



# ***Environmental Advisory Board***

## **Meeting Agenda**

August 27, 2025 3:00 P.M.

Centennial II HR Conference Room B

805 Central Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

Virtual Attendance through Microsoft Teams

### **Order of Business**

- I. Public Comment**
- II. Call to Order**
- III. Administrative Action\***
  - Approval of July 23, 2025 – Meeting minutes
- IV. Office of Environment and Sustainability Comments**
  - Solar For All Grant Update
- V. Information/Updates**
  - TBD
- VI. Items for Vote\***
  - TBD
- VII. Presentations**
  - Stormwater Management Utility – Arun Hindupur
  - Impervious Surface Fee Update – Larry Falkin
  - Sustainable Ohio Public Energy Council (SOPEC) – Rob McCracken
- VIII. Open Discussion**
  - i. TBD
- IX. Next Meeting**
  - September 24, 2025 at 3pm; Centennial II HR Conference Room B; 805 Central Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202
- X. Adjournment**

*\*Board Action Requested*

### **Agenda Packet Materials:**

- Draft meeting minutes from 7/23/2025
- Stormwater Management Utility Presentation
- Stormwater Management and Rate Structure Reform Presentation
- Energy Aggregation - Sustainable Ohio Public Energy Council Presentation

# Environmental Advisory Board

## Minutes of July 23, 2025

### Members Present:

- **In person:** Dave Schmitt; Douglas Walton; Van Sullivan
- **Virtual:** Andrew Musgrave; Ashlee Young; Emmy Schroder; Ericka Copeland; Julie Shifman; Kylie Johnson; Nathan Alley; Nayana Shah; Rico Blackman; Susan Sprigg

### Members Absent: Monica Perdomo

### Staff Present: Oliver Kroner; Amanda Testerman; Erin Kabel

**Meeting:** A meeting of the Environmental Advisory Board was held on May 25, 2025 at 3:00 PM at Centennial II HR Conference Room B, 805 Central Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202.

### Meeting Agenda:

- I. **Public Comment**
- II. **Call to Order at 3:03 PM**
- III. **Administrative Action\***
  - Approval of June 25, 2025 – Meeting minutes
- IV. **Office of Environment and Sustainability Comments**
  - None
- V. **Information/Updates**
  - None
- VI. **Items for Vote\***
  - None
- VII. **Presentations**
  - Climate Migration Workshop – Anna Marandi, HDR
- VIII. **Open Discussion**
  - None
- I. **Next Meeting**
  - Wednesday July 23, 2025 at 3:00 PM
- II. **Adjournment at 4:07 PM**



# Stormwater Management Utility (SMU)



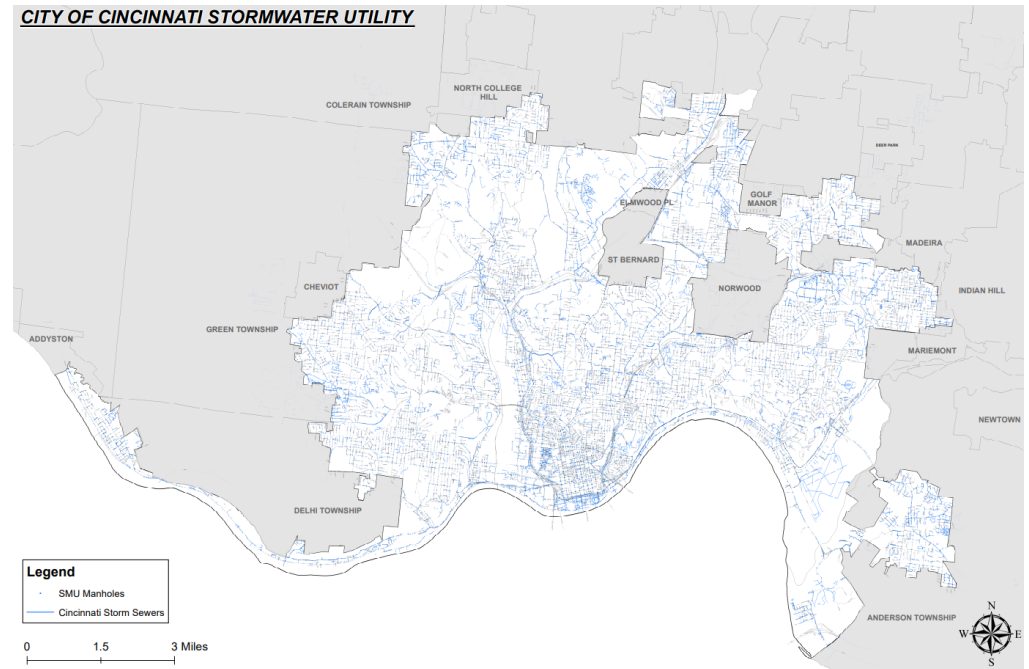
C I N C I N N A T I  
S T O R M W A T E R  
M A N A G E M E N T U T I L I T Y

# SMU's Services:

We provide **Stormwater Management** and **Flood Protection** services within the City of Cincinnati

- 320 miles of storm sewers
- 30,000 inlets & intakes
- 1,000 manholes
- 550 miles of ditches
- 4 pump stations

These services are funded by the stormwater fee charged to properties within the City. This Fund is separate from the water works fund used for drinking water services.





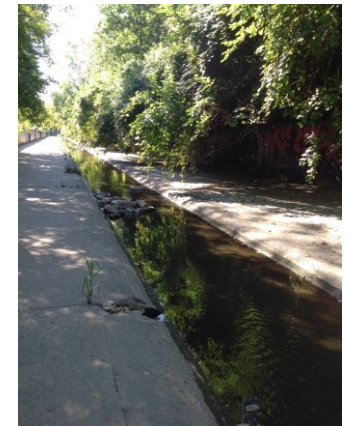
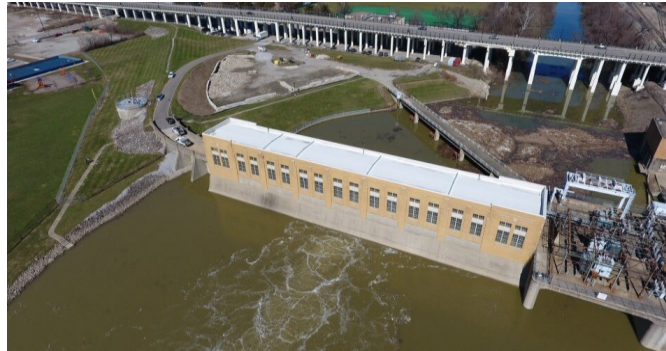
A Division of Greater Cincinnati Water Works

CINCINNATI  
STORMWATER  
MANAGEMENT UTILITY

# SMU's Services:

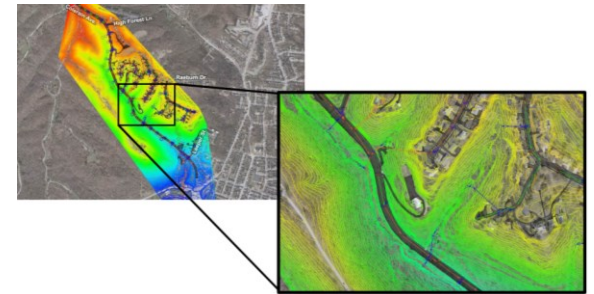
Our **Flood Infrastructure** protects over \$3 billion dollars of public and private property.

- Barrier Dam
- 1.5 miles of flood wall
- 14 floodgates
- Channels:
  - West Fork Channel
  - Amberely Creek Channel
  - Duck Creek Channel
- Gurley Road Dam



# Current & Upcoming Projects

- **Stormwater Management Master Plan:** For the first time since 1988, we are engaging in a Stormwater Master Planning process to develop a strategic framework to address the City's current and future stormwater management needs, including an overland flood analysis, assessment of the existing system, review of equity impacts, strategies to mitigate overland flooding; integrate water quality, ecology, and biodiversity, concerns, and the potential use of green infrastructure alternatives.
- Updating the **Stormwater Legal and Regulatory Framework**
- General Project Updates:
  - Mt. Lookout Study
  - West Fork Channel Facility Plan
  - Cincinnati LFPP Facility Plan
  - Colerain Ave



# MSD Proposals Stormwater Management and Rate Structure Reform

EAB Briefing by Larry Falkin

8/27/2025

Disclaimer: Views Expressed Are My Own

# Background

- Previous Briefing Focused on the Impervious Surface Fee (ISF)
  - ISF Incentivizes Stormwater Best Management Practices
  - ISF Reduces Burden on Residential and Low Income Ratepayers
  - Sierra Club and Others Have Advocated for ISF Since 2016
- New Developments –
  - May 5 – MSD Memo Floats New Proposals for Stormwater Management and Rate Equity
  - June 18 – Preliminary Response by Sierra Club and CUFA
  - Expected Soon – Sierra Club Position Statement
  - Expected Soon – MSD 2026 Budget Request

# MSD Proposal #1 – Charging for Stormwater

- Similar to the ISF, with 3 Key Differences:
  - 1) Applies Only to Properties in Combined Sewer Areas
    - Includes Properties that Drain to Storm Sewers that Drain to Combined Sewers
  - 2) Phased In, Largest Impervious Surface Area Parcels First
    - Year 1: 100 Properties with >6 Acres Paved
    - Year 2: 200 Properties with >3 Acres Paved
    - Year 3: 200 Properties with >2 Acres Paved
  - 3) Not a New Fee, But a New Use of Existing Authority
    - MSD is Authorized to Charge for Discharges to the Sewer System
    - Storm Runoff is a Discharge to the Sewer System
    - Rate is the Current \$6.47/ccf.
    - Automatically Gives Credit for BMPs

# MSD Proposal #2 – Downspout Disconnection Pilot Project

- Focused on Reducing Basement Backups
  - LRIFAs vs FFAs – Low Return Interval Flood Areas or Frequent Flood Areas
- Provides One-Time Payments to Land Owners
- Requires Downspout Disconnection And BMP Installation
- May Conflict With the City's Plumbing Code

# MSD Proposal #3 – Limit New Connections

- Focuses on SSOs and Overloaded Sanitary Sewers
- Prohibits New Connections to Sanitary Sewers with Frequent Overflows
- Exception if Developer Achieves 5:1 Offset By Removing I&I.
- Municipality and MSD Assist in Finding and Procuring Offsets

# MSD Proposal #4 – Reallocate I&I Costs

- MSD's Bills Include 2 Parts – The Base Monthly Charge and the Usage Based Charge.
- Currently, Stormwater Costs are Allocated 75% to the Base Charge and 25% to the Usage Based Charge.
- MSD is Proposing a Shift to a 40/60 Allocation.
- This Reduces Residential Bills by 3-4% and Increases Commercial/Industrial Bills by 5-6%.

# MSD Proposal #5 – Reduce Minimum Monthly Usage

- Currently, the Base Monthly Bill Includes a Charge for 3 CCF of Usage.
- Many Accounts, Especially Senior Citizens, Use Far Less.
- MSD is Proposing to Reduce the Minimum Monthly Usage.
- MSD Hasn't Provided Numbers. New Minimum Usage? Impact on Bills?

# Conclusion

- ISF remains the Best Way to Address Stormwater and Equity
- MSD's Proposals Appear to Improve Stormwater Management and Rate Equity
- Numbers are Not Yet Available To Quantify Impacts of Proposals
- Proposals are Likely to be in MSD's 2026 Budget Request, Decided by December
- This Will Be a Fast Moving Discussion. Stakeholders Should Be Prepared to Weigh in Quickly.
- Sierra Club's Position Should be Available Soon



# Energy Aggregation

- Ohio law enables local governments to “aggregate” its residents into a buying group to obtain better utility rates from suppliers
- Two types of programs
  - Opt-in aggregation
  - Opt-out aggregation
- Cincinnati voters approved an opt-out aggregation program in 2011
- Program provides residents with access to Green Energy at rates competitive to Duke



# Mercantile Aggregation

- Current aggregation program is limited by usage thresholds
- Commercial users do not have capacity to find suppliers to meet sustainability goals
- Program features:
  - Opt-in program
  - Provide commercial users with access to Green Energy
  - Utilize local sources of renewable energy
  - Competitive price



# Sustainable Ohio Public Energy Council (SOPEC)

- Council of governments that manages aggregation programs for over 40 members
- Focused on providing access to sustainable energy solutions
- SOPEC would leverage renewable energy resources to provide to commercial customers
- Membership requirements
  - Hold two public hearings
  - Council approval of SOPEC's Plan of Operations and Governance