

Developing Regional Solutions



SEMCOG

Southeast Michigan Council of Governments

**Water Infrastructure Funding
March 12, 2024**

An aerial photograph of a park featuring a winding river, a stone bridge, and a city skyline in the distance under a cloudy sky. The text is overlaid on the image.

Water Infrastructure Funding

Appropriations Subcommittee on Environment,
Great Lakes, and Energy March 12, 2024

Kelly Karll, PE, SEMCOG Manager, Environment & Infrastructure

SEMCOG Water Resource + Infrastructure Planning



- Designated Water & Air Quality Management Agency
- 30+ years in water resource planning
- Collaboration across federal, state and local agencies

March 2023

Water Infrastructure Policies and Actions for Southeast Michigan

Public
EducationData & Asset
ManagementLegislative &
Regulatory ReformInfrastructure
CoordinationFunding &
Financing

- Water Infrastructure Task Force
- Justice 40 Communities Task Force
- Local, state, federal, community groups, non-profit organizations

Flooding is a major ongoing priority concern for local agencies!

Over \$1 Billion Annual Need for Stormwater Infrastructure in SE Michigan

Rainfall Projections

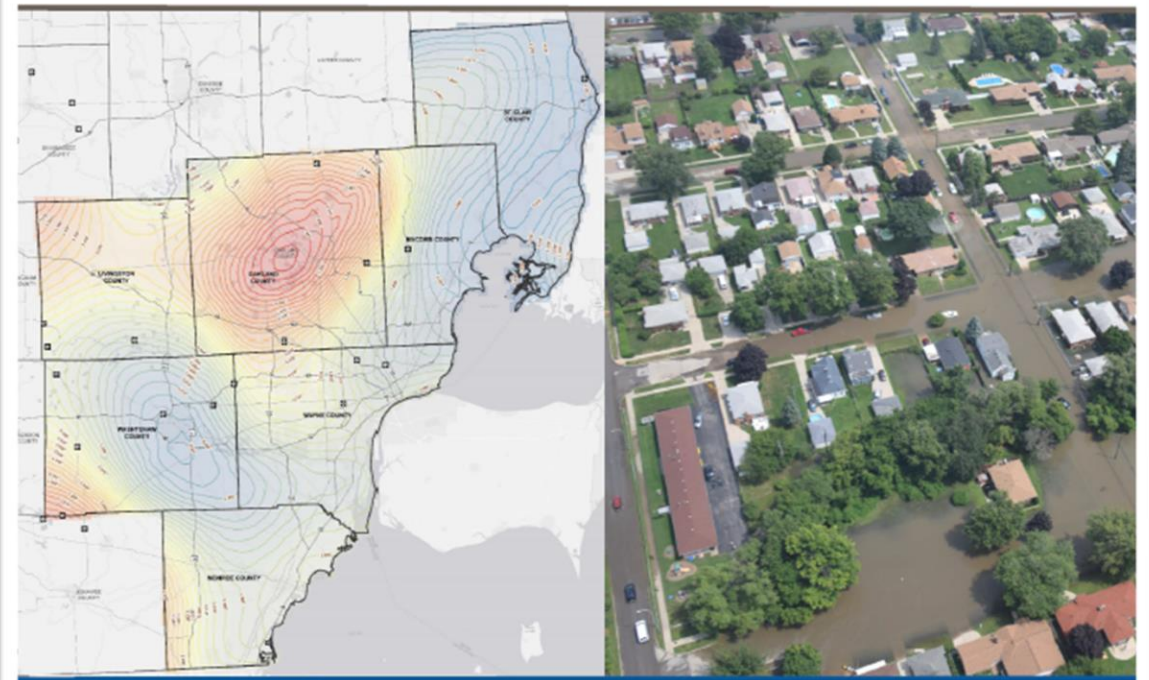
Current 10-year	Mid-Century 10-year (projection)
3.3"	5.2"
	57% ↑

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MDOT
Michigan Department of Transportation

Southeast Michigan Current and Future Precipitation

Climate Resiliency and Flooding Mitigation Study



Tt TETRA TECH

June, 2020

Green Stormwater Infrastructure Solutions



Regional Stormwater Planning

- \$1.3M EPA Pass-Thru for GI Implementation
- \$700,000 from Erb Family Foundation:
 - \$500,000 – develop resources to expand GREEN initiative and nature-based solutions across region
 - \$200,000 – address green infrastructure needs in underserved areas in region
- \$800k FHWA Resiliency Plan application



State Revolving Loan Program

Challenges

- Typically <1% of the Clean Water Funds allocated to stormwater projects compared to wastewater projects
- Loan program vs. grant
- Treatment vs. Flooding



Recommendations

- Recognize SRF language change from ‘**stormwater treatment**’ to ‘**stormwater management**’
- **Update SRF scoring** to actively request flooding + resiliency projects to fairly compete with other project types
- Set aside **dedicated stormwater management** grants / principal forgiveness
- Initial **20% allocation**

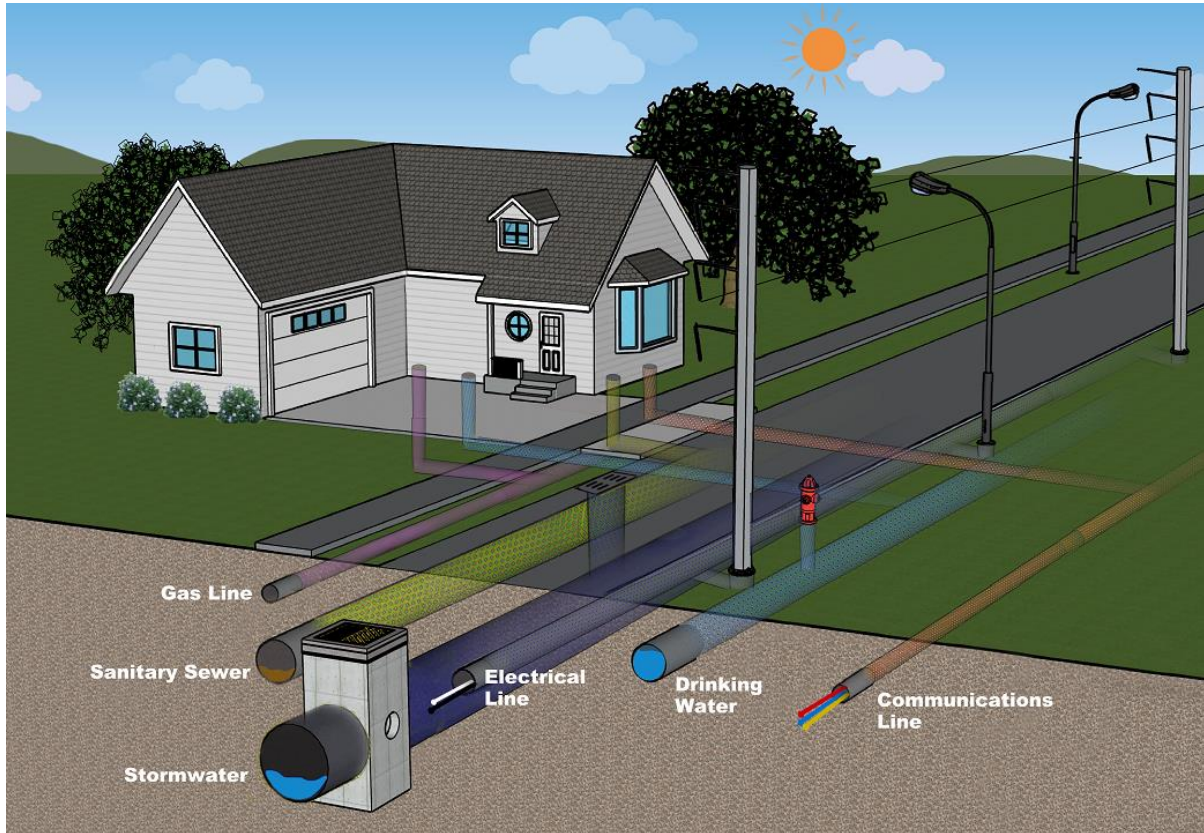
Stormwater Utility Management Act

Senate Bill 0660



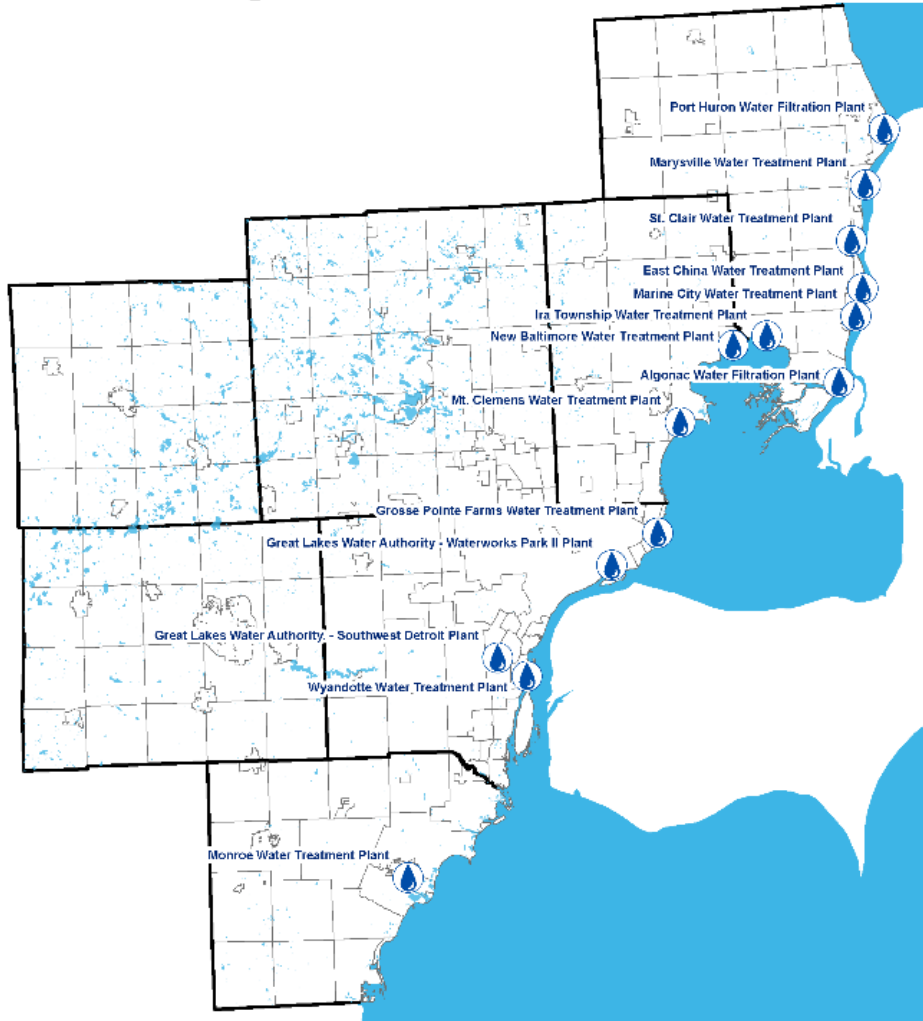
- Stormwater infrastructure is the only utility without dedicated funding source
- Formal approach to planning, funding and management stormwater infrastructure.
- Funds only for cost of municipal services directly related to management and treatment of stormwater
- 2,500-3,000 stormwater utilities across U.S. (12 in Michigan)

MIC / WAMC / TAMC



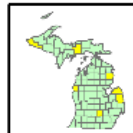
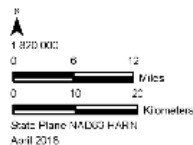
- Infrastructure coordination
- MIC Portal
- Asset Management Training
- EGLE Collaboration
 - Funding Incentives to Align Projects
 - Expedite Permit Reviews
 - Coordinate with Road Agencies
 - Continued Asset Mgt Funding (SAW and Drinking Water)

Water Treatment Plants Southeast Michigan



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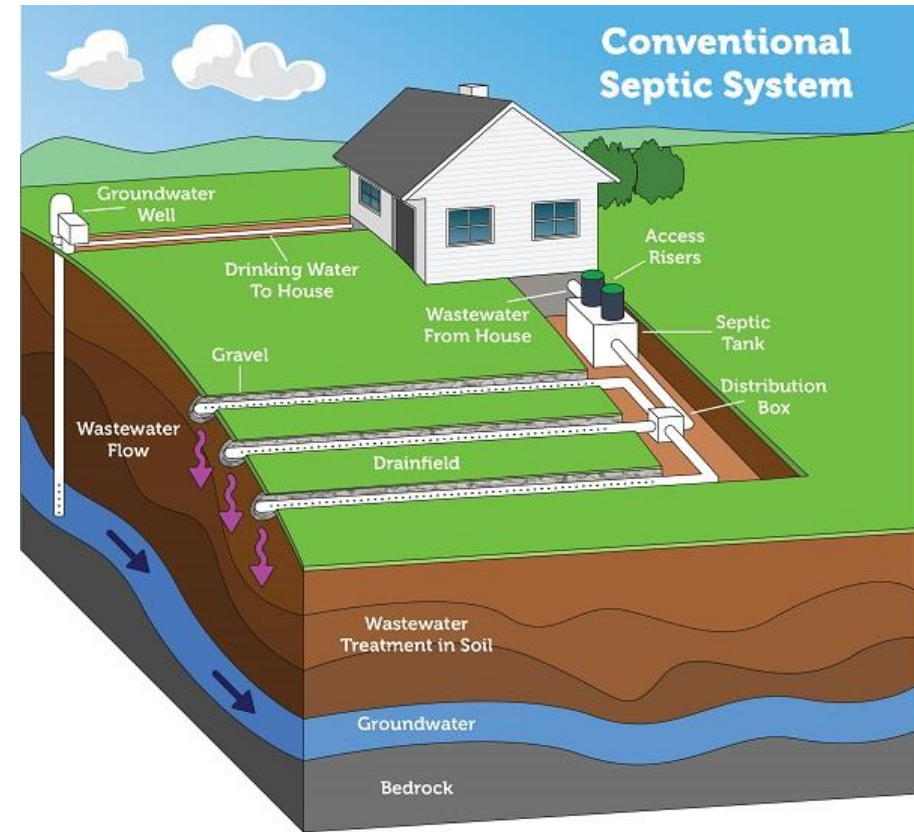
Drinking Water - Source Water Protection

- 14 drinking water treatment plant intakes
- Voluntary (not regulatory) real-time data monitoring
- Coordination & Communication
- Huron-to-Erie Corridor
 - Over 20 million tons freight movement
 - Valued at over \$1.6 billion
- Multiple pipelines St. Clair & Detroit Rivers
- **EGLE Funding for Source Water Protection Monitoring

\$1.5 Million over 5 years to protect public health to monitor

Statewide Sanitary Code Considerations

- Septic Systems
- Comprehensive Statewide Database of Existing Systems
 - Multi-Year Effort
- Wastewater Treatment Plant Capacity / Upgrades



Please note: Septic systems vary. Diagram is not to scale.

EGLE Appropriation Considerations – WRAP UP



- Higher Priority for Stormwater (ie Flooding) Funding
- Nature-Based Solutions Grant Funding Element
- SRF Grant/ Principle Forgiveness Stormwater Management Allocation
- Support Stormwater Utility Legislation
- Funding Incentives for Infrastructure Coordination
- Continued Asset Management Funding
- Consider Source Water Protection Monitoring
- Consider Statewide Septic Database Funding
- EGLE & Legislature Funding Support **THANK YOU!**
- Consider use of regions for additional water resource planning

THANK YOU!

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