A Municipal Perspective on Environmental Regulatory Mandates

Goals of TMDL Regulations
- Reduce the levels of nutrients, sediment, and other pollutants in storm water runoff
- Improve water quality in receiving streams and rivers
- Restore the health of the Chesapeake Bay

Challenges
- Statewide concerns
  - $$, development disincentive, land use restrictions
- “One Size Doesn’t Fit All” for local concerns

Challenge – Aging Infrastructure
- Typical Brick Arch Storm Drainage Tunnel

Challenge – Development Density
- 20-acre “suburban” development
- 20-acre downtown block

Challenge - Public “Buy-In”
- Invisible pollutants
- Distance to the Bay
- Private ownership of SWM facilities
Challenge – Political & Economic Realities

- Estimated $210 million by 2025 to comply with WIP goals
- NPDES Phase II requirements
- Perception that the urban sector is being unfairly targeted
- City Financial Constraints & Stormwater Fee
- Competitive Disadvantage

Strategies

What are the most cost effective methods to attempt to comply with the regulations?

Strategy – Take credit for existing programs

- Street Sweeping Program
- Tree Planting Program

Strategy – Take credit for existing programs

- Review Bay Model to ensure that all existing SWM facilities are being accounted for
- Urban Nutrient Management on City-owned properties

Strategy – Work with partners

- Coordinate with local environmental advocacy groups and County Conservation District on projects such as the planting of stream buffers, stream bank stabilization, and stream cleanup campaigns

Strategy – Grant & Loan Funding

- Department of Natural Resources
  Street trees & forest plantings
- Chesapeake Bay Trust
  Stream restoration, “Green Streets”, studies
- Chesapeake & Atlantic Coastal Bay Trust
  Stormwater retrofit projects
- EPA Clean Water Act Section 319 funds
Strategy – Retrofit Projects

Hagerstown Industrial Park
proposed retrofit facility

Strategy – Retrofit Projects

Conceptual design of retrofit facility

Strategy – Green Streets

Incorporate water quality treatment facilities into various projects focused on improved pedestrian access, traffic calming, and general streetscape enhancements.

Is it reasonable?

Depends on your perspective…

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