



Town of Pittsboro, North Carolina

Engineering Department

To: Mayor Bill Terry and the Town Board of Commissioners

From: Fred Royal, PE, Town Engineer

Date: June 22, 2015

Subject: Informational Item: Stormwater Utility Survey and Impervious Surface Study

Background and Discussion

On September 23, 2013 the Board of Commissioners received a report from staff concerning the Town Stormwater Ordinance for New Development and Re-development. Since this time, the ordinance was approved and has been in effect since November, 2013. It has been administered by the Town Engineer.

The Stormwater Program currently includes Jordan Lake Stage 1 Implementation, which includes a limited public education program and other minor activities: 1) Participation in the regional Clean Water Education Partnership (CWEP) and; 2) the Fall Street Fair Booth. The program level of service is also limited to the administration of the ordinance. There are no Town programs or policies related to proactive drainage improvements, water quality improvements, street sweeping, CIP drainage projects or other services that could be developed in the future.

Fees have been established by the BOC to address town costs for the plan reviews and inspections. These collected fees have not been analyzed against the cost to the Town, however, this study is underway. All other costs, such as salary and benefits, are paid by the General Fund. However, if the BOC wishes for an expanded level of service or another approach to fund the services, staff believes that the most sustainable, efficient and effective method is by establishing a stormwater utility ordinance. As this type of funding program must be affordable, an alternatives analysis and an impervious surface study must be performed. Staff has performed the impervious surface analysis with the use of a skilled student intern (at no charge). See [Attachment A](#) report. Staff has also developed draft levels of service and associated costs. A stormwater utility, if desired, could relieve/replace the General Fund costs, wholly or partially.

The Stormwater Ordinance for New Development includes Section 7. Stormwater Utility Service. Section 7 was included to allow the Town of Pittsboro the authority to establish a stormwater utility and enterprise fund if the Town determines to generate revenues for stormwater programming in this manner in the future. Staff believes that now is the time to review and consider the establishment of a stormwater utility.

Please see Attachment A (report) and the draft survey as the basis for the desired level of service, fee structure (impervious surface) methodology and a survey proposed to assess the interest and willingness of the residences and businesses.

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Recommendation

Review the informational attachments. Staff will plan to come back to the BOC at a later date to provide a more thorough discussion.