Sustainable Stormwater Management Financing for the Upper Charles River Watershed Project Framework

Issues and Context for Stormwater Utility Evaluation
November 2010

1. Municipal Stormwater Program Drivers

Regulatory	*Non-Regulatory*
• EPA RDA General Permit; • EPA MS4 Phase 2 General Permit; • Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act (Stormwater Standards); and • Local Subdivision/Site Plan Review requirements.	• Property values; • Municipal Assets (drainage and infrastructure); • Drainage/flooding issues; • Water quality; • Deferred drainage/stormwater practice maintenance; and • Aesthetics (trash and debris, turbidity, eutrophication).

2. Charles River Phosphorus TMDL

Requires reduction of phosphorus loading to receiving waters from:

- Private sources (both residential and non-residential);
- Municipal sources (MS4 drainage system);
- CSO discharges; and
- Wastewater Treatment Facilities.

3. Range of Stormwater Control Strategies

Non-structural measures:

- Enhanced street sweeping;
- Semi-annual catch basin cleaning;
- Phosphorus ban on fertilizers;
- Organic waste and leaf litter collection.

On-site structural measures:

- Infiltration of 1" of precipitation;
- Range of other acceptable BMPs (sized appropriately).

Watershed-based Phosphorus management:

- Certified Municipal Phosphorus Program (CMPP);
- Phosphorus Control Program (PCP);
- Stormwater Master Plan (long-term plan for implementation of programs and practices).

4. Basic Options for Meeting TMDL Requirements

- Everyone on their own (private properties under the RDA; municipal town by town decisions; homeowner participation- mostly volunteer);
- CMPP tied to watershed management plan(s) containing PCP (town by town with regulated RDA active participation); and
- Regional Watershed Management District (CMPP/PCP; trading & banking structure).

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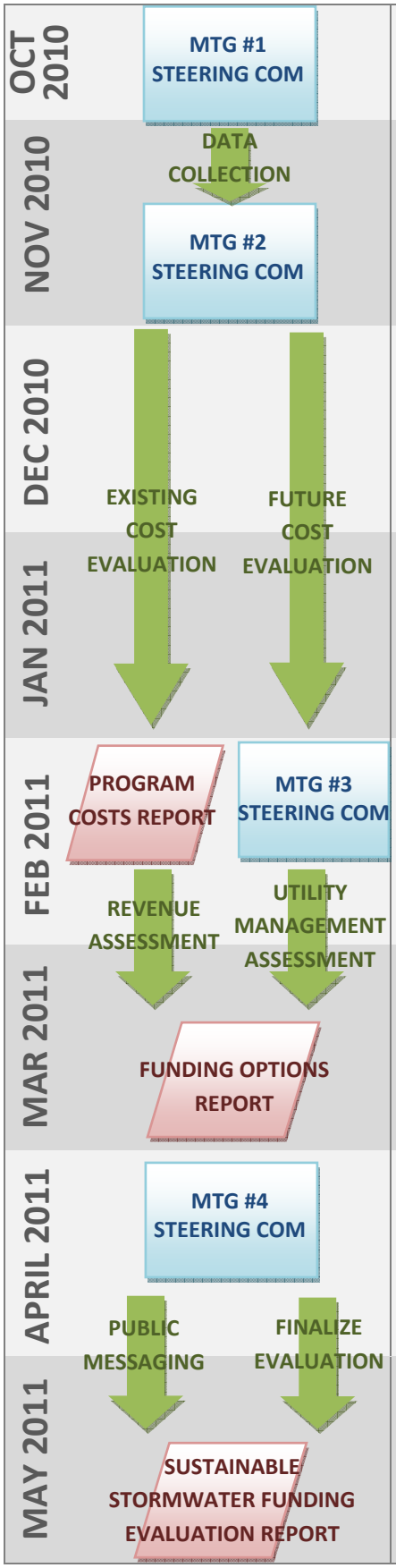
SUSTAINABLE STORMWATER FUNDING IN THE UPPER CHARLES RIVER WATERSHED

PROPOSED PROJECT FRAMEWORK - November 15, 2010



OCTOBER 20: Introduction to Project Team and goals

EARLY NOVEMBER: HW/AMEC - Meet with each town to collect data on existing stormwater program, needs, priorities, and administrative structure.

NOVEMBER 15: Review timeline and decision points

DEC-JAN: HW/AMEC - Evaluation of existing services, expenditures, problems, and administration. Evaluation of options for permit compliance (CMPP, PCP, regional vs. local). Assessment of cost of permit compliance and enhancements to existing programs (level of service). ☒✪

MID-FEB: Draft report outlining existing and estimated future program costs and options for RDA participation. Towns/other stakeholders to send feedback to HW/AMEC. ☒ ✪

MID-FEB: Progress meeting – Review/discuss findings on costs report.

FEB-MAR: HW/AMEC - Evaluation of funding options/alternatives (regional, local, hybrid), potential rate structure, credit options, billing options, and legal authority/constraints. Evaluation of management considerations and long-term data maintenance needs. ☒

END OF MAR: Draft report outlining funding options and data management assessments. Towns/other stakeholders to send feedback. ☒ ✪

EARLY APR: Progress meeting – Review/discuss findings on the funding options and data management assessments. Discuss appropriate public messaging options for each town.

APR-MAY: HW/AMEC – Produce project outreach materials and assist each town with public messaging. HW/AMEC – Finalize evaluation based on feedback from stakeholders.

MAY: Draft and Final Evaluation Report, consisting of revised versions of the Program Costs Report and the Funding Options Report.

Review/decision by towns: ☒ **Review/decision by other stakeholders:** ✪