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# TNSA Times

Tennessee Stormwater Association News & Information

October-December 2016



## Crystal's Corner: A Message from the President

### Reflections and Celebrations

*"Looking back so that the view looking forward is even clearer." -Unknown*

In the first *Crystal's Corner*, I wrote about reflecting on the previous year, making a resolution for the year ahead, and sticking to the mantra "Go with the Flow". I had no idea how powerful that mantra would become for TNSA, my term as President, and my personal life.

Remembering to go-with-the-flow guided me through some difficult decisions and calmed my nerves in the face of adversity. As I reflect on the events that transpired since my first article, I sit in amazement at all of the waters (some good and some turbulent) that TNSA navigated this year – HBI892, new MS4 Phase II permit, new fiscal and communication policies, membership growth and formation of the Northwest Regional Chapter, joining the National Municipal Stormwater Alliance, new branding with an updated logo and website, the Urban Runoff 5K, another successful conference (220 attendees! Woot! Woot!)... I want to take this opportunity to thank the wonderful Board of Directors, Committee Members, Regional Chapter Chairs, and Charlene for being the backbone of our quickly growing and maturing organization. The time and effort you

sowed has sprouted TNSA's most successful year to date.

As 2016 draws to a close, I challenge you to reflect on your own experience with TNSA, and I encourage you to take steps to improve that experience for 2017.

Attend a regional meeting. TNSA is comprised of 6 Regional Chapters – West, Northwest, Middle, Southeast, East and Northeast. Regional Chapter quarterly meetings provide members with education on permit compliance, offer networking opportunities, and facilitate information exchange between members. Contact a Regional Chapter Chair (listed at [tinstormwater.org/leadership](http://tinstormwater.org/leadership)) to receive more information on chapter meetings.

Join a Committee. Current committees include Communication, Conference, Education, Manufactured BMP Evaluation, and Policy committees. Committees constantly seek new ideas and methods to identify and meet the needs of our membership. Contact Charlene DeSha to join a committee today!

I have a positive outlook for TNSA in 2017,

when the presidential torch is passed on to Mark Heinzer. Mark will be joined by Jennifer Watson (President-Elect), David Mason (Vice President), Steve Casey (Secretary), and Shelia Knight (Treasurer) to serve as the 2017 Executive Committee. I cannot predict what challenges will be faced or successes will be celebrated, but I guarantee that it will be handled with the upmost professionalism from TNSA leadership.

It has been a true honor and blessing to serve as your President in 2016. Thank you all so very much!

Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and Best Fishes!

TNSA President  
(P.S. 2017 will be a reMARKable year!)





**Executive Director**

Charlene DeSha

[Charlene@tnstormwater.org](mailto:Charlene@tnstormwater.org)

**TNSA Committees**

**Regulations & Policy**

Chair: [Jennifer Watson](#) & [David Mason](#)

**Education Training & Professional Development**

Chair: [David Carver](#)

**Manufacturer BMP Evaluation**

Chair: [Chris Granju](#)

**Conference Planning**

Chair: [Crystal Bishop](#)

We welcome TNSA Members to participate on any of these committees! Please contact the committee chair for additional information.

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**TNSA Executive Director Message**

Good-bye 2016, Hello 2017!

What a year it's been. I think we have all been through a roller-coaster of emotions and experiences this year in relation to stormwater and environmental issues, but we have held our heads up and trudged along. I am hoping 2017 brings us much joy, new positive experiences and continued growth.

My main goal for 2017 is to work with the TNSA Education Committee in order to create professional development courses with educated speakers for the TNSA membership. This has been a long-term goal for TNSA and David Carver; and we are right on the cusp of rolling this program out regionally, then state-wide. Education, information sharing and professional growth is what I have heard is needed while visiting each region. While the TNSA conference helps with this aspect, continued on-going specific needs are not being met at this time. If you have a specific topic you would like us to look into or you would like to share successes with the

membership through this program, please contact me anytime.

Our big success this year was the 2016 "Go with the Flow" TNSA Annual Conference. We hosted over 220 attendees this year, which is 40 more attendees than 2015. The conference included a new MS4101 panel, guided hike of the falls, membership and bonfire socials then ended with a TDEC panel discussion. Available presentations from the conference have been uploaded for TNSA members to the Wiggyo website.

**SAVE THE DATE for the 2017 TNSA Annual Conference!** The dates are October 17-19, 2017 at Fall Creek Falls. We are looking at hosting a Project Wet Workshop on Monday the 16th and holding the Membership meeting and MS4101 panel in the 17th. Rooms are now available to reserve, visit the TNSA website for lodging information.

I would like to thank each and every one of you for supporting me through this first full year with TNSA. I truly enjoy seeing each of

you at the quarterly regional meetings and at the annual conference. You have embraced me as one of your own and I can't imagine being any where else. I hope you all have Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! See you in 2017!

Best wishes,

Charlene Desha

[charlene@tnstormwater.org](mailto:charlene@tnstormwater.org)  
865-386-6917



**MTAS & TDEC NOI Videoconference & MS4 Updates**



**Phase II Permit NOI Updates:**

- There are 3 appeals of the 2016 MS4 permit. These, along with all permit documents may be viewed [here](#).
- The appeals are scheduled to be heard in **November 2017**.
- Currently the Phase II NOI is

due on **February 1, 2017**.

- MTAS and TDEC will host a statewide video-conference call on **January 5, 2017 at 9:00 AM CT** for MS4s to attend a Q&A session with TDEC and they will present a model NOI that the MS4s can use as a reference.

This is intended to be a viewing presentation as there will be an actual NOI on screen and we will all

go through it section by section.

**Please plan on attending in person at your nearest TDEC Environmental Field office.** Contact information for the EFOs may be found [here](#).

For morning information contact [Robert Karesh](#) at 615-253-5402.

## Funding Your Stormwater Program: When is a Stormwater Utility Right for You?

Throughout the past decade, the attention paid to stormwater and water quality issues has dramatically increased. Ever-expanding regulations such as the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) requirements as well as Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) have significantly expanded the scope of local stormwater management programs. In addition, aging infrastructure continues to be a drain on local governments' capital improvement budgets. In parallel, the economic downturn of the past several years has increased the competition within cities for limited general fund dollars. As a result, the option of implementing a sustainable, stormwater utility funding mechanism continues to grow in popularity. According to annual studies performed by Western Kentucky University<sup>1</sup>, the number of stormwater utilities nationally has grown from approximately 800 in 2007 to over 1,600 in 2016. So, the question becomes... "When is a Stormwater Utility right for you?"

### Assessing the Need

Many communities make the mistake of jumping into the stormwater utility discussion by talking about potential fees and revenues. You may hear statements such as "it's only \$3" or "we can generate X amount of money with it." However, what a community really needs to be discussing first is the needs of the community, asking questions such as "what are our needs, both today and in the future?" and "what benefits will meeting these needs provide our customer base?" If you can't answer those questions, it is very difficult to sell the concept of a new fee your administration, to elected officials and ultimately the public.

Therefore, the first step in the process of evaluating your readiness for a stormwater utility should be determining the true cost and level of service of your program. Many smaller communities without a stormwater utility likely do not have a line item in the annual budget that summarizes the cost of service, as stormwater services are typically provided across numerous departments and by staff that have multiple roles in the organization. Thus, some legwork is required to understand where the various stormwater costs reside in the budget. This effort can be performed by internal

staff with support from their finance depart-



*Like this old shoe, even if the price is "only \$3", you can't sell it to the public if they don't like what they're getting. Assess your program and understand its benefits (or lack thereof) before trying to pursue a stormwater utility.*

ment or through outside consulting services.

Once the cost of the program is determined, the next step is to perform a pragmatic assessment of the level of service being provided to customers for that cost. The level of service assessment should include the identification of what services you are providing today and the benefits (or lack thereof) to customers. Next, the community should consider how they might increase that level of service to meet customer expectations, the cost of those new or expanded services and additional benefits customers may receive from the program. It is only after these steps that the potential funding by a stormwater utility should be considered. It has been our experience that the customers will embrace the fee only if they want the service it will provide.

### Engaging the Public in the Conversation

Once your level of service and cost of service is clearly understood, the next thing you should consider is how much support you can garner from the public for a new fee program. Public input can be gathered in a variety of ways, such as through public meetings, public opinion surveys, or a facilitated public stakeholder process. While it may take longer to execute, experience has shown that the public stakeholder process is the most effective approach for gaining support for the program. The process offers several benefits, including:

- Feedback is immediate.
- The message is tested in a small group before distribution at large.

- Once consensus is reached, stakeholders can become advocates/champions.

If a stakeholder process is your chosen approach, there are several things you should consider. First, make sure the group you invite includes both your friends and your "enemies." While your friends will provide a lot of positive feedback and support for your program, your "enemies" can reveal important program deficiencies or concerns that should be addressed within your plan going forward. Also, gaining an understanding of your opponents' issues will let you know whether the political will exists to move forward with a fee proposal.



*Public stakeholder meetings are an excel-*

### Understanding the Hurdles to Implementation

One of the last things you'll want to do in assessing the feasibility of a stormwater utility program is an evaluation of the steps for implementation. It would be a shame to proceed to a point where you have proposed a program without understanding potential "red flags" for implementation. Experience has shown that a failed stormwater utility fee program often takes as much as a decade before a follow-up attempt can be made. Things to consider in your assessment should include:

- Do you have the legal authority to bill the fee?
- What is the preferred method to bill and collect the fee?
- What are the costs, if any, associated with billing the fee?
- Do you have the administrative and/or political support to move forward with a fee proposal?

*Continued on Pg. 10*

## Welcome New TNSA Board Members for 2017!

TNSA welcomes the following new and re-elected members to our 2017 Board of Directors! Congratulations to each of you!

- ◆ **Lori Saal** with the Town of Farragut
- ◆ **Shelia Knight** with MTSU and our TNSA Treasurer
- ◆ **Joseph Barnett** with the City of Elizabethton

- ◆ **Mark Heinzer** with the City of Chattanooga and our TNSA President
- ◆ **Don Fent** with the City of Bartlett
- ◆ **Alan Sparkman** with Tennessee Concrete Association
- ◆ **Tom Lawrence** with Water Quality Matters!
- ◆ **David Mason** with CDMSmith and

our TNSA Vice President

- ◆ **Jennifer Watson** with the City of Gallatin and our President Elect

The TNSA Board of Directors look forward to working with all of you and for all of you in 2017.

Please visit our [Leadership page](#) for more information.

## Consider Joining a TNSA Committee for 2017!

TNSA has multiple committees that would benefit our membership by contributing your valuable expertise and opinions! Join one today!

### Conference Committee

*Coordinates speakers and activities for the annual conference*  
 Chair: [Crystal Bishop](#)

### Education Committee

*Manages and creates educational and associa-*

*tion training and resource*

Co-Chair: [David Carver](#)

Co-Chair: [Stephanie Carlson](#)

### Communication Committee Chair

*Goal is to work on communication within and outside of the organization*

[Chris Granju](#)

### Policy Committee Chairs

*Works with TDEC to share and update members on state and EPA regulations and policies*

Co-Chair: [Jennifer Watson](#)

Co-Chair: [David Mason](#)

### Manufactured Best Management Practices (BMP) Evaluation Committee

*Standardizes device evaluation and develops BMP toolkit*

[Sandy Camargo](#)

## TDEC Memo on Permanent Stormwater Management Requirements Implementation Date Extension

In a memo dated December 21, 2017, TDEC issued an update on the implementation date deadline for the Permanent Stormwater management Requirements in the Phase II MS4 permit.

TDEC has elected to allow the MS4s to delay implementation of the permanent stormwater requirements detailed in sec-

tion 4.2.5 until **January 1, 2018** to allow time for the appeals to be decided.

The three appeals to the Phase II MS4 permit, which may be viewed at TDEC's Permit Data Viewer [here](#), are scheduled to be heard November 2017.



## EPA's Water Infrastructure and Resiliency Finance Center

### [Financing Resilient and Sustainable Water Infrastructure](#)

The Water Infrastructure and Resiliency Finance Center helps communities identify financing options for resilient and sustainable infrastructure projects. Key components of resiliency include water efficiency, energy efficiency, green infrastructure, and water

reuse. Many resiliency projects for water utilities are eligible for federal and state financing.

### Stormwater and Green Infrastructure Financing

Communities across the country are embracing green infrastructure solutions that capture rain where it falls rather than pay-

ing to treat it at the end of the system. These practices make communities not only more resilient to climate impacts but also improve water quality, save money, and attract jobs.

EPA has compiled a list of:

[Green infrastructure funding opportunities](#) and

[Green infrastructure case studies](#)

## Green Infrastructure Modeling Toolkit

EPA has developed innovative models, tools, and technologies for communities to manage urban water runoff. The models and tools in this [toolkit](#) incorporate green infrastructure practices to help communities manage their water resources in a more sustainable way, increasing resilience to future changes, such as climate and extreme events.

On October 26, 2016 EPA hosted a public webinar on EPA's currently available green infrastructure modeling software and tools. A recording of the webinar will be [posted soon](#)

1. [Green Infrastructure Wizard \(GIWiz\)](#)  
GIWiz is an interactive web application that connects communities to EPA Green Infrastructure tools and resources, where users can produce customized reports.
2. [Watershed Management Optimization Support Tool \(WMOST\)](#)  
WMOST is a software application designed to facilitate integrated water resources management across wet and dry climate regions. The tool allows water resource managers and planners to screen a wide range of practices, including traditional grey infrastructure, green infrastructure, and other low impact development practices, across a watershed or jurisdiction for cost-effectiveness and economic sustainability.
3. [Visualizing Ecosystems for Land Management Assessment \(VELMA\)](#)  
VELMA is a computer software model that regional planners and land managers

can use to quantify the effectiveness of natural and engineered green infrastructure management practices for reducing nonpoint sources of nutrients and contaminants in streams, estuaries, and ground water. These include riparian buffers, cover crops, and constructed wetlands.

4. [Storm Water Management Model \(SWMM\)](#)  
SWMM is a dynamic hydrology-hydraulic-water quality simulation model used throughout the world for stormwater runoff reduction planning, analysis, and design of combined sewers and other drainage systems. It allows users to represent combinations of green infrastructure practices to determine their effectiveness in managing runoff. SWMM was developed to help support local, state, and national stormwater management objectives to reduce runoff through infiltration and retention.

5. [National Stormwater Calculator \(SWC\)](#)  
SWC is a desktop application that estimates the annual amount of stormwater runoff from a specific location in the United States (including Puerto Rico), based on local soil conditions, land cover, and historic rainfall records. It is used

to inform site developers on how well they can meet a desired stormwater retention target with and without the use of green infrastructure. It also allows users to consider how runoff may vary based both on historical weather and potential future climate. SWC was mentioned in President Obama's Climate Action Plan and is now a resource for LEED Project Credit 16 (Rainwater Management) certification by the U.S. Green Building Council for projects that are designed to reduce runoff volume and improve water quality of a site.

6. [Green Infrastructure Flexible Model](#)



[\(GIFMod\)](#) GIFMod is an open-source framework for modeling urban stormwater and agricultural green infrastructure practices. GIFMod allows users to build conceptual models of a wide variety of green infrastructure and to predict their hydraulic and water quality performance under given weather scenarios. It also allows interpreting field and lab data collected by the researchers via its deter-

## TNSA Survey Request: Current MS4 Riparian Buffer Width Policies

TNSA is interested in compiling a list of cities in Tennessee that currently have Riparian Buffer Width policies and restrictions in place.

If you are interested in participating, please send [Charlene DeSha](#) an email with your current policy including widths and variances, please.



\*\*\* REGISTER NOW \*\*\*



# 100K Day

February 25, 2017

[tectn.org/100KTreeDay](http://tectn.org/100KTreeDay)

December 1, 2016 By [Jeff Barrie](#)

Register Now for Your Free Trees for 100K Tree Day and Pledge to Plant them on **February 25, 2017!**

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#) for your free trees.

Tennessee Environmental Council provides bare-root tree seedlings at no cost to participants (donations are en-

couraged) who agree to pick them up on Friday 2/24 and plant them on Saturday February 25, 2017.

**By registering, you are committing to plant ALL trees you request. Each package contains an equal number of each of these tree species.**



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## Announcing the 2016 Tennessee Stormwater Association “Exceptional Quality” Awards Winners

**Pikeville, TN, October 24, 2016** – The Tennessee Stormwater Association (TNSA) announces the 2016 “Exceptional Quality” Award Winners. TNSA recognizes individuals and stormwater professionals that have devoted time and energy into making TNSA a success and have accomplished great strides within the Tennessee stormwater arena.

Nominations were accepted by TNSA members and voted on by their peers for three specific awards.

**Person of the Year:** An individual who displays Exceptional dedication and commitment to TNSA.

**MS4 Member of the Year:** An MS4 that displays Exceptional stewardship of Water Quality in Tennessee and provides Exceptional education and assistance to other MS4s.

**TNSA Lifetime Achievement Award:** TNSA’s highest honor reserved for outstanding, longtime stormwater professionals. These individuals’ long-term contributions have made a noticeable impact on stormwater management efforts in the State of Tennessee.

Awards were announced at the Tennessee Stormwater Association’s Annual Conference on October 18, 2016.

**Person of the year** was awarded to Ashlie Farmer with the City of Clarksville, TN. Ashlie Farmer was nominated because of the time and dedication she had for TNSA the past year. Specifically, she spent many hours assisting TNSA with educating state legislators about stormwater and spoke on behalf of TNSA at one of the State House committee meetings.

**The MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) of the year** was awarded to Metro Government of Nashville &



Davidson County. They were nominated for MS4 member of the year for their efforts, partnership and contributions with the Urban Runoff 5K. Metro Nashville has lead the way in the State with the development of the LID (Low Impact Development) manual, hosted training opportunities, as well as great public outreach events like the Urban Runoff 5k that has been widely successful. With the tremendous growth seen in Nashville this year they are doing a fabulous job implementing green practices.



**The TNSA Lifetime Achievement Award** was awarded to Jennifer Watson with the City of Gallatin, TN. Jennifer Watson brings a smile with her everywhere she goes and has always maintained a positive attitude. Her knowledge and enthusiasm is something we all should aspire to. Jennifer also makes it a point to help out in any way she can with new MS4’s and coordinators. She is the single best example of a loving what you do and setting an example for others. Jennifer is also the dedicated writer and organizer for the quarterly TNSA Times Newsletter.

Please help us recognize and congratulate the 2016 TNSA award winners. All of these folks work tirelessly to help keep the Tennessee waterways clean for years to come!



The Tennessee Stormwater Association is Tennessee’s premier membership organization for stormwater professionals. TNSA’s mission is to assist members with their local efforts to comply with State and Federal clean water laws; including stormwater regulations through EPA and TDEC. TNSA’s goal is to protect and improve the quality of the waters of Tennessee through the exchange of information and knowledge regarding design, construction, maintenance, administration and operation of stormwater facilities.

For more information about TNSA contact Executive Director, Charlene Desha at [charlene@tnstormwater.org](mailto:charlene@tnstormwater.org) or visit [www.tnstormwater.org](http://www.tnstormwater.org).

## Partners for Places Grant Program

In partnership with the [Urban Sustainability Directors Network](#), the Funders' Network for Smart Growth and Livable Communities (TFN) is pleased to announce the opening of Round Ten of Partners for Places.

[Partners for Places](#) is a successful matching grant program that creates opportunities for cities and counties in the United States and Canada to improve communities by building partnerships between local government sustainability offices and place-based foundations. National funders invest in local projects to promote a healthy environment, a strong economy, and well-being of all residents. Through these projects,

Partners for Places fosters long-term relationships that make our urban areas more prosperous, livable, and vibrant. The grant program provides partnership investments between \$25,000 and \$75,000 for one year projects, or \$50,000 and \$150,000 for two year projects, with a 1:1 match required by one or more local foundations.

**The application deadline for Round Ten is January 30, 2017.** Please visit the [Partners for Places](#) webpage for more information. Here you can view our [promotional video](#) download the [Request for Proposals](#) (RFP), access our [Proposal Form](#) and consult our [Frequently Asked Questions](#) (FAQ) document. You

may also want to visit our [Idea Bank](#) which has summaries of all the proposals submitted in prior rounds. **TFN will host a webinar to answer any questions about the grant program on December 7, at 3:00 p.m., Eastern Time.** Please register for the webinar [here](#). A recording of the webinar will be made available through TFN's website for those of you unable to participate.

If the RFP and FAQ documents don't answer all your questions, please contact Ashley Quintana at [ashley@fundersnetwork.org](mailto:ashley@fundersnetwork.org) or Ann Wallace at [ann@fundersnetwork.org](mailto:ann@fundersnetwork.org) for more information.

## EJ Small Grants Program Accepting Applications

### Requests for Applications

The Fiscal Year 2017 EJ Small Grants solicitation is now open!

[Fiscal Year 2017 EJ Small Grants Request for Proposals](#) (Amended)

EPA's [Environmental Justice Small Grants program](#) provides financial assistance to community-based organizations, and local and tribal governments working on projects to address environmental and public health

concerns. EPA awards grants that **support activities designed to empower and educate affected communities** and to identify ways to address environmental and public health concerns at the local level.

Approximately 40 one-year projects will be awarded at up to \$30,000 each nationwide. **Applications are due January 31, 2017.**

Under this RFP, EPA will award grants that support activities designed to empower and educate affected communities to understand environmental and public health issues and

to identify ways to address these issues at the local level. Approximately 40 one-year projects will be awarded at \$30,000 each.

**Applications are due on January 31, 2017 by 11:59 PM (ET).** EPA requires applications for Environmental Justice grants to be submitted electronically through the Grants.gov website. Hardcopy mailed or delivered applications are only accepted if the applicant has a waiver on file.

For more information, see: [Grants.gov](#).

## Rural Energy for America Program Energy Audit & Renewable Energy Development Assistance Grants

**Due Date: October 31, 2016 or March 31, 2017**

**Program Fact Sheet** [[pdf](#)]

### What does this program do?

Grantees assist rural small businesses and agricultural producers by conducting and promoting energy audits, and providing renewable energy development assistance (REDA).

### Who may apply for this program?

- State and local governments;

- Federally-recognized Tribes;
- A land-grant college or university, or other Institutions of Higher Education;
- Rural electric cooperatives;
- Public power entities;
- An Instrumentality of a state, tribal, or local government;
- A Resource Conservation & Development Council (as defined in [16 USC §3451](#)).

### How may funds be used?

The assistance must be provided to agri-

cultural producers and rural small businesses. Rural small businesses must be [located in eligible rural areas](#). This restriction does not apply to agricultural producers. Assistance provided must consist of:

- Energy audits.
- Renewable energy technical assistance
- Renewable energy site assessments

For more information:

<https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/rural-energy-america-program-energy-audit-renewable-energy-development-assistance>

## EPA Launches New Guide for Long-Term Stormwater Planning

10/27/2016

**WASHINGTON** — The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) today announced a package of tools to help communities plan long-term strategies for managing stormwater pollution. EPA's tools promote the use of flexible solutions that spur economic growth, stimulate infrastructure investments, and help compliance with environmental requirements.

EPA has released a step-by-step guide to help communities develop long-term stormwater plans, a web-based toolkit for the planning process, and technical assistance for five communities to develop plans as national models. This approach was built on input from states, communities, industry, academia, and non-profits.

"When communities link the timing and implementation of stormwater projects with broader planning activities, they can reduce costs and support more sustainable local development," says Joel Beauvais, deputy assistant administrator for the Office of Water. "As stormwater increasingly threatens public health and the environment, EPA can help communities integrate stormwater management with broader plans for growing their

economies, investing in critical infrastructure and meeting their water quality objectives."

Initially the draft guide will be utilized by five communities selected for \$150,000 each in technical assistance to develop long-term stormwater management plans:

- Burlington, Iowa
- Chester, Pennsylvania
- Hattiesburg, Mississippi
- Rochester, New Hampshire
- Santa Fe, New Mexico

These communities will also be the beta testers for EPA's web-based toolkit, which will be refined and released more broadly next year.

Each year billions of gallons of runoff laden with trash, nutrients, metals, and other pollutants flow into waterways. Stormwater runoff is one of the fastest growing sources of pollution across the country and it can overwhelm wastewater systems and overflow sewers. Many cities have utilized green infrastructure as part of a comprehensive, long-term approach to managing

stormwater. Communities are finding the benefits from such approaches go well beyond helping to meet regulatory requirements and actually turn hazards into opportunities. Comprehensive, long-term plans can guide smart investments by tying together multiple community objectives like street improvements, outdoor open spaces, greenways or recreation areas, as well as community revitalization.

For more information: <https://www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater-planning>

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## Funding Your Stormwater Program: When is a Stormwater Utility Right for You?

*Continued from Pg. 4*

Once identified, many of the hurdles that may exist can be overcome with proper planning and foresight.

### Conclusions

As more and more stress is placed on local stormwater programs to meet expanding regulatory requirements and customer expectations for service, it's becoming more and more apparent that stormwater programs should be operated as an enterprise fund similar to how our water and wastewater programs evolved decades ago.

A dedicated revenue stream is critical to fund the proper planning and preventative maintenance required to extend the life of our current infrastructure, to renew our failing infrastructure and to keep pace with regulatory requirements.

The pursuit of an entirely new funding mechanism can at first be a daunting task. However, following the lessons learned from those that went before us can help you determine if a stormwater utility is right for your community and set you on the proper path for successful implementation.

*David Mason, P.E. is a Principal Engineer with*

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### Notes

<sup>1</sup> <http://wku.edu/engineering/civil/fpm/swsurvey/>

## EPA's National Lakes Assessment Finds Nutrient Pollution is Widespread in Lakes

**WASHINGTON** – The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has released the results of a national assessment showing that nutrient pollution is widespread in the nation's lakes, with 4 in 10 lakes suffering from too much nitrogen and phosphorus.

Excess nutrients can cause algae blooms, lower oxygen levels, degraded habitat for fish and other life, and lower water quality for recreation. The National Lakes Assessment also found an algal toxin – microcystin – in 39 percent of lakes but below levels of concern. Low concentrations of the herbicide atrazine were found in 30 percent of lakes.

"America's lakes and reservoirs provide many environmental and public health benefits; we use lakes for drinking water, energy, food and recreation, and our fish, birds, and wildlife depend on lakes for habitat," said Joel Beauvais, Deputy Assistant Administrator for Water at EPA. "The National Lakes Assessment

provides us with valuable information to help protect and restore our lakes across the country."

The assessment is part of a series of National Aquatic Resource Surveys designed to provide information about the condition of water resources in the U.S. The surveys are conducted in partnership with states and tribes to provide national-scale assessments of the nation's waters.

An earlier National Lakes Assessment was conducted in 2007, but this latest study is expanded to include smaller lakes and increase the number of lakes assessed. Lake managers can use the new interactive dashboard to evaluate site-specific information and to explore population-level results. Conducted on a five-year basis, future lake surveys will help water resource managers assess broad-scale differences in the data and perform trends analysis.

Nutrient pollution is one of America's most widespread and costly environmental and public health challenges. EPA is working on many fronts to reduce the severity, extent, and impacts of nutrient pollution in our nation's lakes and other waters. These efforts involve overseeing regulatory programs, conducting outreach and engaging partners, providing technical and programmatic support to states, financing nutrient reduction activities, and conducting research and development. In September, EPA called upon states and stakeholders to intensify their efforts to reduce nutrient pollution in collaboration with EPA.

For more information: <https://www.epa.gov/national-aquatic-resource-surveys/nla>





## Meeting your Public Education Minimum Measure: Join the Tennessee Association of Broadcasters: TAB Program!

TNSA is continuing to work with the Tennessee Association of Broadcasters (TAB) and Stormwater Consultant, Tom Lawrence, P.E., to provide the TAB Stormwater Education Program for the 2016-2017 year.

The program works with TAB to distribute professionally developed radio and television Non-Commercial Sustaining Announcements (NCSAs) to television and radio stations throughout the State. TAB has over 330 television and radio station members in Tennessee.

Due to TNSA's relationship with TAB, all participating MS4s will be provided with NCSA airtime reporting, which can be

included in your annual report as credit toward your stormwater education and outreach program. TAB states that the return-on-investment in the average NCSA program can deliver 4 to 10 times the annual expenditures! **Annual playtime this past year was equal to over \$500,000 in radio airtime!**

The cost of participation is based on the population within the MS4 (see table below). TAB uses the money received from TNSA for distribution, promotion, and tracking of the NCSAs. TNSA pools the money from the individual MS4s to contract with TAB for the program to negotiate additional airtime at lower costs.

Chris Masin, Shelby CountyMS4, enthusiastically promotes TAB: "Of course Shelby County MS4 would like to participate in the TAB program for 2015. The exposure that the radio ads give the stormwater program is invaluable. The effort level to receive TDEC accepted public education credits is as simple as approving the invoice and downloading the efficiently-sent, timely reports. And the amount of value that the airtime is worth compared to the minuscule cost is absolutely mindblowing. Count me in!"

If you would like to get an invoice for the TAB Program and receive monthly airtime reports, please contact Tom Lawrence (901-237-4819) or Charlene DeSha (615-926-7094).

Tier Level	Population	Yearly Rate	Tier Level	Population	Yearly Rate
1	25,000 or less	\$400	4	100,000 or less	\$1,600
2	50,000 or less	\$800	5	Greater than 100,000	\$2,000
3	75,000 or less	\$1,200			

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**Purpose**

The mission of the Tennessee Stormwater Association (TNSA) is to assist local government entities in their efforts to comply with State and Federal clean water laws and Stormwater Regulations promulgated by the Environmental Protection Agency and the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation; and through such assistance, to protect and improve the quality of the waters of Tennessee. This mission will be accomplished through TNSA members' exchange of information and knowledge regarding the design, construction, maintenance, administration and operation of stormwater facilities. The TNSA will promote the dissemination of information in stormwater control measures and the adoption of improved practices in stormwater administration.

**Members**

TNSA membership is composed of designated Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4s) including local governments (city and county), universities, military installations, and other entities such as TN Department of Transportation (TDOT). Associate members include environmental advocacy groups, non-profits, Tennessee State, sub-state or federal government entities consultants. Private sector membership is available to for-profit engineering, scientific and management firms or other organizations with an interest in stormwater.

**2017 Clean Water Runoff 5k  
Jackson, TN**



The 2017 Clean Water Runoff 5K is set for Saturday April 22, 2017 at the West Tennessee Farmers Market in Jackson, TN!

- 5k • Earth Day Festival
- Kids' Activities
- Family Fun

For more information, visit our [webpage](#) or email [Wendy Braxter-Rhyne](mailto:Wendy.Braxter-Rhyne).

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