

TO: Knox County Commission
FROM: Chris Granju, P.E.
Stormwater Management Coordinator,
Dept. of Engineering and Public Works
SUBJECT: Proposed Stormwater Management Ordinance
DATE: July 12, 2007

This memorandum is provided to County Commissioners to address and hopefully clarify any confusion regarding purpose of the proposed stormwater management ordinance and the role of the Mayor's Stormwater Advisory Board.

The purpose of the Stormwater Management Ordinance is to establish and/or further define the requirements for stormwater control and floodplain management in new residential and non-residential developments in Knox County. The ordinance addresses these topics from the development planning and design stage, through the construction stage, and to long-term maintenance of constructed stormwater facilities. Additionally, **the ordinance**, in part, **is necessary to continue County compliance with State permits and regulations**. It is a tool for regulation by the County of the impacts of development on the drainage system, including impacts on water quality.

In contrast, the role of the Stormwater Advisory Board is to provide a community-based program review, to examine Knox County's current stormwater management services and provide recommendations for a 5-year plan to address comprehensive needs, including recommendations on funding of the stormwater program. The Board has taken into consideration the improved stormwater regulations and permit compliance that are provided by the proposed ordinance. It is one of the issues that has been discussed by the Board. In addition, they have also reviewed and discussed needs and identified issues to be address in all areas of County stormwater management, such as program administration, capital improvements, maintenance and operations, engineering, stormwater quality management and special supporting programs (e.g., public education).

It is important to understand that the cost impacts of the ordinance to the County operating budget is measured by what resources are needed to manage and enforce it. This cost largely includes County staff inspectors, associated supplies and equipment as well as data management tools. The cost of the comprehensive program being recommended by the Advisory Board will address all areas of stormwater management identified above.

There has been some discussion and speculation in the media about the "cost" of stormwater management in the context of the ordinance implementation and it appears the media has confused these two initiatives, by presenting preliminary numbers from the Board analysis of the comprehensive program as if they represent the "cost" of implementation of the ordinance. The Mayor will receive a recommendation from the Board on what program changes they believe are needed to properly manage stormwater in the unincorporated areas of Knox County and those recommendations will be presented in the context of broad, comprehensive recommendations for future changes and funding the entire stormwater program.