

# Stormwater Rates Public Hearing

Monday, March 20, 2017 at 6 pm  
City Center, Augusta, Maine



# Agenda

- What is stormwater?
- Why is a rate increase needed?
- How much will it be?
- When will I see it in my bill?
- Who sets the rates?



## What is stormwater?

- **Runoff: rain water and melting snow**
- **Flows to stream, river or wastewater plant**
- **Can be combined with wastewater**
- **EPA classifies it as a pollutant because it contains elements harmful to the environment, such as motor oil, road salt and animal waste.**



## What are stormwater costs?

- Cleaning catch basins & pipes between them
- Maintaining pipe rights-of-way
- Engineering/analysis to properly locate and size stormwater pipe
- Replacing old pipe & installing new pipe
- Its fair share of GAUD overhead costs, including operating expenses, retirement costs, et al.



## Stormwater costs (continued)

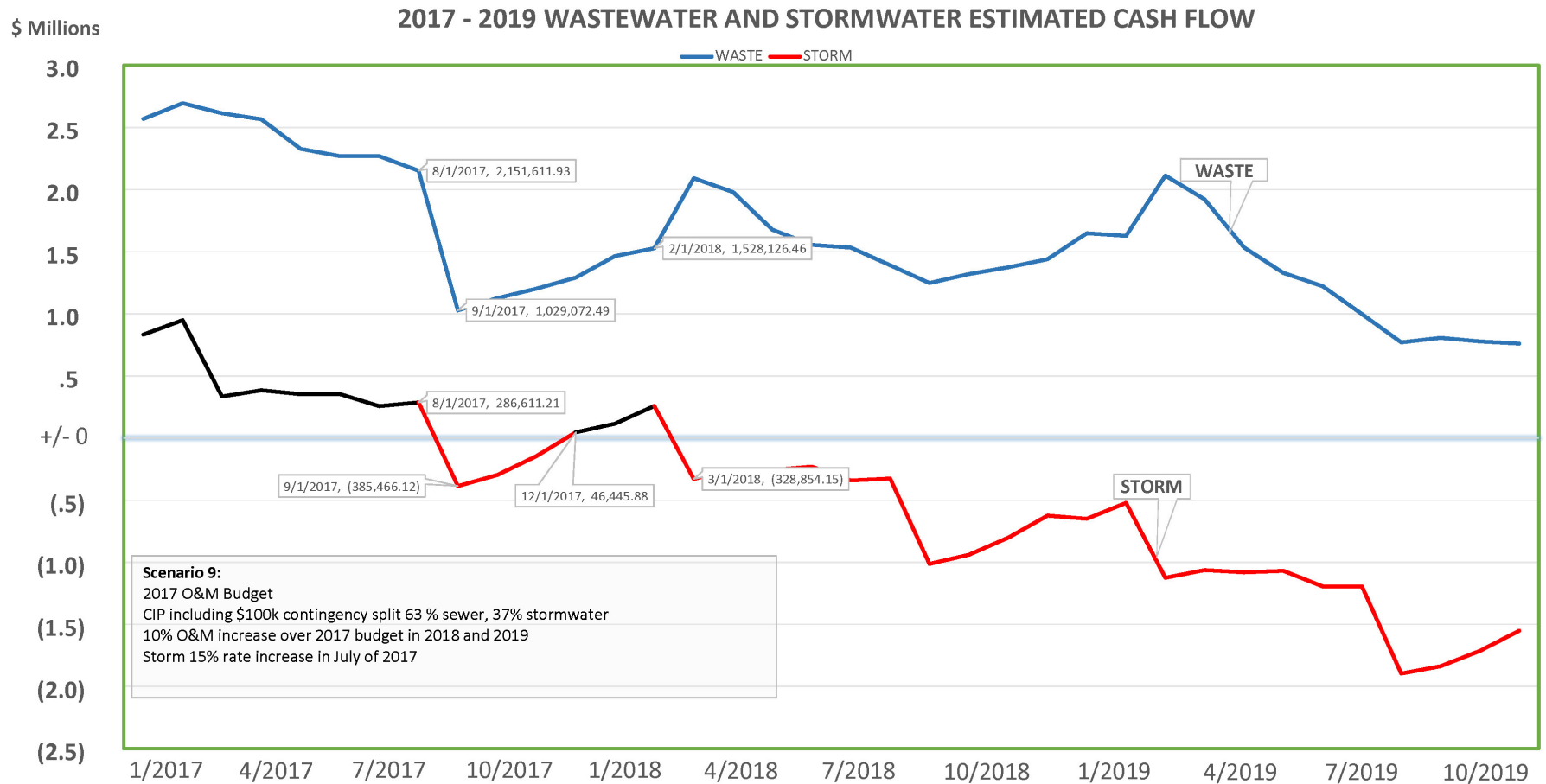
- Collecting and treating combined storm/  
wastewater overflow to comply with EPA  
regulations.
  - Wastewater in Augusta is combined with  
stormwater.
  - When it rains, flows increase dramatically.
  - Wastewater pipes are sized to also convey  
stormwater in some cases, so wastewater  
customers are also stormwater customers.

## Why is a rate increase needed?

All costs have risen in the nearly six years since the last rate increase (2011). The 15% rate hike equates to an annual increase of less than 2.5%. Without it, GAUD stormwater cash flow would soon be negative:



# Cash flow scenario



## Stormwater rate increase: Residential

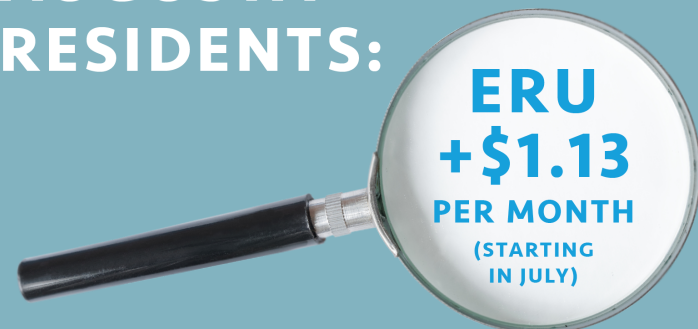
Increase of 15% starting with July invoice:

- Typical homeowner will pay for one ERU\*: \$8.68/month, up from \$7.55 per month (annual increase of \$13.56).

\*Equivalent Residential Unit, = 2,700 sq. ft. of impermeable area

(NOTE: Stormwater rates apply only to Augusta; Hallowell pays for stormwater as part of its taxes.)

**AUGUSTA  
RESIDENTS:**





## Stormwater rate increase: Commercial

Increase of 15% starting  
with July invoice:

- Businesses, City of Augusta and State of Maine will pay 15% more for ERUs\* and catch basins (rising from \$46.27 to \$53.21 per month).



\*Equivalent Residential Unit,  
= 2,700 sq. ft. of impermeable area

# Who sets the rates?

**Greater Augusta Utility District Board of Trustees:  
Nine appointees from Hallowell and Augusta**



**Thank you for your attendance.**

**Any questions?**

