

MINUTES
Sustainable Storm Water Funding Task Force
December 13, 2011
City Hall, Room 209, 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM

1. Introductions of Task Force members and meeting attendees.

All members were in attendance except for David E. Robinson, John Cannell, and Michele Brooks. Cathy Ramsdell came in place of Task Force member Joe Payne. Also in attendance was Jami Fitch, Ralph Carmona, Conrad Welzel, Zach Henderson, and Andy Reese. Staff in attendance included Danielle West-Chuhta, Doug Roncarati, Mike Bobinsky, Katherine Early, and Ian Houseal.

2. Review and approval of the SSWFTF minutes from November 15, 2011.

Martin motion, Veroneau seconded the motion. Approved by all in attendance.

3. Continued discussion of allocating combined sewer costs to the stormwater use charge versus the sewer use charge (20% - 50%).

Task Force members continued the discussion on how much of the combined sewer costs to allocate to the stormwater use charge. Houseal presented a number of figures showing the impact of the fees on property classifications.

Bennet made the point that if 25% of the combined sewer cost is allocated to the stormwater use charge then 75% of the costs remain with the sewer charge.

Connolly stated that 50% or more of the problem (cost) was caused by stormwater.

Ramsdell stated that 50% should be the minimum.

Reese stated that some of the reasons for keeping the costs with the sewer use charge are headroom. What Portland is doing is cutting edge. Reese stated that the City might want to consider one bill with four items on the bill: water charge, sewer charge, runoff charge, and combined sewer charge.

Veroneau stated that the information shows that residential property is minimally impacted, but the question is which commercial industry would be impacted to what degree.

Suslovic asked the Task Force to take a straw poll of where they stood on a spectrum of allocating combined sewer to stormwater. Veroneau and Dominski felt that the allocation should be between 25% and 37.5%. Gellerson felt that the allocation should be between 37.5% and 50%. All other members present felt that the allocation should be greater than that amount. Suslovic asked if there was a

limitation on the shift between the two fees, graduating increases over time, could the Task Force stand behind 50%?

Miller stated that the revenue would have to be absorbed on the other side of the equation; the sewer fee and stormwater fee would have to make up the difference if there was a limit in the rise of the fee per year.

Suslovic stated that he wanted the cap to be phased on over time.

There was a general consensus with allocating 50% of the combined sewer costs to the stormwater use charge if there was an annual increase cap with a reasonable ramp-up period.

4. Presentation of draft Public Outreach Plan.

Henderson presented the draft Public Outreach Plan to the Task Force.

5. Review draft Task Force Report.

This item was not reviewed.

6. Confirm date for next meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for March 20, 2012.

7. Adjourn