

Testimony
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CHAMBERSBURG BOROUGH

House Environmental & Energy Committee & the House Local
Government Committee

Chambersburg is a unique community

- Only municipality to own and operate all its own utilities, not through an Authority, but directly under the regulatory control of the Borough Council (setting rates, rules, policies, and hearing disputes)
 - Largest municipal electric system in Pennsylvania; only Borough to own or operate multiple power plants including a landmark trash to energy generation station
 - Only Borough in Pennsylvania to operate a natural gas utility
 - A regional water utility, a regional sanitary sewer utility, and enterprise funds that represent a sanitation, parking & traffic, and an aquatic center
 - **One of the first Storm Sewer Utilities among Boroughs in Pennsylvania** organized pursuant to § 1202 (12) of Borough Code (power to operate sewers).

Chambersburg is an MS4 Community

- Like it or not, Federal Law, under direction of PA DEP, has required Chambersburg to obtain a permit to operate a: Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4)
- Located in the Conococheague Creek Watershed – regulates stormwater per Local Law adopted in 2004 & originally drafted in accord with Act 167 Conococheague Creek Watershed Plan, as approved DEP in 2003.
- 2019 will mark the fifth year of existence of the Storm Sewer Utility.
- NPDES General Permit No. PAG 133704 issued in 2018 contains required Chesapeake Bay Pollutant Reduction Plan.
- 8,349 properties inside Borough limits

Storm Sewer System

The Borough storm sewer system is comprised of the following:

63.99 miles of pipe

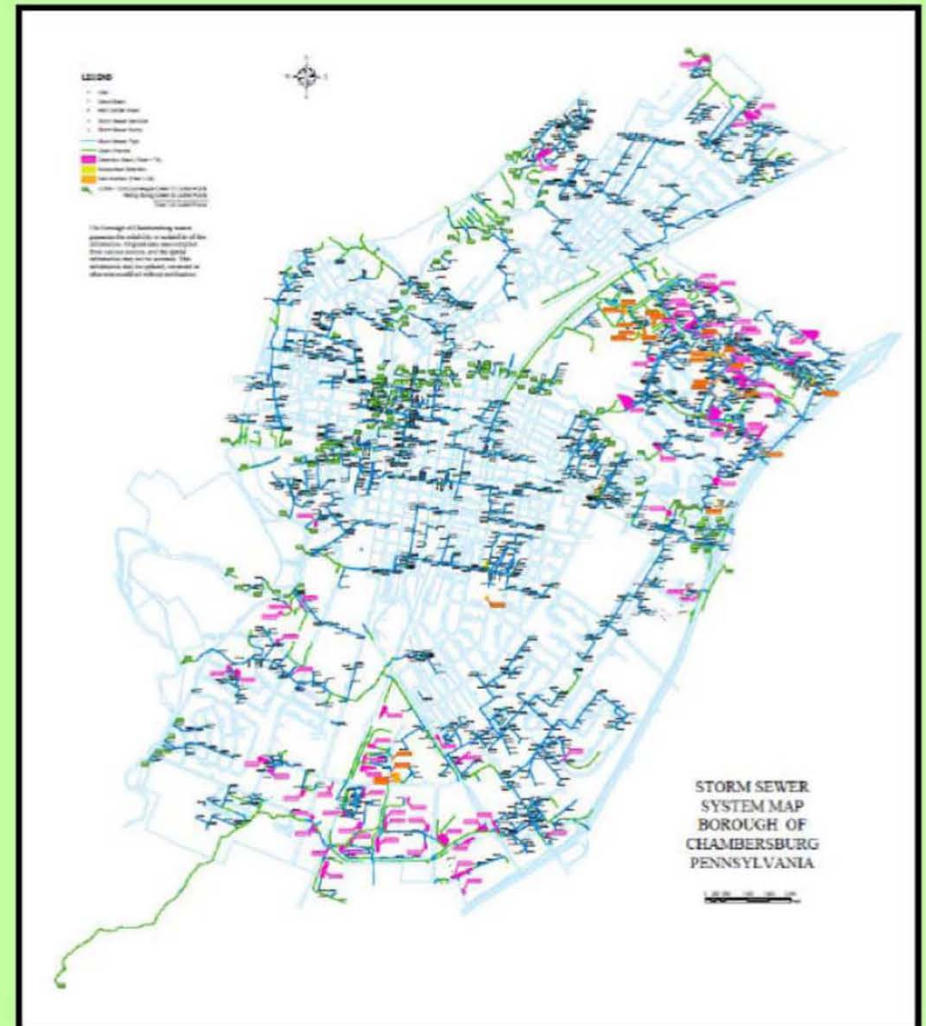
2,533 inlets

128 outfalls to Conococheague Creek and Falling Spring Creek

108 stormwater basins and rain gardens

60 subsurface detention areas

35 pervious areas (parking lots/sidewalks)



Permit Requires Education, Enforcement and Action

- The Borough has until May 31, 2023, to achieve pollutant loading reductions for sediment, total nitrogen, and total phosphorous.
- The MS4 Permit requires the Borough to operate a stormwater management program to address the following Minimum Control Measures (MCM):
 - MCM 1. Public Education and Outreach on Stormwater Impacts
 - MCM 2. Public Involvement and Participation
 - MCM 3. Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination
 - MCM 4. Construction Site Stormwater Runoff Control
 - MCM 5. Post-Construction Stormwater Management in New Development and Redevelopment
 - MCM 6. Pollution Prevention and Good Housekeeping

Fees vs Taxes

- Chambersburg is County Seat and 51.6% of assessed properties are exempt from real estate taxes
- Borough invoices everyone for electric, gas, water, sewer & trash
- Borough added a \$4 per month per sewer connection fee to invoice beginning in 2015
- In 2020, fee will switch from flat \$4 to approx. \$4 per ERU (which is the amount of stormwater runoff from average single family house)
- As a result, all properties (County, schools, college, churches, etc.) will pay for their storm sewer burden on an equitable basis (based on their exact precise measured burden on the storm sewer system)
- There will be **credits** for best management practices & system improvements

PLEASE ALLOW FEES TO COVER ADMIN

- In 2019, Chambersburg will collect \$511,000 from our flat fee
- Of that \$136,500 for capital improvements to system
- \$75,000 for maintenance to existing system
- \$90,000 for engineering, surveying & mapping
- \$15,000 for legal expenses
- \$32,000 for invoicing, accounting, information tech, & h.r.
- \$148,000 for two employees (wages & benefits)

Important to allow the storm sewer fee to pay for all these expenses