



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 28, 2025

PURPOSE

To present information on establishing a stormwater utility to change the Water System's method for charging for stormwater services from a fee based on water and sewer consumption to a fee based on impervious surface area.

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. On December 13, 2022, Water System presented to the Board of Commissioners information gathered on services provided by other stormwater utilities in metro Atlanta and information about stormwater fees assessed on the amount of impervious surface on a property. On November 28, 2023, the Water System presented options for changing its method for charging for stormwater services from being based on water and sewer consumption to being based on the amount of impervious surface on a property. On March 13, 2024, and March 26, 2024, the Board of Commissioners conducted public hearings on proposed amendments to establish a stormwater utility fee based on impervious area. Following the second public hearing and discussion, a motion was made to table the amendments until August 2024. On July 9, 2024, the Board of Commissioners amended the motion to table to a time indefinite.

The Water System provides stormwater services in unincorporated Cobb County and the city of Mableton. Currently, property owners in unincorporated Cobb and Mableton pay for stormwater services based on water and sewer usage by paying higher water and sewer rates than Water System customers inside other city limits. Residential customers in unincorporated Cobb using 5,000 gallons of water and sewer a month currently pay \$2.24 a month for stormwater services and will pay \$2.34 a month beginning January 1, 2026, due to an approved rate increase. While residential customers on septic tanks who use the same amount of water pay \$0.89 a month for stormwater services, because they have no sewer charges. As water consumption increases, the amount paid for stormwater services increases. An alternative method for charging for stormwater services is a fee based on the amount of impervious surface on a property, because that is what impacts the stormwater system.

At this time, the Water System is ready to present information on a revised proposal to establish a stormwater utility to change the Water System's method for charging for stormwater services from a fee based on water and sewer consumption to a fee based on impervious surface area.

IMPACT STATEMENT

N/A

FUNDING

N/A

RECOMMENDATION

The Board of Commissioners consider information presented on establishing a stormwater utility to change the Water System's method for charging for stormwater services from a fee based on water and sewer consumption to a fee based on impervious surface area.

ATTACHMENTS

None