

APPENDIX M.

Written comments regarding the Stormwater Utility Feasibility Study

Following are e-mail comments addressed to Wendy Warren, Environmental Coordinator, and responses to the e-mails, followed by letters.

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02/17/11

This email is in reference to an insert I received in my most recent Water/ Sewer statement.... regarding a Bangor Clear Streams Project....

I view this as yet another way to fleece Bangor residents for more money.

As a 30+year taxpaying resident of Bangor, I am alarmed and concerned that at such a fragile economic time for many of our residents... we are looking at another proposal to increase the cost of being a resident of Bangor.

A stormwater fee **would not** be an appropriate funding source for Bangor to address stormwater problems.

What is the source of this increase of issues? Perhaps around the big developments of malls, etc....

Then fees should be applied appropriately.... not to residents whose homes have been here for years and are not likely a party to any increased issues.

I am unable to attend your meetings...

So am writing my opinion to join my voice in this issue.

Do not consider raising my fees.

Resident, Bangor, Maine

Good Morning,

Thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts with us. As a homeowner in Bangor, I understand your feelings of alarm and concern. We are well aware of the fragile state of affairs of both residents and business owners in Bangor.

You posed the question, "What is the source of this increase of issues?" That is a very good question, one which we try to answer during our public meetings. The source of the increase of issues is that the Federal Government has been recently focusing more and more on cleaning up our nations rivers and streams, and surface waters in general. The Clean Water Act requires it to do so. In the past they have focused on discharges from big, industrial polluters and waste water treatment plants. Now that those have been cleaned up, the greatest source of pollution in our Nations waters today is stormwater.

Stormwater is generated as much by commercial development as it is by residential development.

Wherever rooftops, and driveways and streets occur, pollutants accumulate on their surfaces and get rinsed off whenever it rains. Since everybody contributes to stormwater pollution, we feel the best way to solve the stormwater issues is through a collaborative effort.

Unfortunately, the Federal and State Government are forcing Bangor to clean up our streams, and they are not providing us any financial assistance, except through a small amount of grant money here or there.

I am attaching a brochure that provides some background information and may help you to understand the situation. We will log your comments as an addendum to our study. If you have further questions, please feel free to contact me at 992-4255 or Paul Nicklas (992-4275) or via e-mail.

Thank you again for your time!

-Wendy Warren, Environmental Coordinator, City of Bangor

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02/18/11

Hello,

I wanted to follow up on the public meeting I attended last night regarding the stormwater utility district proposal. I think it is an excellent, progressive idea that can help mitigate some of the stormwater issues in Bangor. I would also like to reiterate that I believe it is a good idea to establish some sort of credit system that allows property owners to implement BMPs that would lower their utility fees, if or when, those fees are established.

I would also like to offer our services for any upcoming work related to stream restoration and stormwater management in Bangor (e.g.. Shaw Brook and Arctic Brook). My predecessor at Kleinschmidt Associates, Matt Bernier, was a collaborator for the Penjajawoc geomorphic study conducted in 2006 with Parish. We are a full service water resources environmental and engineering firm that can conduct field work, GIS mapping, stormwater design, hydrologic and hydraulic analysis, and stream restoration design. Please include me on your listserv for upcoming RFPs regarding your stormwater issues or contact me directly. I will keep checking the stormwater website for updates. Good luck with the stormwater utility and I hope to work together to improve Bangor's streams in the future.

Sincerely,

Bjorn Lake, Ph.D.

Water Resources Engineer

Kleinschmidt Associates

Good Morning,

Thank you for attending our meeting and also for taking time to share your comments with us. We agree that how we establish credits is a critical part of the Stormwater Utility Model. We will be developing a white paper on different methods for establishing credits for those that remove a portion of the burden from the storm system. We would appreciate your review of the white paper and comments on it, when it is released.

If you want to be on the City's list for all appropriate RFPs to be sent to you, you just need to register with our purchasing office. If you click on this link: http://www.bangormaine.gov/cs_fin_purchbids.php then click on Vendor Application, complete it and send it in to purchasing@bangormaine.gov , then you will be on our list for whatever services you sign up for.

We look forward to working with you.

Thanks again!

-Wendy Warren, Environmental Coordinator, City of Bangor

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02/23/11

I am curious about this stupid fee the city is proposing. I live on a 50 x 100 ft lot at 104 Otis Street. I have the city field and tennis courts on my north side and the Cohen school in my front yard. What are you going to charge the school department???. When it rains the water comes rushing out of the Cohen School parking lot and through the backyards or several homes. The drainage around the tennis courts has crumbled and the water coming off the court and out of the fields and onto the streets is something to behold. I watch the water coming off my property and there is none except when I wash my car and then it goes down the driveway and dissipates before it even gets anywhere near a storm drain - as a matter of fact there is a storm drain at the end of the street (Dead End) and one right in front of my property. The one at the end of the street was put in when they installed the tennis courts and is ineffective. The city property to the left of the property is a muck all year long. So back to my last question. What is the School Department going to be charged. As a matter of fact what is the city going to be charged. I have been after the city to fix the drainage around the tennis courts but to no avail. In this day of higher fuel prices, higher everything all we need is another fee. What happens if property owners refuse today. Twelve dollars a quarter doesn't sound like much but if I know my business that price will steadily go up. I realize that federal regulations require such a move but this fee is, to say the least, stupid, stupid, stupid, stupid and stupid. Now we have to pay for the weather. Someone, somewhere is absolutely nuts!!!! Resident - Bangor, Maine.

Good Morning,

Thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts with me. As a homeowner in Bangor, I understand your feelings of alarm and concern about the potential increase of fees. City staff is well aware of the fragile state of affairs of both residents and business owners in Bangor.

As you noted, the source of the increase of these stormwater issues is the Federal Government that has recently been focusing more and more on cleaning up our nation's rivers and streams, and surface waters in general. The Clean Water Act requires it to do so. In the past they have focused on discharges from big, industrial polluters and waste water treatment plants. Now that those have been cleaned up, the greatest source of pollution in our Nation's waters remaining today is stormwater.

Stormwater is generated as much by residential development as it is by commercial development. Wherever rooftops, and driveways and streets occur, pollutants accumulate on their surfaces and get rinsed off whenever it rains. Since everybody contributes to stormwater pollution and flooding, we feel the best way to solve the stormwater issues is through a collaborative effort.

The Federal and State Governments are forcing Bangor to clean up our streams, and increase maintenance on our stormwater infrastructure, and they are not providing us any financial assistance, except through a small amount of grant money here or there.

You asked, "What will the School Department and the City be charged?" While I cannot answer that right now, I can tell you that if the proposed Stormwater fee system is adopted by City Council and goes into effect, we are estimating that non-residential properties would pay about \$12/quarter for every 3,000 sq feet of impervious area they own (impervious = parking, sidewalks, rooftops, tennis court,

etc.). If we add up all of the City property (including streets), we estimate the fee would add up to about \$500,000. We have not added up all the impervious cover owned by the school department yet.

I am attaching a brochure that provides some background information and may help you to understand the situation, and I hope you will try to attend one of the upcoming public meetings being held on March 10 and March 23 at noon and at 5:00 p.m. at City Hall.

The stormwater system is being proposed in order to address flooding issues such as those you mention at the end of Otis Street as well as water pollution issues. So, while the City may not have had the resources to address past stormwater issues, it is our intention to address situations exactly like the one you describe. Once we have identified a sustainable, consistent source of funding, we can inventory and prioritize all of the flooding situations that occur, and then begin to address them.

We will log your comments as an addendum to our study. If you have further questions, please feel free to contact me at 992-4255 or Paul Nicklas (992-4275) or via e-mail.

Thank you again for your time!

-Wendy Warren, Environmental Coordinator, City of Bangor

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3/30/11

Hi,

I live off Outer Ohio St. and I have recently worked on the Airport Canal job that leads into the Kenduskeag, my personnel opinion on any stormwater agenda is simply this, if the funds can't be found in the revenue that is already being collected by water and sewer bills maybe it needs to wait until some adjustments can be made that frees up these funds. An additional fee should not be one of these options.

thanks,

Resident, Bangor, Me.

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Letters begin on the next page.



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## Eastern Area Agency on Aging

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450 Essex Street, Bangor, ME 04401  
Tel: (TDD) (207) 941-2865 or (TDD) 1-800-432-7812  
Fax: (207) 941-2869 [www.caaa.org](http://www.caaa.org)

March 10, 2011

Wendy Warren, Environmental Coordinator  
City of Bangor  
73 Harlow Street  
Bangor, Maine 04401

Dear Ms. Warren:

Thank you very much for the informative meeting about storm water issues that affect the residents of the Bangor region. We understand the importance of improving our environment and making long term changes that will serve the region for a very long time.

I am writing to encourage the city to pursue the plan to set up a separate entity to manage storm water treatment. Eastern Area Agency on Aging serves many elders and disabled adults who are living on fixed incomes and are doing their best to stay in their own homes. We would like to encourage the city to offer fee waivers to those home owners who simply cannot afford to pay another bill of any kind. We would also like the city to consider the fact that property managers/owners will try to pass this cost on to their tenants. We hope that a fee waiver be considered that would also exempt low income renters from rent increases that are a result of storm water fee assessments.

If there is anything we can do to help educate residents about the issues and ultimately new rules, don't hesitate to ask. We look forward to hearing more about the process as it develops.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Noëlle L. Merrill". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Noëlle L. Merrill  
Executive Director

74 Jennifer Lane  
Bangor Maine 04401  
February 23, 2011

Bangor City Council  
73 City Hall  
Harlow Street  
Bangor, Maine 04401

**RECEIVED**

FEB 23 2011

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

To Whom It may Concern:

The City is proposing two new charges, both of which are unfair. First is the rate increase requested by the Water District for stormwater of a minimum of \$12 a quarter. I am concerned about water quality and am one of very few in my neighborhood without a chemical lawn. However, in 2010 I used a total of 12 HCF of water for the year, but was charged for 12HCF per quarter. Conserving water does not profit me. So I am not happy at the prospect of having another \$48 added to my annual water and sewer bill.

Secondly, I am disturbed by the pay as you throw proposal for garbage. Just as an example, there is a large oak tree on my neighbor's property, (a city employee.) His method of leaf disposal is to allow them to blow onto my property. Consequently I rake approximately 20 bags of oak leaves every year that have ended up in my yard, in addition to needing the gutters cleared of oak leaves. Now will I have to also pay to have them hauled away?

My taxes in Bangor for a very modest home on a postage stamp piece of property are comparable to a friend's larger ocean front property in Hancock County. A friend in Honolulu owns a 2 family home but pays less than half the taxes I do. What does a retired person such as me get for the taxes paid other than an increase in the crime rate due to Hollywood Slots?

Please reconsider these two charges that will be an unfair burden on retired persons.

Sincerely,

  
Pamela Taylor