



# A New Approach to Financing Stormwater Management: Stormwater Utility Districts

## A Workshop Series

### About This Series

Increasingly Rhode Island's cities and towns are grappling with the impacts of uncontrolled stormwater runoff and its consequences - street flooding, property damage, beach closures, closed shellfishing waters, and impaired water quality. However, the majority of Rhode Island's municipalities are challenged to fully fund the program and operational expenses of complying with regulations that govern stormwater management in their communities. Faced with similar challenges, **municipalities from across the nation are opting to establish stormwater utilities as a means of establishing a dedicated, stable and predictable funding source to pay for these services.** The three scheduled workshops will look at how stormwater utilities may provide a workable solution.

### Who Should Attend?

Public works directors, council members, managers, planners and other board/commission members

*Advisory to communities participating in the Phase II Stormwater Education and Outreach Program: **MS4s attendance at the first two workshops is mandatory.***

### What Will I Learn?

- Learn about innovative methods some RI towns are using to fund stormwater programs.
- Get the facts on how stormwater utility districts work around the country.
- Learn how municipal officials were able to start utility districts in nearby states.
- Find out if utility districts can work in RI, based on studies now ongoing in Middletown and Westerly.

### Workshop 1: *Managing Stormwater in Tough Budget Times*

October 25, 2011; 2:30 – 5:00 PM

*URI Narragansett Bay Campus, Coastal Institute Auditorium*

This program will address current challenges faced by municipalities, the future direction of stormwater management, and introduce stormwater utility districts. Speakers include Andrew Reese, AMEC Earth and Environmental, and a panel of local public works directors.

### Workshop 2: *Stormwater Utility Districts: Success Stories from New England States*

November 17, 2011; 3:00 – 5:00 PM

*Johnson & Wales Providence Campus, Culinary Arts Museum*

Stormwater utility districts have been successfully implemented throughout New England. A panel of speakers will share the challenges and benefits associated with stormwater utility districts in their communities.

### Workshop 3: *Stormwater Utilities: Rhode Island Moves Forward*

January 26, 2012

*Planned concurrent session at the RI League of Cities and Towns Annual Convention*

This final workshop will present findings on the feasibility of utility districts in Westerly and Middletown based on studies now underway. It will also include a discussion of state law and policies for municipalities to implement utility districts in Rhode Island.

### How Do I Register and Find Additional Info?

Cost is FREE but registration is required. Please visit our website <http://www.uri.edu/ce/wq/NEMO/Workshops-Support/index.htm#current> for details, directions, and agenda.



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RI Bays, Rivers  
and Watersheds  
Coordination Team

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