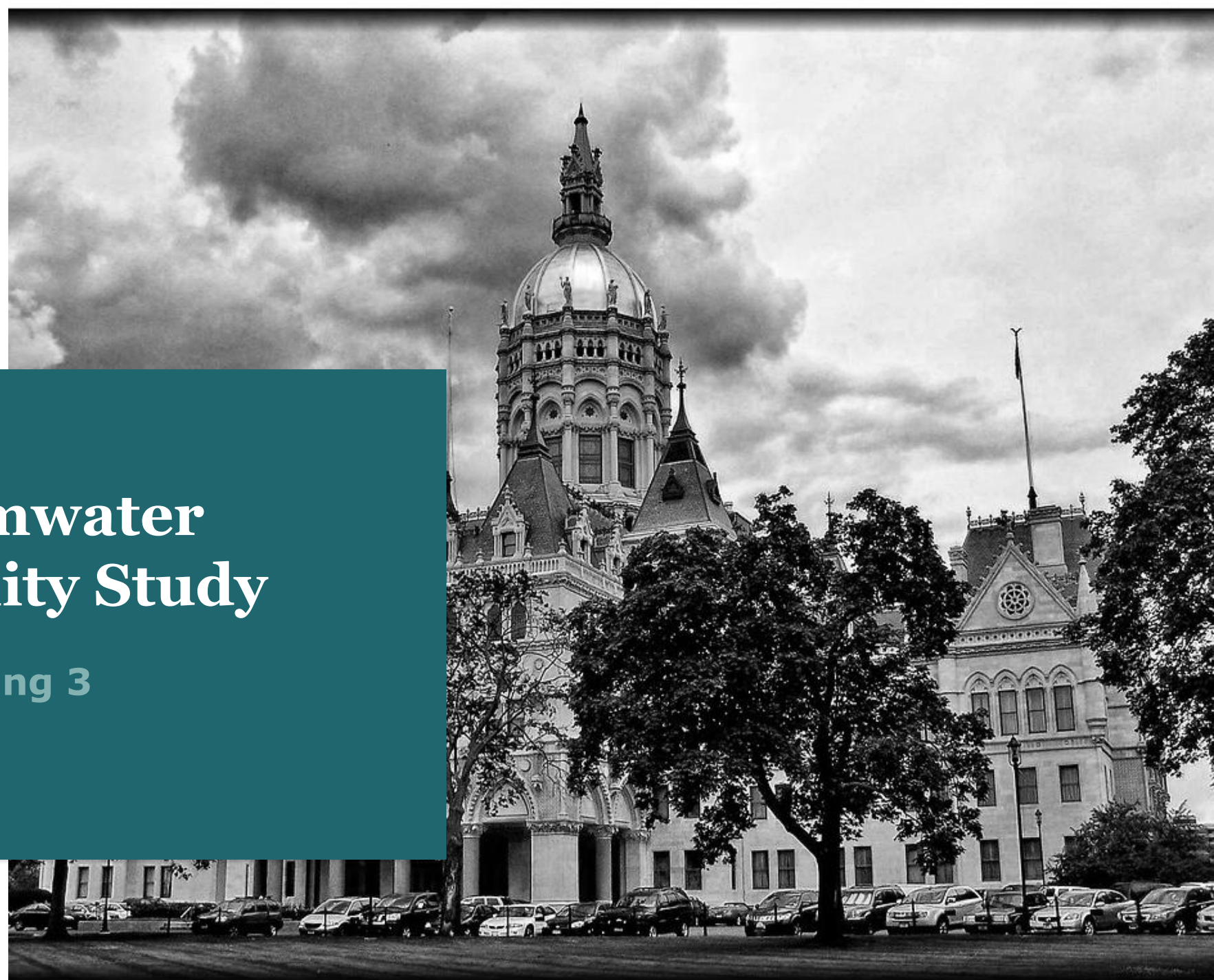




Regional Stormwater Utility Feasibility Study

Advisory Group Meeting 3

June 26, 2025



Agenda

Introduction

Guest Speaker

Regionalization Workshop 2

Communications Plan / Public Survey

Financial Analysis



Introductions



Capitol Region Stormwater Authority Feasibility Study Overview

- CRCOG has been awarded funding through the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's Climate Resilience Fund
- Study will help CRCOG and its member municipalities determine the feasibility of taking a regional approach to financing stormwater infrastructure.
 - › Review stormwater programs within five municipalities
 - › Evaluate stormwater fee funding potential and financial implications
 - › Advisory Group discussion on organization, governance, and feasibility

Guest Speaker



Jeff Colella, Stormwater Division Manager Wyoming Valley Sewer Authority, PA

- WVSA is a regional sewer and stormwater utility
- Formed in 1960s to provide sewage treatment services
- Implemented Regional Stormwater Management Program in 2017
 - › Program is supported by a fee
 - › <https://www.wvsa.org/stormwater-management/pages/stormwater-fee>

Regionalization Workshop 2



Meeting Goals

- Fully explore the possibility of a regional utility
- Focus on “Yes and” or “Yes if”
- Understand conditions that would make regional pathway for sustainable and adequate funding and/or shared services successful

What is a Stormwater Utility?

- Dedicated to stormwater services and compliance activities
- Supported by user fees based on impervious area – fair and equitable
- Often feature credit programs to acknowledge stormwater treatment on individual properties



Discussion 1: Funding through User Fees

- Funding through user fees could work if...
 - › Fees should cover costs, should be lower than tax alternative, need to understand startup costs
 - › Residents understand what the fee would pay for – public education is needed
 - › Using credits to incentivize IA reduction on private properties
 - › Would be great to bill non-taxable properties, also reduce tax burden related to current stormwater services

Potential Framework for Regional Fee Funding

• Regional Utility's Role

- › Administers stormwater billing :
 - Prepares and track impervious area changes
 - Manages customer credits and disputes
 - Creates bill files for all communities
- › Role could be filled by CRCOG or a new legal entity

• Municipality's Role

- › Bills customers on existing tax or utility bill
- › Collects revenue; remits small fraction to utility for billing admin services
- › Uses revenues to:
 - Manage stormwater programs
 - Manage permit compliance

Discussion 1 (Cont'd): Potential Framework for Regional Fee Funding

- Regional funding through user fees could work if...
 - › Deflect local political pushback
 - › Initially, focus on projects that are visible to the public
 - › Bring in experts from towns who have implemented to help sell the idea

Discussion 2: Shared Services

- **Regional Utility Alternative**

- › Role could be filled by CRCOG or a new legal entity
- › Coordinates shared services among some/all municipalities

- **Interlocal Agreement Alternative**

- › Individual agreements define level of service, cost sharing, responsible parties

Breakout Rooms



Discussion 2a: Shared Services

Mapping stormwater systems (incl culverts)

- Doing this as a shared service among all or some municipalities and coordinated by the regional utility could work if...
 - › Difficult to quantify system liability, but important to do so
 - › Education piece is critical
 - › “utility” aspect can be understood – not quite ‘consumption’
 - › Acknowledge regional nature of stormwater management
 - › Regional entity would need maps, rather than create maps
 - › Identify and pay consultants to do this, leverage subject matter experts

Discussion 2a: Shared Services

Impervious area data tracking

- Doing this as a shared service among all or some municipalities and coordinated by the regional utility could work if...
 - › Impervious surfaces without permits could be known
 - › New technology and more frequent flyovers may allow for automation
 - › Using permits to track pre- and post-development conditions

Discussion 2b: Shared Services

IDDE training and monitoring

- Doing this as a shared service among all or some municipalities and coordinated by the regional utility could work if...
 - › Have to negotiate with bargaining unit/union
 - › Training together would be a good idea
 - › “Take the heat off” the person who lives in the town who has to do the work via regional utility approach
 - › Come up with innovative approaches, e.g., dog to detect IDDE!

Discussion 2b: Shared Services

Equipment sharing

- Doing this as a shared service among all or some municipalities and coordinated by the regional utility could work if...
 - › Seasonal equipment coordination would need to be worked out (street sweeping)
 - › Maintenance costs and housing of equipment would need to be worked out

Discussion 2c: Shared Services

Public Education and Outreach

- Doing this as a shared service among all or some municipalities and coordinated by the regional utility could work if...
 - › PSAs would work – shared broadcast outlets
 - › Consultant helps West Hartford – capitalize on the similarities and shared educational materials
 - › Takes burden off the Town
 - › Regional approach could allow for more languages for translations due to economies of scale – more populations reached
 - › Some communities have varying levels of social media outreach abilities, etc. – regional approach would help even it out

Discussion 2c: Shared Services

Other MS4-permit related services

- Examples:
 - › Outfall and interconnection dry weather screening and sampling
 - › Street sweeping
 - › Catch basin cleaning
- Doing this as a shared service among all or some municipalities and coordinated by the regional utility could work if...
 - › CRCOG bids these services out already – to get better prices for each entity
 - › W Hartford wasn't compliant until bought equipment and dedicated staff and consultant handles outfall and interconnection tasks – would work if we can't continue to invest in equipment
 - › Street sweeping – could be beneficial as new equipment is needed
 - › Better to let someone who specializes in these activities to handle
 - › Service levels must remain as good as current or better

Ideas from Breakout Rooms



Communications Plan & Public Survey



Financial Analysis Update



Next Steps



Financial Analysis



Public Outreach



Implementation Plan

