

TO: David Smith, Mayor  
Lindel Jackson, Service Safety Director  
City Council Members  
Department Heads

DATE: February 13, 2006

## **2005 Annual Report Stormwater Utility**

### **Billing**

Billing for stormwater began on January 9, 2004. Impervious areas, including consolidation and deconsolidation, and credits are maintained by the Stormwater Utility while billing information is maintained by Utilities Collection. As of December 31, 2005 there were 13,989 stormwater accounts billing 30,505 Equivalent Residential Units. This number includes reductions due to stormwater credits. The accounts receivable as of December 31, 2005 is \$49,044.32.

In September 2005, Utilities Collection initiated the first tax certification of delinquent stormwater charges.

On February 15, 2005, City of Lancaster operations were removed from the stormwater bill program under Ordinance 01-05. This accounts for 698 ERU or \$38,864.64 annually, after credits the amount is \$31,013.76.

On August 22, 2005, the City of Lancaster under Resolution 114-05 approved the purchase of the Spires property for floodplain preservation. The purchase agreement included a \$150,000 stormwater credit. The property has not been purchased and the credit is expected to be applied in 2006.

### **Credits**

Stormwater credits are available to non-residential properties that have over five or more ERU. Credits are available in ten categories. As of December 31, 2005 there were 84 accounts that received credits amounting to \$113,698.60 or 2042 ERU.

The credit breakdown is as follows

|                            |             |
|----------------------------|-------------|
| Education                  | 20 accounts |
| Floodplain Protection      | 5 accounts  |
| Retention/Detention        | 2 account   |
| Public Channel Maintenance | 6 accounts  |
| Adopt A Road               | 6 accounts  |
| Economic Development       | 57 accounts |
| Phase In                   | 19 accounts |
| Clean Up                   | 1 accounts  |
| Brownfield                 | 0 accounts  |
| Industrial NPDES           | 4 accounts  |

The average credit was 27 ERU or \$125.28/month. Actual credits range from 1-344 ERU. The Phase In Credit was reduced from 15% to 10% as of January 1, 2005.

### **Projects and Plan Review**

In 2005 the City Law Director put a hold on all capital projects to develop updated bidding documents. This put a hold on several small projects although funds were allocated. These projects will be revised in 2006. Capital projects in 2005 included Rockmill Corporate Park Phase II construction, Sheridan Hoffman Culvert Design, Columbus Street Culvert (NCOL6) Replacement, Lake Allen sewer separation design, James Road Culvert Replacement, Katherine Drive Culvert Repair, West 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue Sewer Replacement, West 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue at Miller Park Sewer Replacement, Park and Forest Rose Sewer Replacement, Rock Mill Corporate Park Phase III improvements, design of Rock Mill Corporate Park Phase IV (Camp Ground Road), and Nolder Drive. In addition, money is set aside for the Memorial Drive upgrade to be bid in 2005. A State Capital Improvement Grant application was approved for the Sheridan and Hoffman Drive culvert with stormwater providing the local match. A State Capital Improvement Grant was submitted for the first phase of the Rock Mill Corporate Park Phase IV project. A total of \$483,000 was spent by the utility on Capital Improvements. In addition, the Stormwater Coordinator assisted Water Pollution Control with development of the Long Term Control Plan addendum and the Upper Hocking Wastewater Treatment Plant engineering services.



Replacement of the storm sewer on West 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue required special construction in the wellfield.



SE pipe

Park and Forest Rose Before



Park and Forest Rose After

Six improvements; Katherine Drive Culvert, James Road Culvert, Park & Forest Rose Sewer, West 6<sup>th</sup> Sewer, West 6<sup>th</sup> at Miller Park and NCOL 6; were emergency projects that threatened the public safety. These projects totaled \$329,000 of funds that previously would have come from the General Fund.



NCOL 6 Before  
Note the fallen headwall and edge of pavement



NCOL After  
Headwall and guardrail eliminated

A total of 4 sketch plans, 11 preliminary plats, 8 final plats, 10 subdivision engineering plans and 14 site engineering plans were reviewed for stormwater. Beginning in 2005, all Plot and Grading Plans submitted to the Certified Building Department were reviewed for erosion and sediment control.

## **Department Stormwater Work**

Three departments were budgeted to be reimbursed for stormwater related work in the 2005 budget.

The Engineering Department (General Fund) was reimbursed \$39,254.00 for administration, plan review and construction inspection. A total of 1001.25 hours was spent by Engineering on stormwater activities in addition to the three full time stormwater employees. Inspections accounted for 172.00 hours, plan review were 652.50 hours and administration and technical support was 176.75 hours. Hours spent by the Engineering Department were lower than expected due to the retirement of the City Engineer. Prior to the stormwater utility, costs for reviews and inspections were paid from the General Fund.

The Information Technology and Telecommunications Department (General Fund) was reimbursed \$10,330.00 for stormwater activities including hardware, software, telephone support, radio support, network support and GIS support.

The Department of Transportation (General Fund) was reimbursed \$363,500.00. Until the utility, there was no dedicated funding for stormwater work. Needed work was funded from the General Fund portion of the Street Department budget. The Department work in 2005 included

- 1201.5 hours Street Sweeping
- 1107.0 hours Pipe and Culvert Maintenance
- 2946.0 hours Curb and Basin Maintenance
- 2239.0 hours Ditch Maintenance
- 1240.0 hours Grate Maintenance
- 23.0 hours Tarhe Dam Maintenance
- 682.0 hours Vactor
- 723.0 hours Hauling and Maintenance

9161.5.5 hours TOTAL

This is the equivalent to 4.4 man-years of stormwater work.

The total reimbursement to other departments was \$413,084.00

## **Public Relations**

Public relations in 2005 generally related to the stormwater flooding and stormwater construction. A new brochure was developed on basement flooding and the website was updated to include a section on stormwater construction.

2005 was above average in rainfall, with 8 days receiving over 1 inch of rain. The total rainfall as reported by the Fairfield County Airport was 38.07 inches which was 11.52 inches over normal and over ten inches less than 2004. This was a result of the drought conditions that existed in the summer. The most significant rainfall was August 30 at 3.26 inches of rain. This event was related to Hurricane Katrina. Rainfall complaints were received by the Stormwater Utility and referred to the proper department. When required, one of the stormwater staff investigated the complaint to determine the problem. The stormwater problem map was updated to show problem areas. Generally problems resulted from either development in the floodplain or development at the bottom of hillsides. Other complaints related to the flooding caused by heavy rains in January and August.

### **Administration**

The stormwater utility is administered by the Engineering Department. Oversight of the program is by the Stormwater Management Committee. This committee, an off-shoot of the Technical Advisory Committee meets monthly. Committee members are the Superintendents of ITT, Transportation, Water Pollution Control, and Utility Collection along with the Stormwater Coordinator and the City Engineer. The committee is charged with reviewing the stormwater program based on the stormwater management plan, advising on stormwater issues and recommending capital improvement plans. The committee met 10 times in 2005.

Inspection fees were established on May 24, 2004. These fees are collected to offset the cost of construction inspection of public improvements for water, water pollution (General Fund), streets (General Fund) and stormwater/erosion control. In 2005 a total of 28,966.80 was collected.

Stormwater inspections of construction projects and stormwater facilities were done by James Pate, Stormwater Inspector. 508 construction inspections and 43 annual inspections occurred. Three construction projects were notified of violations and James worked with each project to bring them into compliance. Two additional projects were inspected by Ohio EPA for violations reported by residents. No enforcement action was taken on either project. James Pate worked with the contractors to come into compliance.



Erosion and Sediment Control at Overlook Quarry

Denise Crews gave presentations on the Lancaster Stormwater Utility at the City of Newark Citizen Advisory Committee, and at two seminars in Dayton and Cincinnati. A number of communities from Ohio and around the nation have inquired about our utility.

The advance from Water Pollution Control to develop the utility was paid back in 2005. This early repayment will allow the Stormwater Utility to assume their share of Utilities Collection costs.

2005 agreements were developed with Streets, Information Services, Utilities Collection and Engineering for services to be reimbursed. In accordance with the Stormwater Management agreement, a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan was prepared for the Department of Transportation.

The 2006 budget was developed and approved.

The drainage ordinance was revised and submitted to the Law Director for review.

### **Revenues and Expenses**

2005 revenues and expenses totaled \$1,749,526.39 in revenues and \$1,917,191.51 in expenses. This accounts for 117% of the projected revenue and 95% of the budget appropriation.

The breakdown by month is

| Month             | Revenue      | Expenses     |
|-------------------|--------------|--------------|
| January           | \$190,389.51 | \$ 15,498.72 |
| February          | 124,787.21   | 15,661.61    |
| March             | 85,163.83    | 48,189.26    |
| April             | 156,349.91   | 310,090.43   |
| May*              | 136,866.47   | 698,964.90   |
| June*             | 150,599.09   | (538,960.38) |
| July              | 122,165.03   | 172,090.81   |
| August            | 169,211.49   | 655,027.36   |
| September         | 161,489.72   | 34,533.47    |
| October           | 147,492.48   | 124,712.91   |
| November          | 137,791.47   | 201,532.37   |
| December          | 137,923.38   | 179,850.05   |
| 2004 Paid in 2005 |              | 15,250.71    |

\* Represents a transfer that was reversed

The utility started 2005 with a cash balance of \$585,434.58 and finished the year with a cash balance of \$402,518.75. The budgeted carryover was \$35,049.00.

### **Plan for 2006**

Based on the construction in 2005 there will be only minor growth in the number of ERU's billed for stormwater in the range of 300 ERU. There are no expected impacts to revenues in 2006. The projected revenue is \$1.53 million and expenditures are \$1.73 million.

Credits will continue to be received and approved. The estimated dollar amount for credits in 2005 is \$303,512.

The Capital Improvement Plan for 2006 tentatively includes the following projects

|  |                             |
|--|-----------------------------|
| Memorial Drive Improvements              | \$200,000                   |
| Lake Allen Sewer Separation              | \$200,000 (noted with WPC)  |
| Hubert Reese Storm Sewer                 | \$118,000 (with CDBG)       |
| Nolder Drive Upgrade                     | \$300,000 (with CDBG)       |
| Sheridan/Hoffman Culvert                 | \$300,000 (with SCIP Grant) |
| Columbus St NCOL 3 Design                | \$ 20,000                   |
| West 6 <sup>th</sup> Avenue Sewer Design | \$ 11,000                   |
| Carl Drive Sewer Extension               | \$ 8,600                    |
| South Broad Street I/I Study             | \$ 95,000 (with WPC)        |
| Campground Road Design                   | \$ 45,000 (with SCIP Grant) |
| Rainbow Drive Culvert                    | \$ 15,000 (with WPC)        |
| SR 188 Curb Replacement                  | \$100,000 (with ODOT)       |
| General System Repairs                   | \$ 30,000                   |

The Rock Mill Corporate Park Phase IV/Campground Road project was proposed for a State Capital Improvement Grant application in 2005.

On December 30, 2005 the Director of the Ohio EPA public notice his intent to designate the City of Lancaster for inclusion in the permit program. The Ohio EPA intends to issue Findings and Orders to communities named in February 2006. Our Stormwater Management Plan and permit application will be due in August 2006.

GIS mapping of the sewer systems will continue in 2006 as part of the Citywide GIS project. An initial pilot project consisting of River Valley Highlands and the Lake Allen Project will be in spring 2006 with full mapping starting in summer 2006. The mapping is scheduled to be completed in 2008. Mapping of unsewered areas will be completed in 2006.

Annual inspections of the approved detention/retention basins will continue. The culvert inventory will be updated as part of the GIS project and inspections of City culverts will be conducted in 2006.

A public relations campaign titled "Don't Clutter Our Gutters" will continue in 2006.

2005 was the second year of the utility. With billing issues behind us, we were able to concentrate on capital improvements and system maintenance. Despite the hold on construction by the Law Director, we were able to make progress on a number of long term projects including the upgrade of Campground Road and the Lake Allen Sewer Separation Program. The Department of Transportation identified six emergency projects that threatened public safety and \$329,000 was spent in repairs. Before the

stormwater utility, these repairs would have been the responsibility of the General Fund. As an important step to addressing storm infrastructure needs, the emergency repairs are an example of the needs of the community. We are still a long way from preventative maintenance and replacement. Stormwater inspections have resulted in improved construction practices and permit compliance for developers.

Submitted by

Denise L. Crews, P.E.  
Stormwater Coordinator