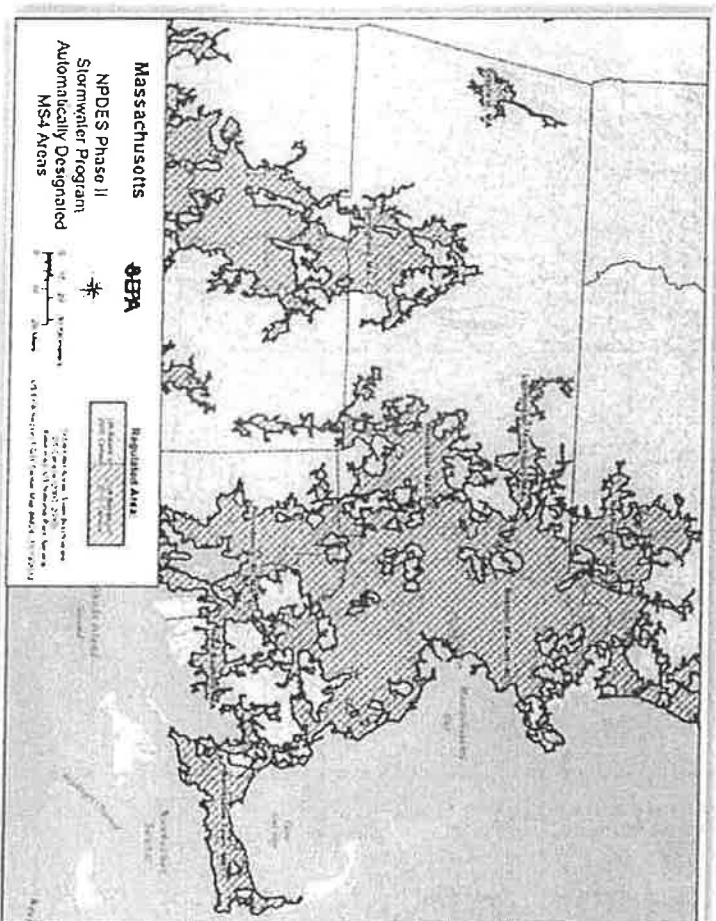


# Seekonk Specific Driver



# Regulatory drivers that may affect how much you need for a stormwater budget

- MS4 – Phase I or Phase II communities
- Nutrient Management rules
  - Planning, monitoring, etc requirements for new and existing development
- Local Level regulations
  - Building setbacks/density requirements or mitigation
  - Other impaired waters in jurisdiction



# How much money do I need to comply with regulations?

## It depends...

- What we do know:
  - Estimates for MS4 compliance from similarly situated/sized communities
  - Estimates for internal staffing and external consulting firm costs
  - Estimates for costs of BMPs and maintenance
  - What fees utilities across the state are charging and how much they are subsidizing with general fund dollars
- Talk to your neighbors and look for examples!



## Understanding needs is critical...

Setting fees based on needs provides justification for fee level

- When increased fees are proposed, perceived public resistance
- Public resistance is lessened when increases are justified
- Board resistance is also lessened when needs are justified
- Plan ahead for resistance and do your homework

Understanding needs allows for capital planning

- Proactive



## Next time

- Legal Framework in Massachusetts to allow for stormwater fees
- Case Studies
  - Dover, NH
  - Fall River, MA



# Questions?

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