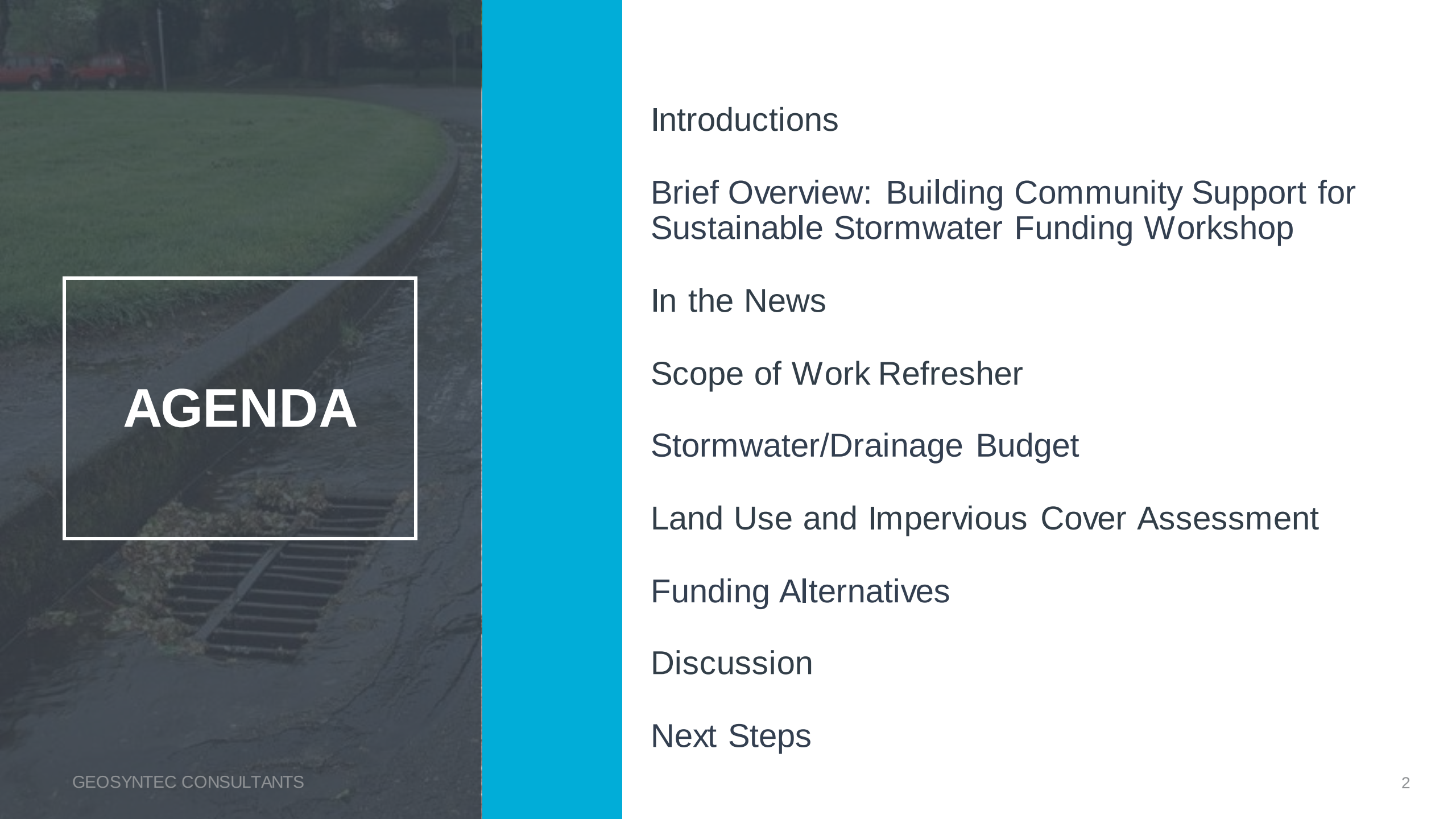




WATER POLLUTION AND FLOOD REDUCTION STUDY: MEETING #2

February 16, 2023



AGENDA

Introductions

Brief Overview: Building Community Support for Sustainable Stormwater Funding Workshop

In the News

Scope of Work Refresher

Stormwater/Drainage Budget

Land Use and Impervious Cover Assessment

Funding Alternatives

Discussion

Next Steps

BUILDING COMMUNITY SUPPORT FOR SUSTAINABLE STORMWATER FUNDING

Empowering participants with a practical skillset to more productively engage with residents about stormwater funding options, clean water, and fostering resilient, equitable communities.



BRIEF OVERVIEW

Getting Community Buy-in for Stormwater Funding

A FOUR-SESSION PARTICIPATORY WORKSHOP



Participant Workbook

Office of Research and Development
National Health and Environmental Effects Research Laboratory



United States
Environmental Protection
Agency

Office of Policy
(1807T)

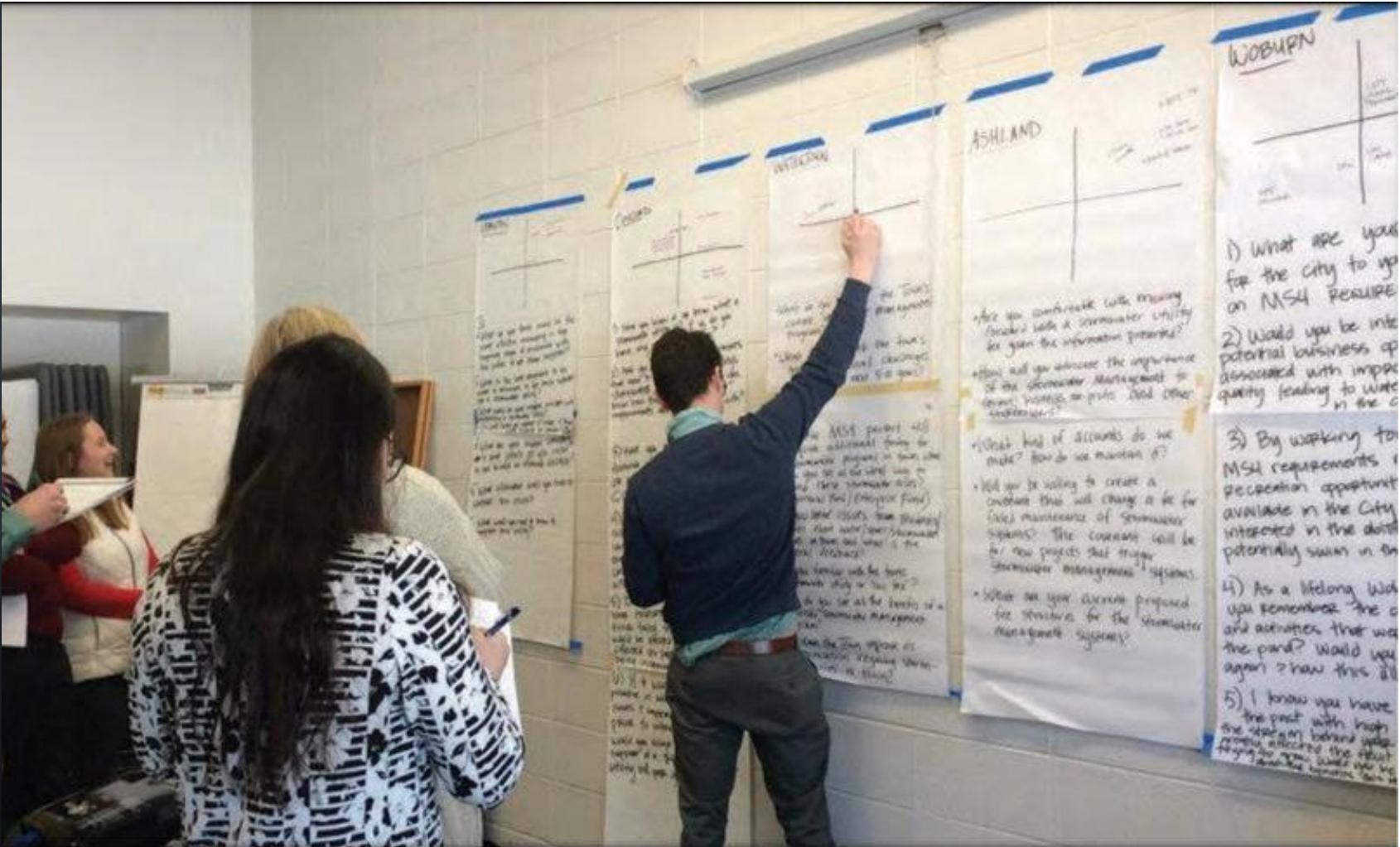
June 2013
EPA-100-K-13-0004



Evaluation of the Role of Public Outreach and Stakeholder Engagement in Stormwater Funding Decisions in New England: Lessons from Communities

**Promoting Environmental Results
Through Evaluation**

-  Dover
-  Hampton
-  Newmarket
-  Rochester
-  UNH



STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEWS

Capturing Values

- Local Identity
- Environmental
- Equity

STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEWS

CAPTURING CONCERNS

- WILL THE PROPOSAL...
- EFFECTIVELY REMOVE POLLUTION
- MAKE A NOTICEABLE DIFFERENCE
- MANDATE FUTURE FEE INCREASES WITHOUT PUBLIC CONSENT
- SUPPORT THE COMMUNITY



STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEWS

CAPTURING EXISTING CONNECTIONS

**POLLUTION PREVENTION –
CLEAN DRINKING WATER**

**WATER TREATMENT – CLEAN
DRINKING WATER**

**WASTEWATER TREATMENT –
CONDITION OF COCHECO RIVER**

HOW CAN STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT HELP?

A METHOD OF...

1

CONSULTING THE
COMMUNITY TO
DETERMINE WHAT
MAY BE PALATABLE
FROM THE START

2

PREPARING LOCAL
DECISION MAKERS

3

ESTABLISHING A
FOUNDATION FOR
BROADER OUTREACH

QUESTIONS?





IN THE NEWS

“So when your town starts talking about stormwater utility, don’t buy it.”

BY [ANONYMOUS](#) / 5 OCTOBER 2022

“The sad part about all this is they preach transparency, yet it’s an act of congress to find or learn about any of the details. Residents who are not on the internet are SOL, and even if you are, most of the data have to be requested and sent by the NHDES”

“You have no right to tax something as obscure as rain!
This has been argued and won.”

“Since **equity** is a buzzword today, this tax is totally inequitable and has no bearing on real science.”



IN THE NEWS

What are the benefits to the City of Rochester to have a stand-alone funding source for drainage, like sewer and water?

What will happen if the City continues to fund drainage through the general fund?

What are the major drivers for considering a stand-alone funding source for drainage?

What value does this funding provide to residents, business owners, etc...?

If stormwater funding is often cut or viewed as “desirable” compared to other general fund priorities a stand-alone funding source could be used to bridge the gap

IMPETUS FOR STORMWATER FEE

- Stormwater management costs are soaring to unprecedented levels
- Tax funds are limited and competing for these funds is very difficult
- The regulatory consequences of underfunding stormwater service can be significant
- The technology to implement and maintain a fee is affordable and available
- The concept of a stormwater fee is less alien than it once was, and legal precedent exists in many states
- The public is increasingly willing to support fee-based funding if it is shown to be more equitable than the alternatives.

SCOPE OF WORK REVIEW

Task 1. City Program Overview

- Review past expenditures related to stormwater and drainage infrastructure
- Prepare estimates of future expenditures related to stormwater and drainage infrastructure

Task 2. Program Funding Alternatives

- Evaluate funding alternatives and rate structures
- Advantages and disadvantages

Task 3. Desired Funding Level

- Establish different funding levels (low, medium, high)
- Calculate the potential fee/rate associated with each funding level

Task 4. Feasibility Report

- Summary report of background, methodology, calculations, recommendations
- Present to the City Council for approval to most to next phase

DEVELOPMENT OF REVENUE REQUIREMENTS

- Allocation of:
 - shared employee salaries (water, sewer, drainage)
 - shared vehicles and equipment (sweeper, vac truck, excavator, sidewalk sweeper)
- Operation and maintenance supplies (sand/gravel, fuel, drainage supplies, vac truck supplies)
- MS4 compliance – average of past 4 years of consultant fees, augmented with expenditures identified in FY23
- GBTN GP Compliance – average of past 2 years
- Drainage CIP projects – average of past 5 years

ESTIMATED ANNUAL REVENUE REQUIREMENTS

Expenditure Category	Existing	Additions	Total
Salaries and Benefits	\$505,615	-	\$505,615
Operations and Maintenance	\$53,810	-	\$53,810
Vehicles and Equipment	\$105,341	-	\$105,341
MS4 Compliance	\$181,938	\$238,000	\$419,938
GBTN GP Compliance ^(a)	-	\$61,932	\$61,932
Drainage CIP Projects	\$606,500	-	\$606,500
Total Annual Cost	\$1,453,203	\$299,932	\$1,753,135

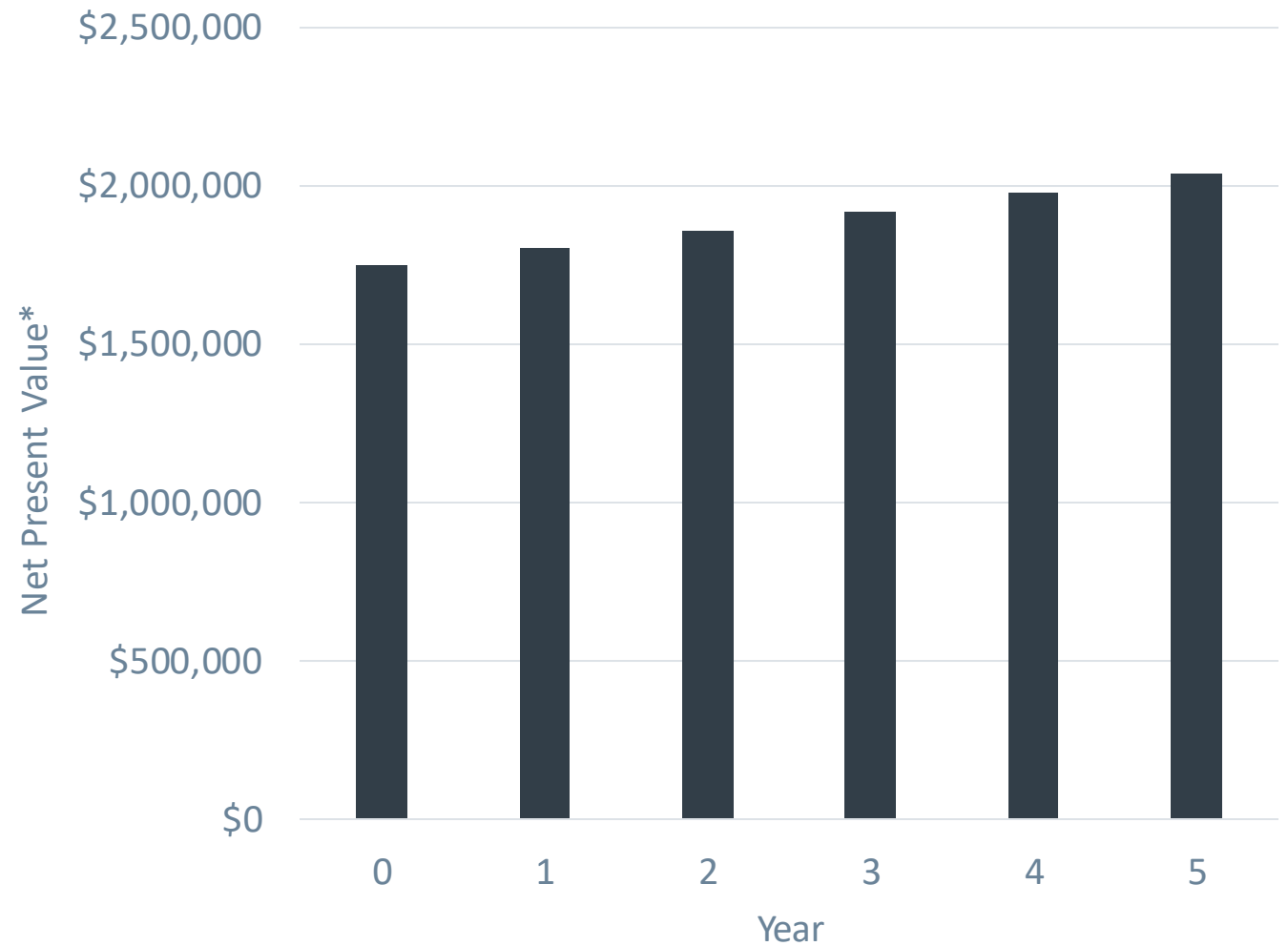
(a) Previously funding 100% by sewer, proposed 50/50 split



ESTIMATED FUTURE COST

*BUDGET REMAINS SAME,
CONSIDERS INFLATION AND
DISCOUNT FACTOR

GEOSYNTEC CONSULTANTS

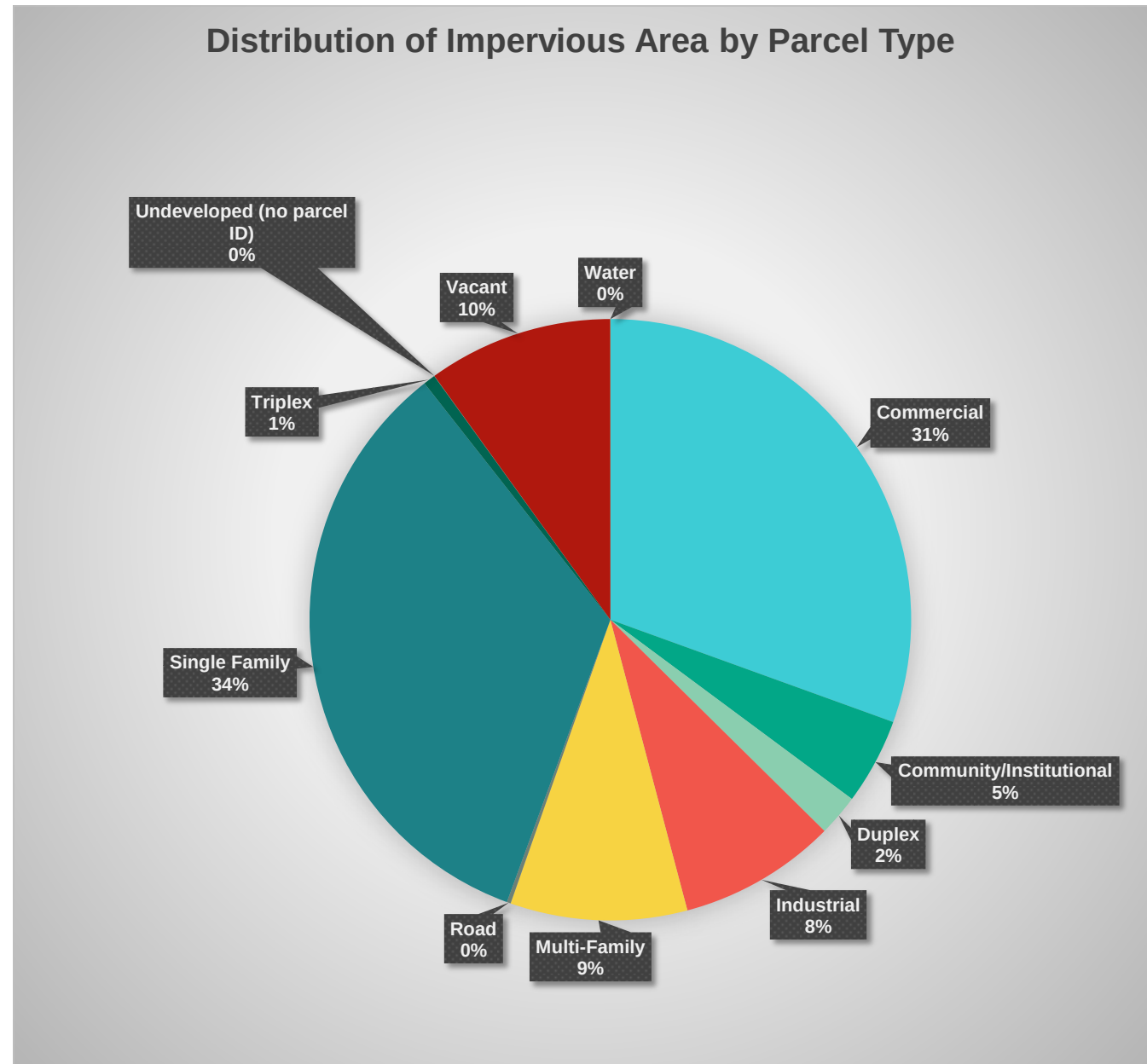


LAND USE AND IMPERVIOUS AREA ASSESSMENT

Parcel Type	# of Parcels	Max IA* (Sq. Ft.)	Avg. IA (Sq. Ft.)	Median IA (Sq. Ft.)
Commercial	422	6,932,621	69,742	17,875
Community/Institutional	58	844,868	77,074	39,386
Duplex	500	48,449	4,305	3,618
Industrial	71	676,189	115,168	60,422
Multi-Family	1,157	1,198,404	7,922	731
Road	4	93,219	50,250	53,364
Single Family	9,096	358,927	3,583	2,648
Triplex	134	19,182	4,620	4,269
Undeveloped	10	7,924	1,299	387
Vacant	1,350	496,045	7,102	-
Water	33	2,879	182	-

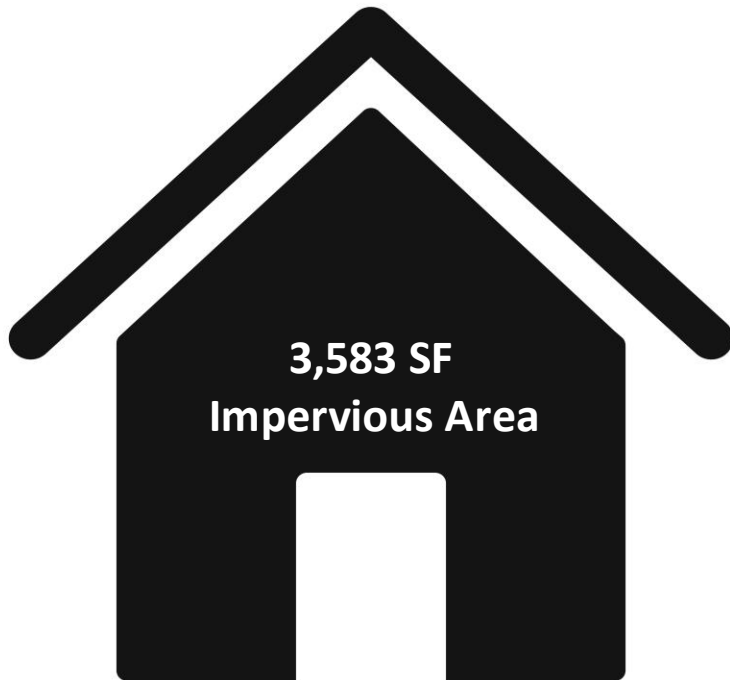
*IA = Impervious Area

LAND USE AND IMPERVIOUS AREA ASSESSMENT



FUNDING ALTERNATIVES

Average Single-Family Home



Equivalent Residential Unit (ERU)

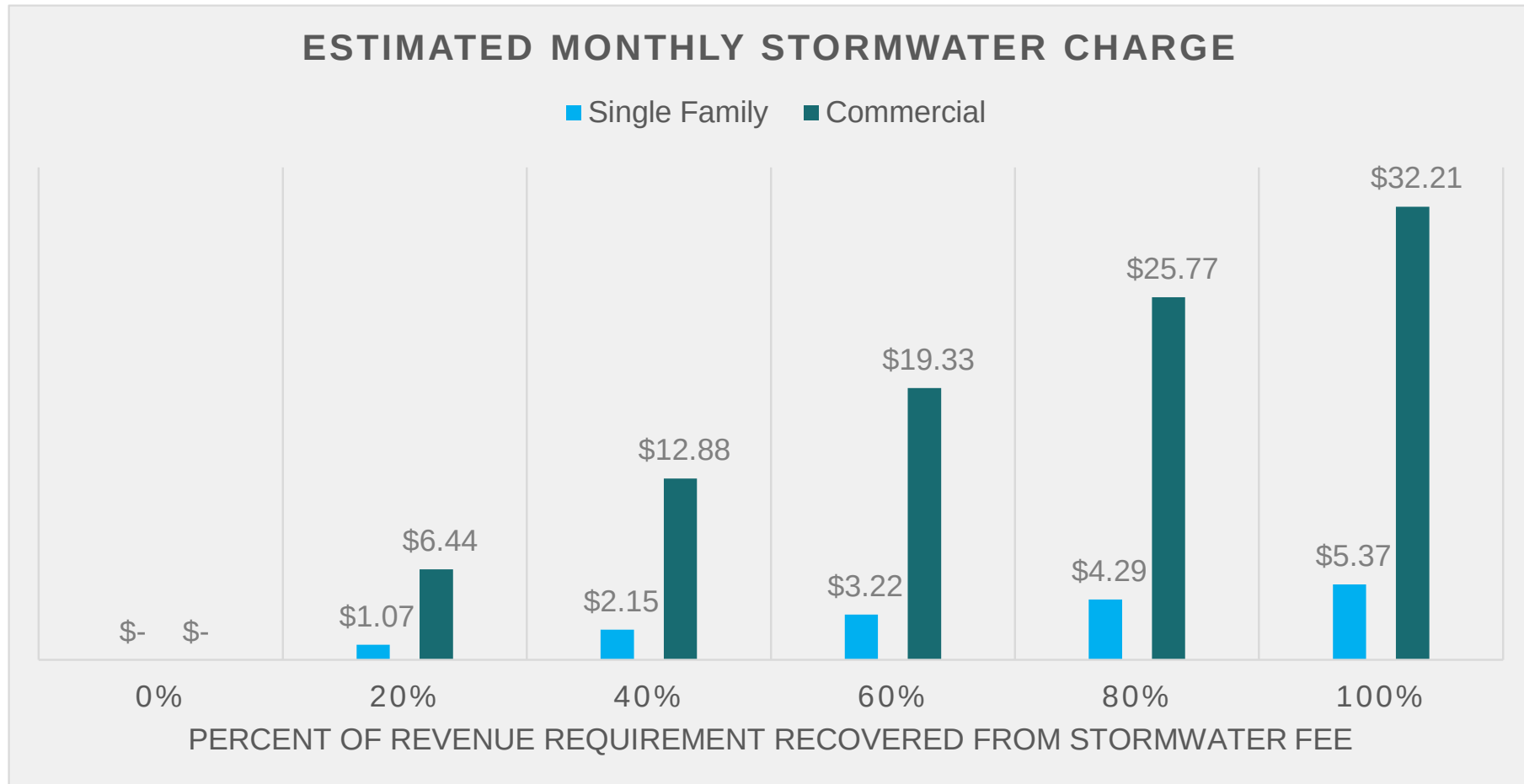
- 1 ERU – all single-family parcels up to 3 units (duplexes and triplexes)
- All non-single-family parcels (NSFP) would be assessed an amount of ERUs based on the parcels total impervious area

Example:

Commercial Parcel: 21,498 sf of impervious area

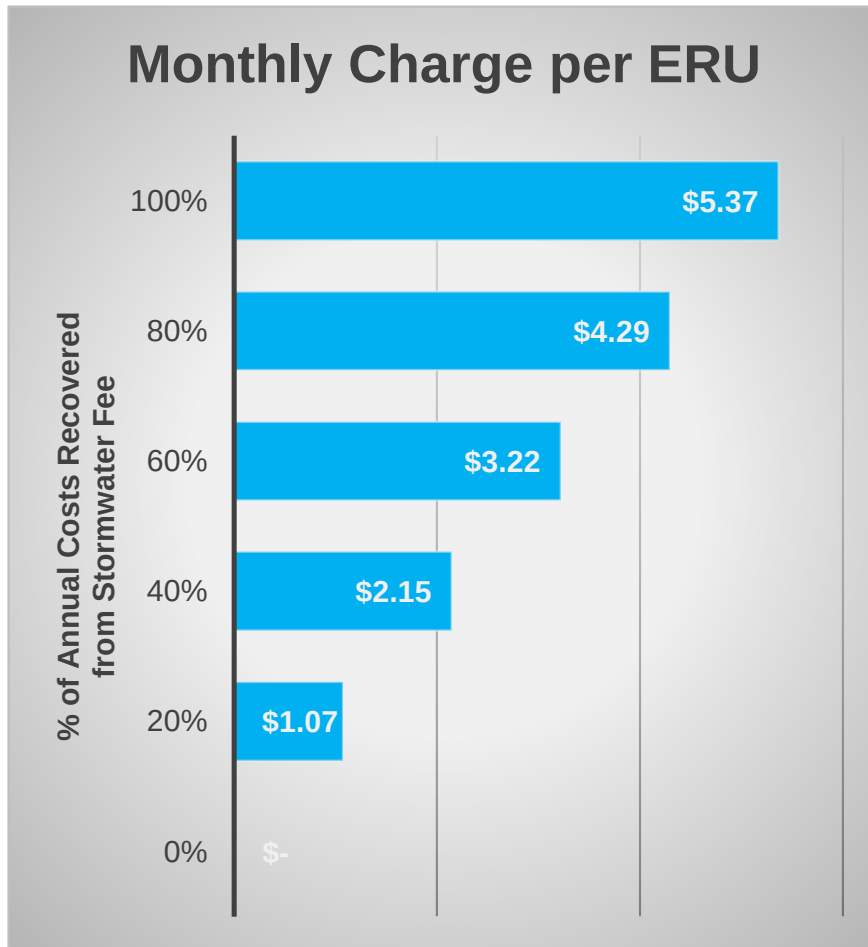
$$\text{No. of ERUs} = \frac{21,498 \text{ sf IA}}{3,568 \text{ sf}} = 6 \text{ ERUs}$$

COST RECOVERY EXAMPLES



*Commercial property is based on 6 ERUs (median for Commercial parcels)

COST RECOVERY CONSIDERATIONS



What is a palatable stormwater fee?

What amount of annual costs can confidently still be recovered through the general fund?



ALTERNATIVE FEE STRUCTURES

Per ERU (all SFP assessed 1 ERU)

- Pros: Simple to understand and maintain data
- Cons: Not quite as equitable as other fee structures

Per Sq. Ft. of Impervious Area

- Pros: Most equitable
- Cons: Difficult to explain, especially to SFP, and data intensive

Tiered Fee based on Sq. Ft. of Impervious Area or ERUs

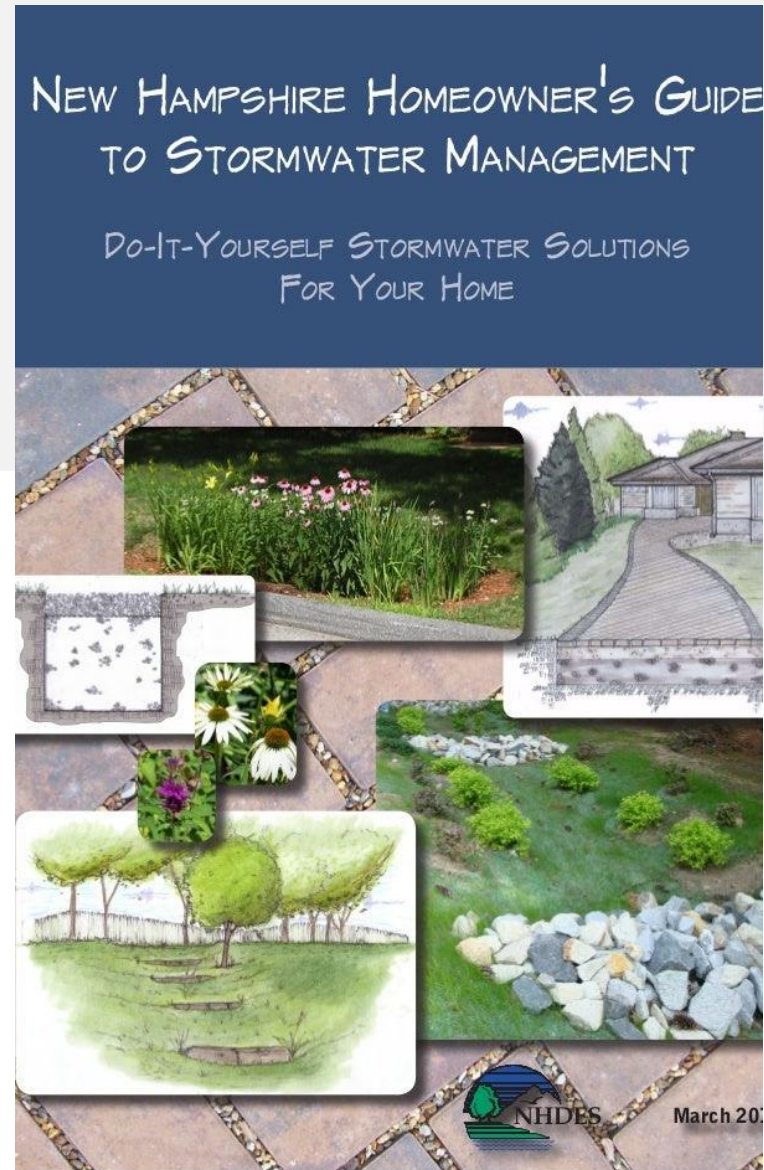
- Pros: More equitable than a per ERU charge
- Cons: Difficult to explain and more data intensive than a per ERU Charge



CREDIT AND GRANT PROGRAM

The magnitude of the program offered will affect the ultimate fee(s) assessed

The more robust the program offered, the higher the monthly fee(s) will be for those not participating



QUESTIONS

