



# Perfect Fit Funding: Alternatives for Stormwater Fees to Suit Your Community

**Southeast Stormwater Association  
Annual Conference**

October 2023



# Agenda

1. Stormwater Utility Background
2. Advantages and Challenges
3. Customizing to Your Community
4. Next Steps
5. Questions

# Background



# Stormwater Utility

1

## Distinct fiscal entity

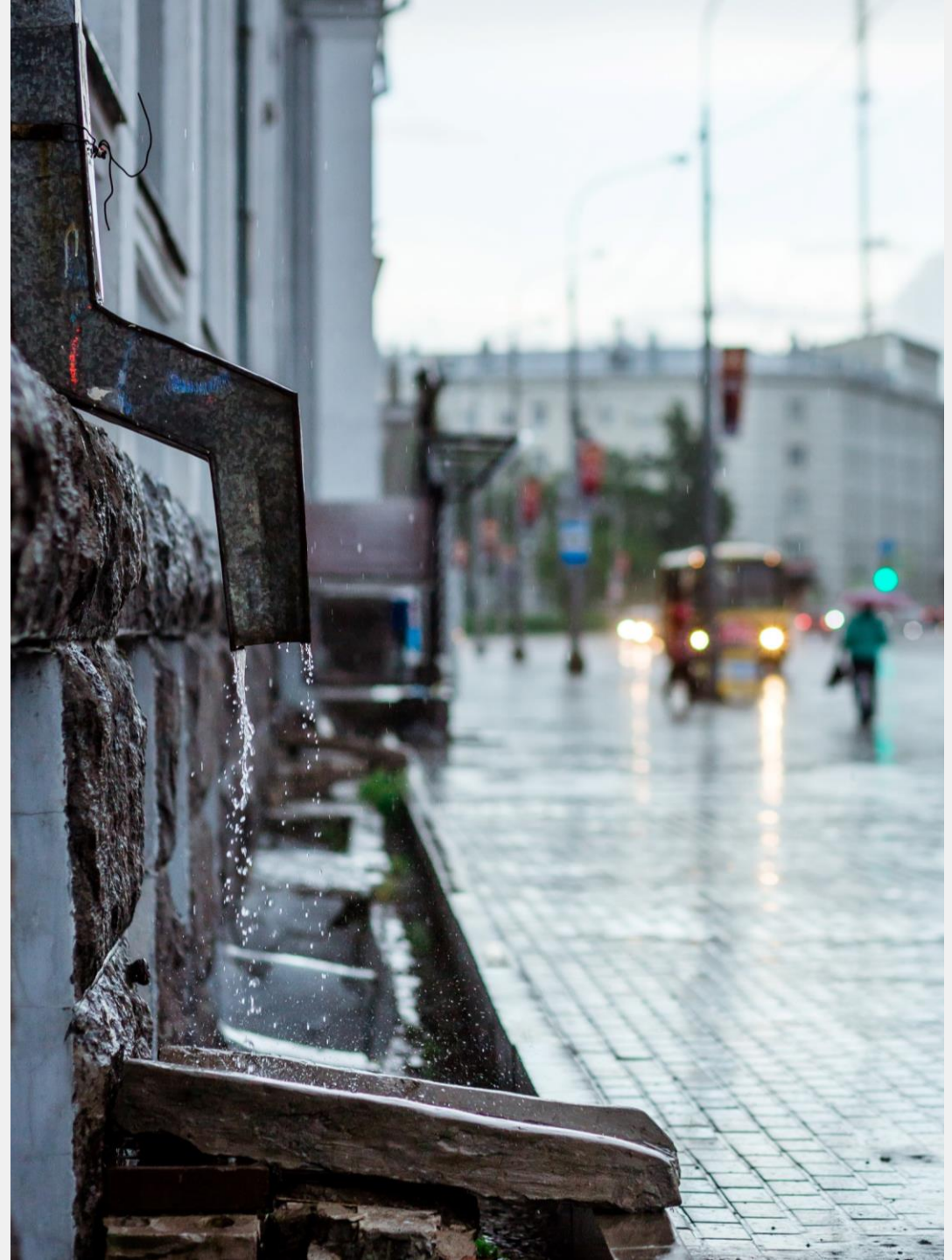
Funding often generated through fees based on property characteristics

2

## Defined service provision

3

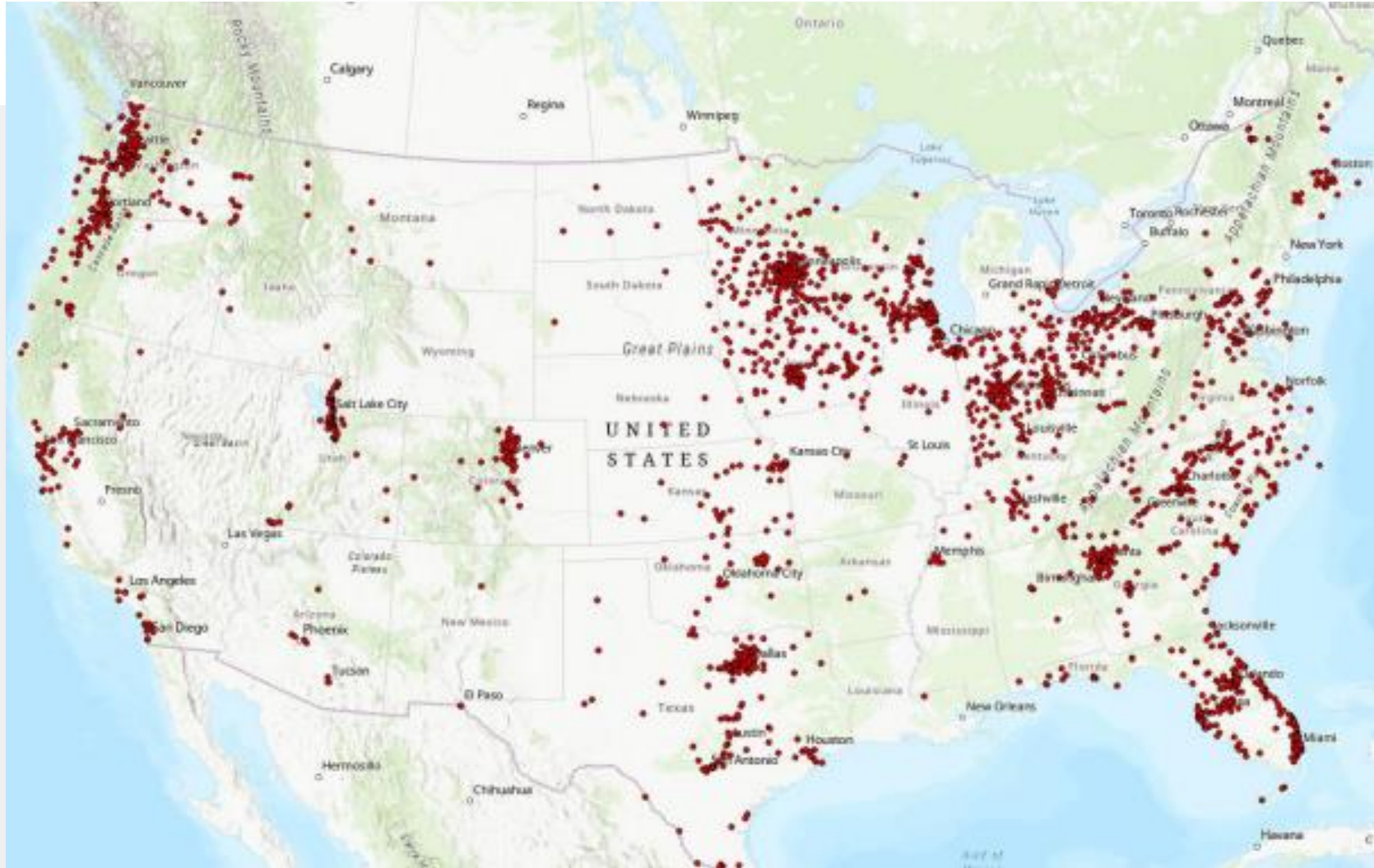
## Organizational structure (even if decentralized)



# Stormwater Utilities across the US

- 2,109 identified Stormwater Utilities across the US
  - › WKU Stormwater Utility Survey 2023
- Located throughout 42 states and DC
- Populations in utility services areas range from <100 to over 10 million
- The most widely used method of funding is a property fee based on impervious surface area
- 69% of 73 surveyed Stormwater utilities updated rates in the past 5 years
  - › Black & Veatch 2021 Stormwater Utility Survey Report

# 2023 Stormwater Utilities – WKU Stormwater Utility Survey



# Utility Development Drivers



## Increased Revenue

Flood Control

Water Quality Improvement Efforts



## Improved Equity

Fees more closely related to impact

Fees charged on a parcel basis



## Regulatory Pressures

MS4 Compliance

TMDL and water quality regulations

# Advantages and Challenges





# Advantages



**Stable Revenue**



**Adequate Revenue**



**Equitable**



**Flexible**



# Challenges



Data



Billing



Administration



Communication



- Home
- Search
- Reports
- Tools
- Help

### Parcel Information

County Appraisal

ARC GIS Map

Summary Data	
PIN	130500000000
Parent PIN	130500000000
Billed Account	20017832
State Code	B1
Bill Class	NSFR
Owner Name	
Parcel Address	7330 MCARDLE RD CORPUS CHRISTI TX 78412
Gross Area	544,040 sf
Runoff Factor	0.8
Parcel IA	435,232 sf
Tier	N/A
Parcel ERUs	133
Parcel Base Fee	\$813.96
Active Credits	No
Exemption	None
Open Events	No
Flagged Events	No

[Edit](#)

# Customizing Your Community



# Level of Service

- Level of service refers to the type, frequency, and quality of activity completed to achieve the desired stormwater program goals
- There may be needs for differing levels of service across a service area
  - › Regulatory
  - › Operations
  - › Capital needs



# Level of Service

- Regulatory drivers
  - › Watershed based regulations
    - Rate adjustments
  - › MS4 compliance
    - Rate structure modification
      - Credits
      - Exemptions



# Level of Service

- Capital and Operational Needs
  - › Private roadway maintenance
  - › Private stormwater control measure maintenance
- Considerations
  - › Stormwater Fee Surcharge
    - Additional fee for services completed by the jurisdiction
  - › Service Districts
    - Maintenance performed by jurisdiction
    - Opt into program with higher rates
  - › Maintenance credits
    - Offer stormwater fee credits for performing stormwater control measure maintenance
  - › Special Assessment Districts
    - State specific
    - Tax based mechanism



# Service Delivery

- Data Resources
  - › Data used for stormwater fee billing may have other uses for other departments
    - Imagery
    - Impervious area
  - › Share cost of data



# Service Delivery

- Project Initiatives
  - › There may be opportunities to leverage existing local efforts to meet support stormwater goals
    - Street resurfacing
    - Green infrastructure installation
  - › Reduce cost and more efficiently achieve stormwater goals





# Service Delivery

- Interlocal Agreements
  - › Enable local governmental units to cooperate with other localities in a mutually beneficial way to achieve stormwater goals
    - Specific projects
    - Stormwater program and/or utility management



# Service Delivery

- Shared Staffing
  - › Internal or external through local agreements
    - Management
    - Engineering
    - Legal
    - Billing
    - Customer Service

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
 COUNTY OF PERSON  
 COUNTY OF GRANVILLE  
 CITY OF CREEDMOOR  
 TOWN OF BUTNER  
 TOWN OF STEM

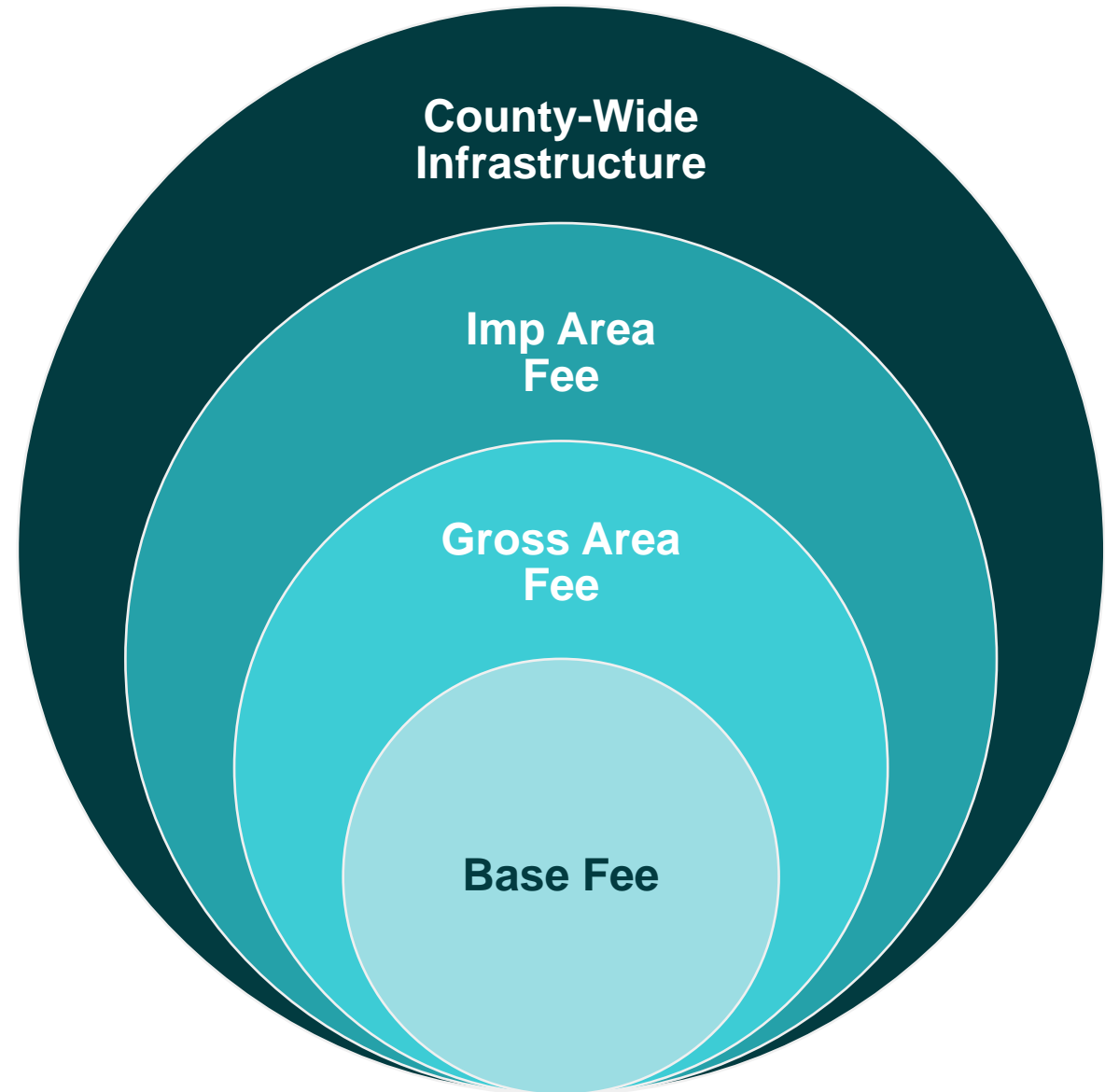
INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT FOR THE JOINT OPERATION OF A  
 STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM IN PERSON COUNTY,  
 GRANVILLE COUNTY, THE CITY OF CREEDMOOR, THE TOWN OF  
 BUTNER, and THE TOWN OF STEM KNOWN AS GRANVILLE-PERSON  
 STORMWATER SERVICES

\* Partial payments are accepted and previous payments have been applied.

RECORD	DESCRIPTION	REAL VALUE	PP VALUE	EXEMPT	TAXABLE VALUE	COUNTY RATE	CITY RATE
		243,521	1,283	0	244,804	.70	
ID #	NAME	ACRE/LOT	COUNTY TAX	CITY TAX	LATE LISTING	DOG/CAT	STORMWATER
		1.03	1,713.63		0	0	16.00
TOTAL DUE							1,729.63

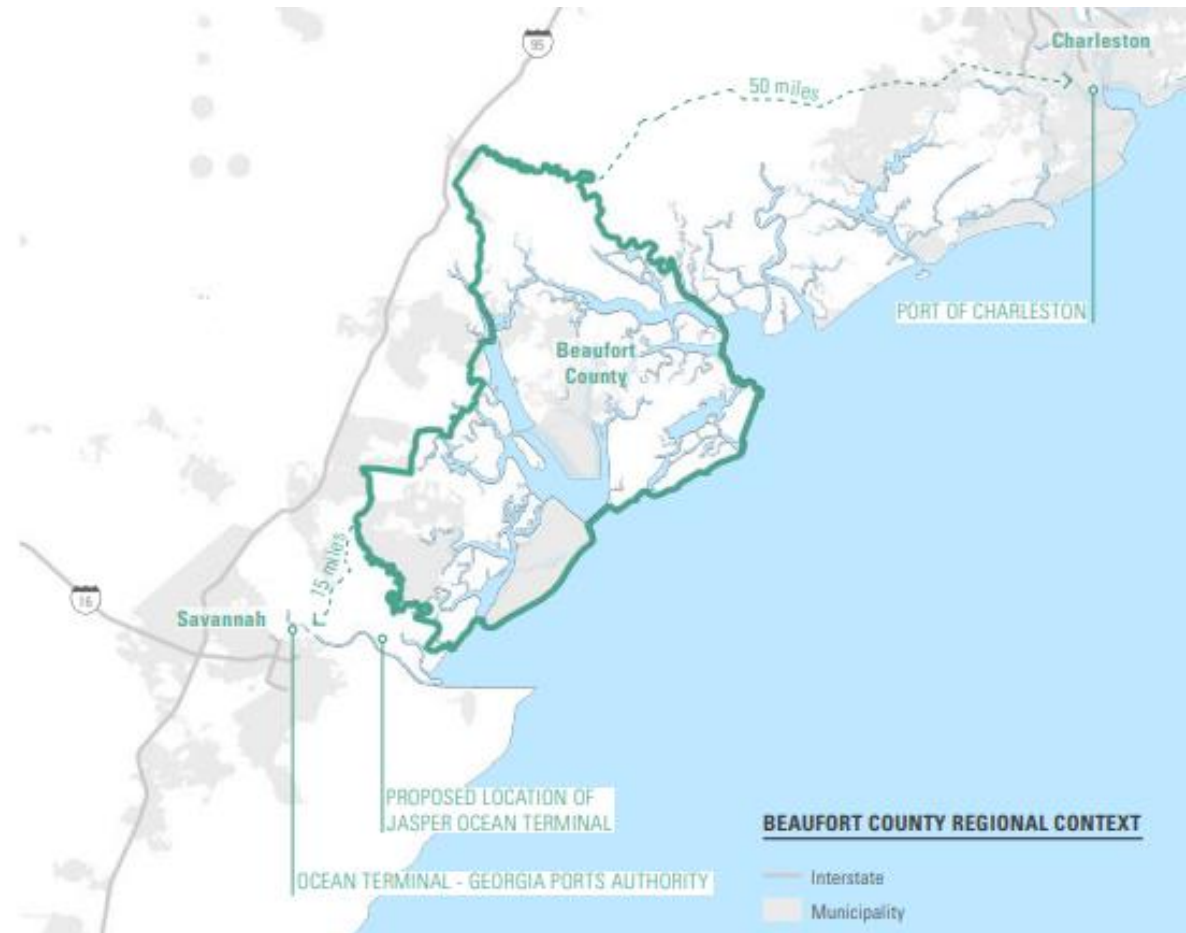
# Service Delivery

- Shared Rate Structure
  - › Common rate structure across multiple jurisdictions in an area
  - › Common approach for jurisdictions that collaborate significantly on stormwater
  - › Rates may vary under the common rate structure



# Beaufort County

- A stormwater fee was first implemented in 2001 on annual tax bill – Beaufort County and four underlying jurisdictions
- Steeply mounting costs for maintaining drainage infrastructure and complying with new MS4 requirements
- County responsible for roads and related drainage within its borders, even in incorporated areas
- County rate base declining over time due to annexations



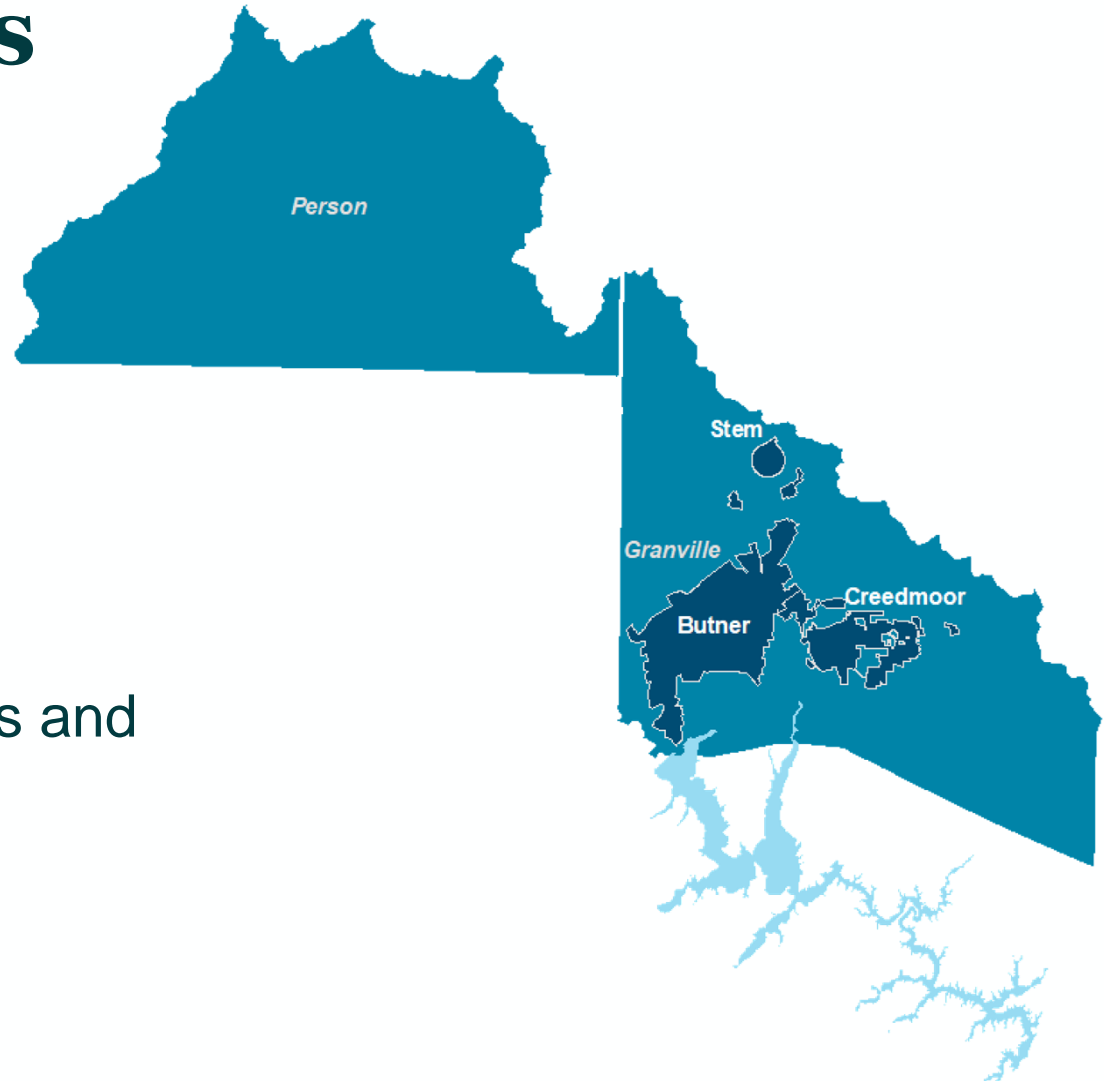
# Granville- Person Cooperative Stormwater Services

## Members

- Two counties
- Three municipalities

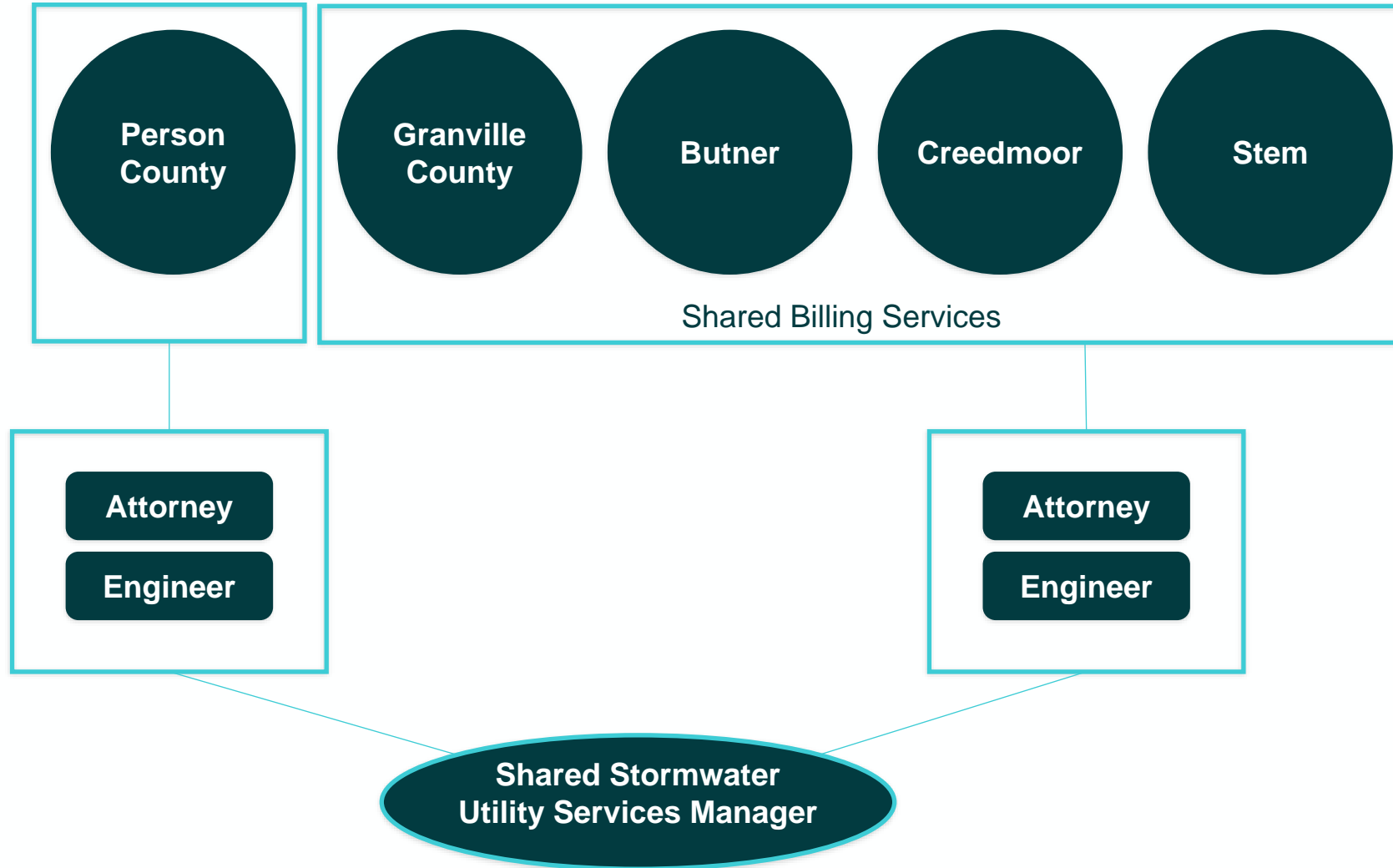
## Perspectives

- Urban and rural areas
- Interest in responsible growth
- Overlapping water quality regulations and requirements



# Stormwater Utility

- Created in 2012 to support the jurisdictions facing expensive regulatory requirements
- Jurisdictions can share services through interlocal agreements
- Stormwater Utility Services Manager
  - Facilitates shared billing services
  - Represents jurisdictions at UNRBA
  - Represents jurisdictions with State reporting and coordination



# Utility Business

## Rate structure and rates

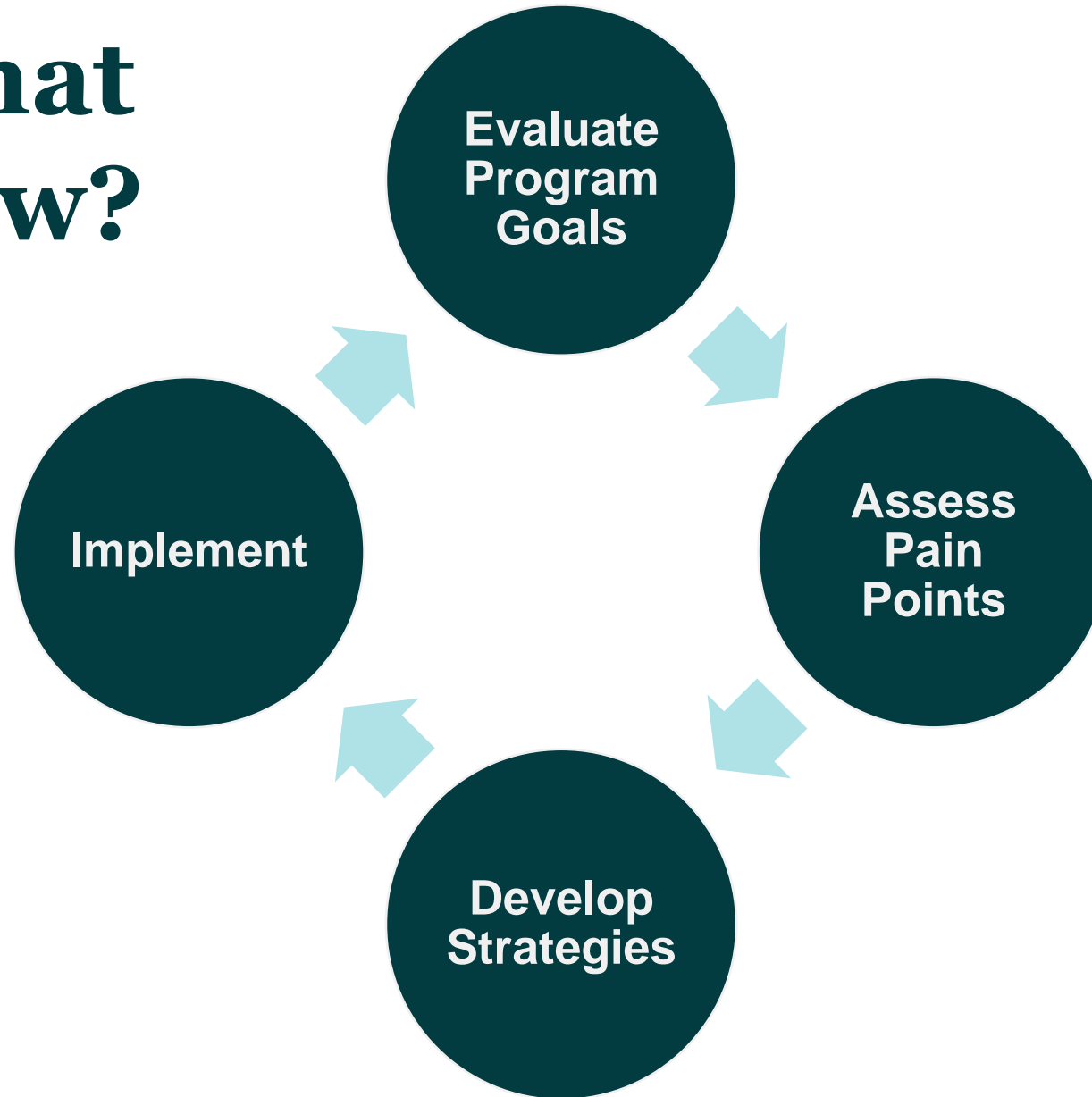
	ERU	Fixed Charge per Account	Fee per ERU	Fee per Gross Area block
<b>Granville Co. (Falls)</b>	4,300 sq. ft.	\$ 2	\$ 9	\$ 7
<b>Granville Co. (non-Falls)</b>	4,300 sq. ft.	\$ 2	\$ 2	\$ 2
<b>Butner</b>	3,100 sq. ft.	\$ 12	\$ 30	\$ 25
<b>Creedmoor</b>	2,600 sq. ft.	\$ 12	\$ 70	\$ 25
<b>Stem</b>	2,700 sq. ft.	\$ 6	\$ 70	\$ 12
<b>Person Co. (Falls)</b>	4,300 sq. ft.	\$ 2	\$ 8	\$ 6
<b>Person Co. (non-Falls)</b>	4,300 sq. ft.	\$ 2	\$ 2	\$ 2

# Next Steps





# What Now?



Q&A



# Thank you!

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