Potential Opportunities to use Fee-in-Lieu Funds

Challenges and Strategies for Implementing Restoration Programs Using Fee-in-Lieu and Other Funds

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Watershed Protection & Restoration Program

- WPRP goal: build programs to assist local governments and non-profits in achieving measureable improvements in water quality.
- What we do:
 - Capacity building
 - Grants assistance
 - Project implementation
 - Education & outreach







Central Maryland (Frederick, Howard, and Montgomery Counties) anda Rockler



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Lower Eastern Shore nnifer Dindinger

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Mid and Upper Eastern Shore (Caroline, Cecil, Kent, Queen Anne's, and Talbot Counties) (Dorchester, Somerset, Wicomico, and Worcester Counties)





Role on the Mid & Upper Eastern Shore

- Grant and stormwater technical assistance
- Site assessment and project identification
- Connecting groups to various resources
- Includes:
 - County and municipal government
 - Watershed groups and NGOs
 - Faith-based organizations
 - HOAs and individual landowners



Role on the Mid & Upper Eastern Shore

- Major focus on Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) related projects
- Work with several Phase 2 MS4 counties and communities
- Have assisted with some green infrastructure and resilience planning and projects
- Will be assisting with Nuisance Flooding plans in 2020



Work emphasizes water quality but recognizes co-benefits

- Example Adkins Arboretum
- Primary benefit: Water quality
- Co-benefits: Pollinator and wildlife habitat, environmental education, site to share "scalable" BMPs with the local community.







Work emphasizes water quality but recognizes co-benefits

- Example Greensboro Park
- Primary benefit: Water quality
- Co-benefits: Wildlife and pollinator habitat, community access, nuisance flooding, environmental education, site to share "scalable" BMPs with the local community.







Where funding for projects comes from . . .

- The need is great
- The interest is there
- Funding can be a hurdle



Is there an opportunity to improve water quality and increase habitat?



A need to control erosion







A need for living shorelines





A need to decrease runoff before it starts





A need to decrease runoff before it starts







Image: W. Gray

A need to control invasive species





A need for design and construction funding

CONSTRUCTION PLANS FOR WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PRACTICES AT CHOPTANK RIVER PARK GREENSBORO, MARYLAND				
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Image: Unity Design/Build

Would Fee-in-Lieu work here?

- Support projects that address
 - Erosion control
 - Living shorelines
 - *Runoff reduction (permeable/pervious)*
 - *Runoff reduction (micro-bioretention)*
 - Control invasive species (and replant)
 - Matching funds for project design and/or construction
 - Stormwater retrofits



Image: S. Hilderbrand, MD DNR

Considerations

- Some grantors have limitations or restrictions about the use of their funds for anything related to required mitigation.
 - Would that apply here?
- Not all County or Municipal government has the capacity to take on new tasks.
 - Does the governing body have an interest in or the ability to track smaller-scale projects to help meet WIP or MS4 goals?



Image: Chesapeake Bay Program

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