



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Wastewater News

Environmental Services

What's Next for Stormwater Utilities: New Stormwater Workshop

There are more than 1,600 of them in 40 states. In Iowa, at least 100 communities operate one. The earliest of them were formed in the 1990s and early 2000s as Iowa cities faced new federal and state requirements. Others are just now getting started as a funding source to solve ongoing problems.

They are stormwater utilities. This type of utility, operating like a water or wastewater, electric, or other system, collects fees to cover the costs of implementing a municipal stormwater management program. For most cities, that includes constructing and maintaining storm sewers and flood control systems. For cities with MS4 (municipal separate storm sewer system) permits, additional requirements include staff to conduct public outreach and education, inspect construction sites, enforce post-construction ordinances, investigate illicit discharges, and implement good housekeeping methods.

Many cities are now going beyond the basics in approaching stormwater runoff by implementing and encouraging best management practices that decrease the amount of water flowing into storm sewer pipes and enhance water quality. Over the last 25 years since the first stormwater utilities were formed in Iowa, there has been a growing awareness about water management, flooding, land use, water quality, and recreation. Whether required to by permit or because of problems in the community, more and more Iowa cities are addressing stormwater issues.

To meet the need for continuing discussion and education about water problems and how stormwater utilities can be part of the solution, the "Next Steps for Stormwater Utilities" workshop has been developed by the Iowa Stormwater Education Partnership (ISWEP) and the Iowa League of Cities. Registration is now open. **The workshop will be held Thursday, August 1, 2019 at the Public Library in Johnston, Iowa.**

Seating is limited! Register today at: <https://iowastormwater.org/event/whats-next-for-stormwater-utilities-workshop/>. For more information contact Patti Cale-Finnegan, patticf59@gmail.com or 515-490-4684.