

Ocean City Stormwater Feasibility Study:
Questions and Answers from the Public Meetings

Q: Does Fenwick Island drain better than Ocean City?

A: A bit, because their canal is closer, open ditches, and there is less impervious surface there.

Q: Why didn't they put drains on the east bound side of the highway?

A: State Highway Engineers completed a study that determined that storm drains on the east side of the Highway would not improve the flooding conditions. The City disputes these findings and has installed drains on the east side of Coastal Highway at 48th street as a demonstration project.

Q: Has the City Council seen the stormwater presentation you presented at the Public Meetings?

A: No, not this one but a variation of this yes. The Council voted unanimously on Jan 26, 2010 to allow the stormwater financing feasibility study to get underway.

Q: What are the mini grant programs? And can you be more clear about how to access them to the public?

A: The Town of Ocean City advertises this program broadly in newspapers, newsletters, etc. every year and many people do know about them and apply. Mini-grants are offered for Beach District plantings, BayScape Gardens, Rain Gardens, Rain Barrels and Cost Share projects. Contact Gail Blazer at (410) 289-8825 for more information.

Q: Did the Gateway Grand hotel get an incentive for putting in pervious pavement?

A: No, they did not get an incentive but they were required to implement stormwater management to capture and treat any water that runs off the site.

Q: Can we use the State prisoner program to maintain and upkeep storm drains and other work that isn't currently funded?

A: No, we need trained professional staff to do that work because it is moderately technical in nature

Q: Is there any treatment at the inlet lot area?

A: No, it is very visible but it is not a high priority area to treat and would be very expensive as well. Also $\frac{3}{4}$ flows on the beach and $\frac{1}{4}$ flows into the inlet which has a large current and ability to flush pollutants. Dead end canal outfalls are a higher priority due to poor flushing

Q: Have you looked at other areas (Bays) besides Assawoman Bay to improve water quality?

A: Yes, we have a consultant doing an assessment and prioritization now of what we need to do and where.

Q: Can we use volunteers for a maintenance crew in the town?

A: No, we would need to have paid and trained staff to do this work—it is technical in nature.

Q: Can we have the town raise the amount of fines for non-compliance to put toward mitigation and enforcement staff and projects?

A: We would rather have strong education and outreach program than enforcement, but this can be apart of a funded maintenance plan.

Q: What exactly is a baffle box ?

A: A Baffle box is a concrete vault that is installed into a storm drain. They have sections separated with baffles that allow for sediment (trash, sand and other debris) to drop out so they are 'caught' before entering the Bay. The ones the City has installed are designed with a basket type devise that lifts large trash and debris up out of the water that can be easily removed with a vacuum truck.

Q: What is the estimated price tag for fixing all infrastructure issues?

A: The full cost to repair the entire storm drain system and add needed treatment has yet to be determined. The estimated total cost just to replace all the existing metal storm drain pipes in the City is \$6 million.

Q: When or has development stopped being built on wetlands?

A: You can not build on tidal wetlands, however non-tidal wetlands can be filled up to 5,000 sq/ft. Tidally influenced wetlands surround the town. However there are pockets of non-tidal throughout the town. Also tidal wetlands can have fringe non-tidal wetlands where there is not a bulkhead. The town currently has 35+/- acres of tidal wetlands.