



Water System

Judy Jones, P.E., Agency Director

Districts All

Cobb County...Expect the Best!

TO: Dr. Jackie R. McMorris, County Manager

FROM: Judy Jones, P.E., Agency Director

DATE: October 11, 2022

PURPOSE

To present information on stormwater management services and the preliminary analysis of a stormwater fee based on impervious surface.

BACKGROUND

On December 14, 2021, the Board of Commissioners supported the Water System's effort to continue developing a proposal for enhancing Cobb County's stormwater management program and a proposal to establish a separate stormwater utility fee to fund the program.

The Water System provides stormwater services only in unincorporated Cobb County. We maintain drainage pipes on residential property located in a storm drain easement and that have been dedicated to and accepted by the County for maintenance. In addition, the Water System estimates that we are responsible for maintaining more than 400 detention ponds. There is a significant backlog of stormwater maintenance projects because the Water System does not have sufficient staffing or funding to complete these projects in a timely manner. Other stormwater services include, but are not limited to, reviewing and approving drainage plans for new development, updating floodplain mapping, acquiring floodplain and flood prone properties, code enforcement, West Nile virus control, and public education.

Currently, property owners in unincorporated Cobb pay for stormwater services based on water and sewer usage by paying higher water and sewer rates than Water System customers inside city limits. For example, residential customers in unincorporated Cobb using 5,000 gallons of water and sewer a month currently pay \$1.97 a month for stormwater services. While residential customers on septic tanks who use the same amount of water pay \$0.75 a month for stormwater services, because they have no sewer charges. As water consumption increases, the amount paid for stormwater services increases.

At this time, the Water System is ready to present information gathered on services provided by other stormwater utilities in metro Atlanta and the preliminary analysis of a stormwater fee assessed on the amount of impervious surface on a property.

IMPACT STATEMENT

N/A

FUNDING

N/A

RECOMMENDATION

The Board of Commissioners consider information presented and provide feedback regarding Cobb County's stormwater management services and establishment of a stormwater fee based on impervious surface.

ATTACHMENTS

None