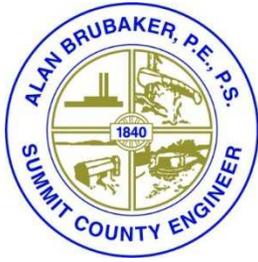


## **Surface Water Management District**

**Summit County Engineer Alan  
Brubaker, P.E., P.S.**



# Stormwater

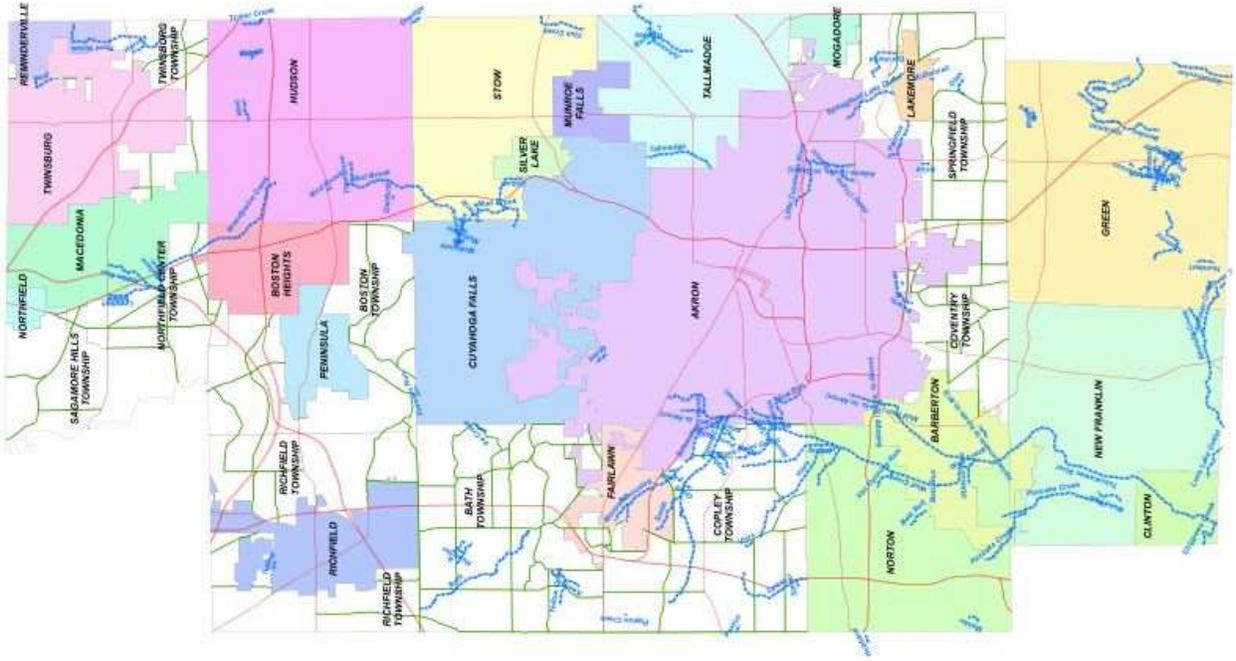
- We have spent the last nine years devising various solutions to stormwater issues in Summit County
- With no current revenue stream, we are left to use **the ditch petition process**, where citizens or the township petitions the county to do a surface water project and pay assessments, as the only way to address most stormwater problems
- SCE is now proposing voluntary, opt-in surface water program. **The Surface Water Management District** would function as a utility & would charge residents a small monthly fee in conjunction with the ditch petition process.

# Summit County Ditch History

- Many tile systems were installed independently by farmers. In some cases involving large land area and many property owners, they would petition the County to manage the construction of the ditch.
- In all cases, either directly or indirectly, property owners who benefit from the existence of a ditch pay for the installation of the ditch.

# What happened on August 23, 1957?

Prior to August 23, 1957, after a ditch was constructed through the County Petition process, the completed project was turned over to the property owners for maintenance and upkeep. The County owns an easement for the County Ditch but otherwise the County's role with regard to the ditch was complete. In 1957 the state legislature passed a law whereby all County Petitioned Ditches constructed after August 23, 1957 are put under permanent maintenance. As such, a special assessment is placed on the property tax bill of all benefited property owners and repairs and maintenance to that particular ditch are paid for out of that special fund.



SUMMIT COUNTY DITCH LOCATION MAP

# COMMUNITIES WITH SW UTILITIES/DISTRICT ASSESSMENT

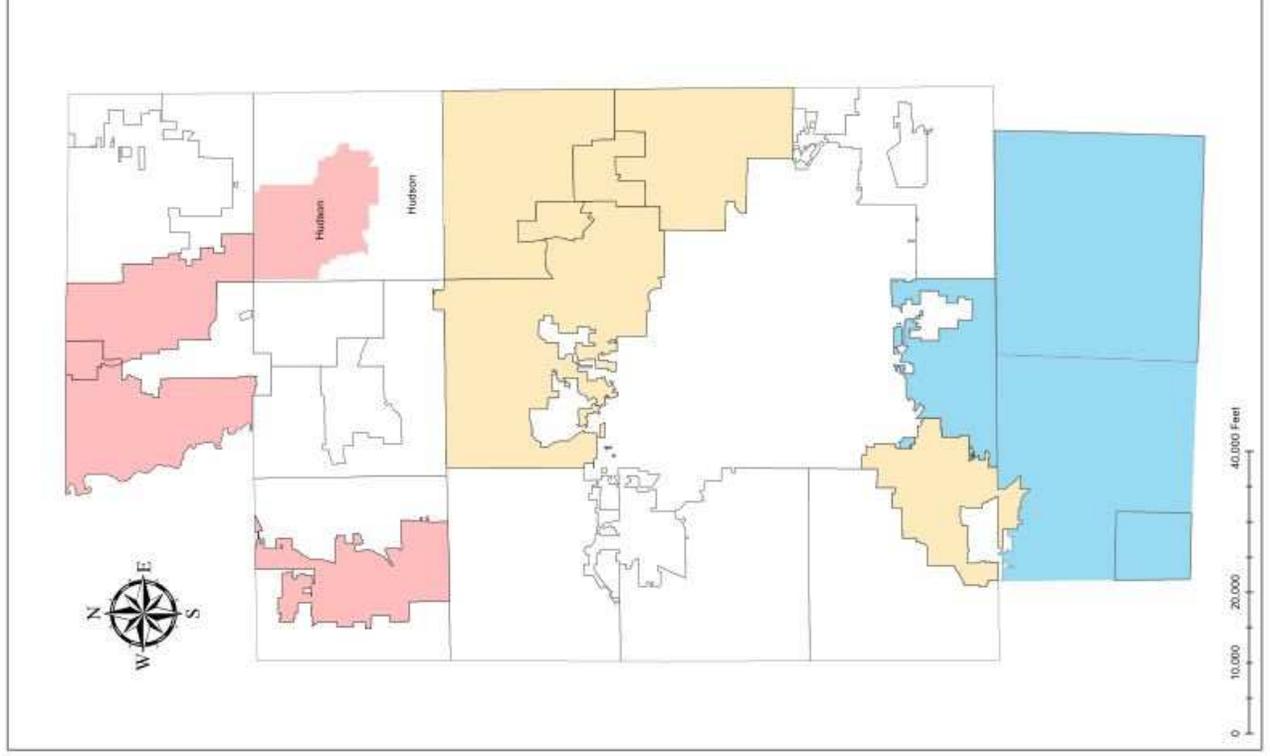
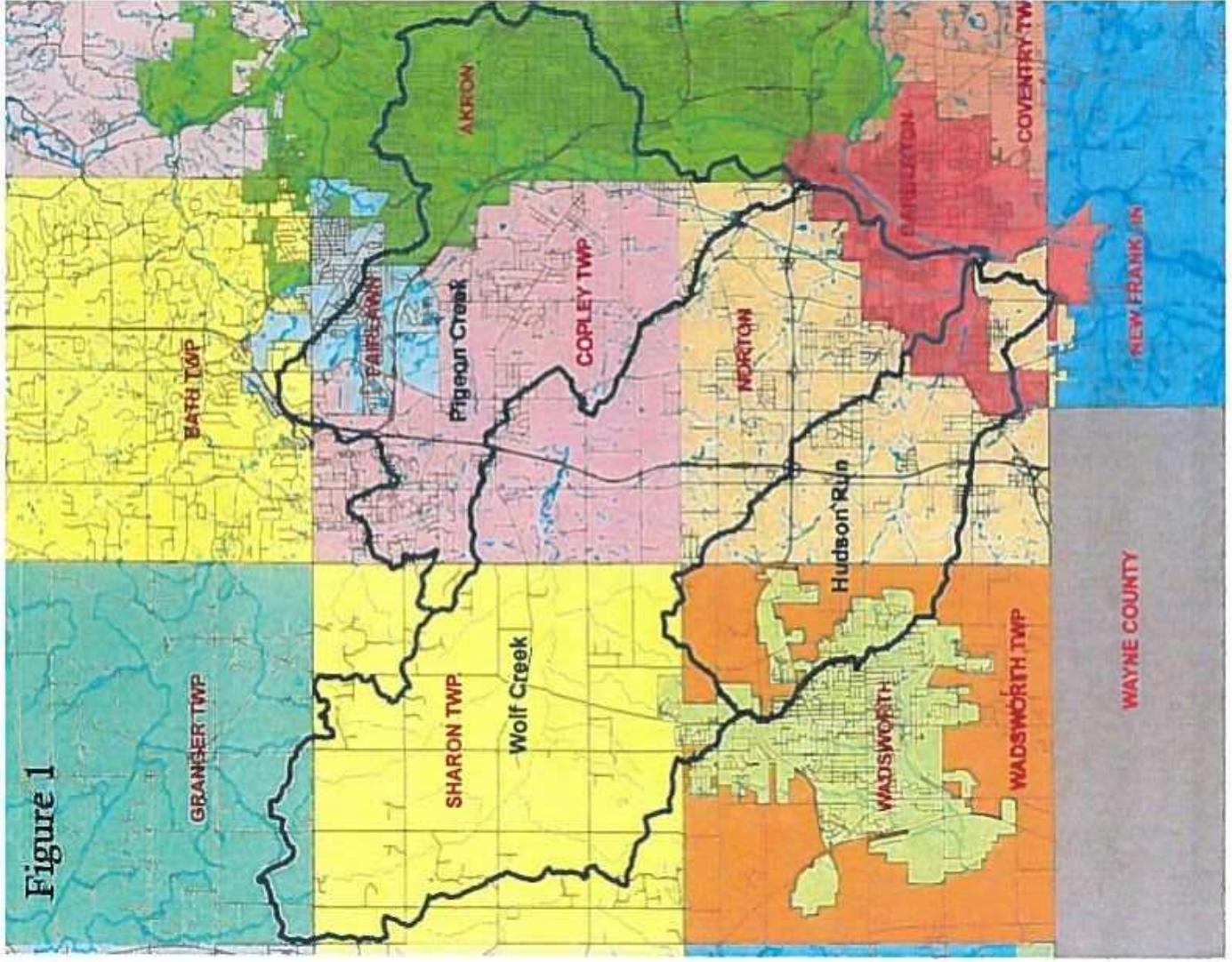
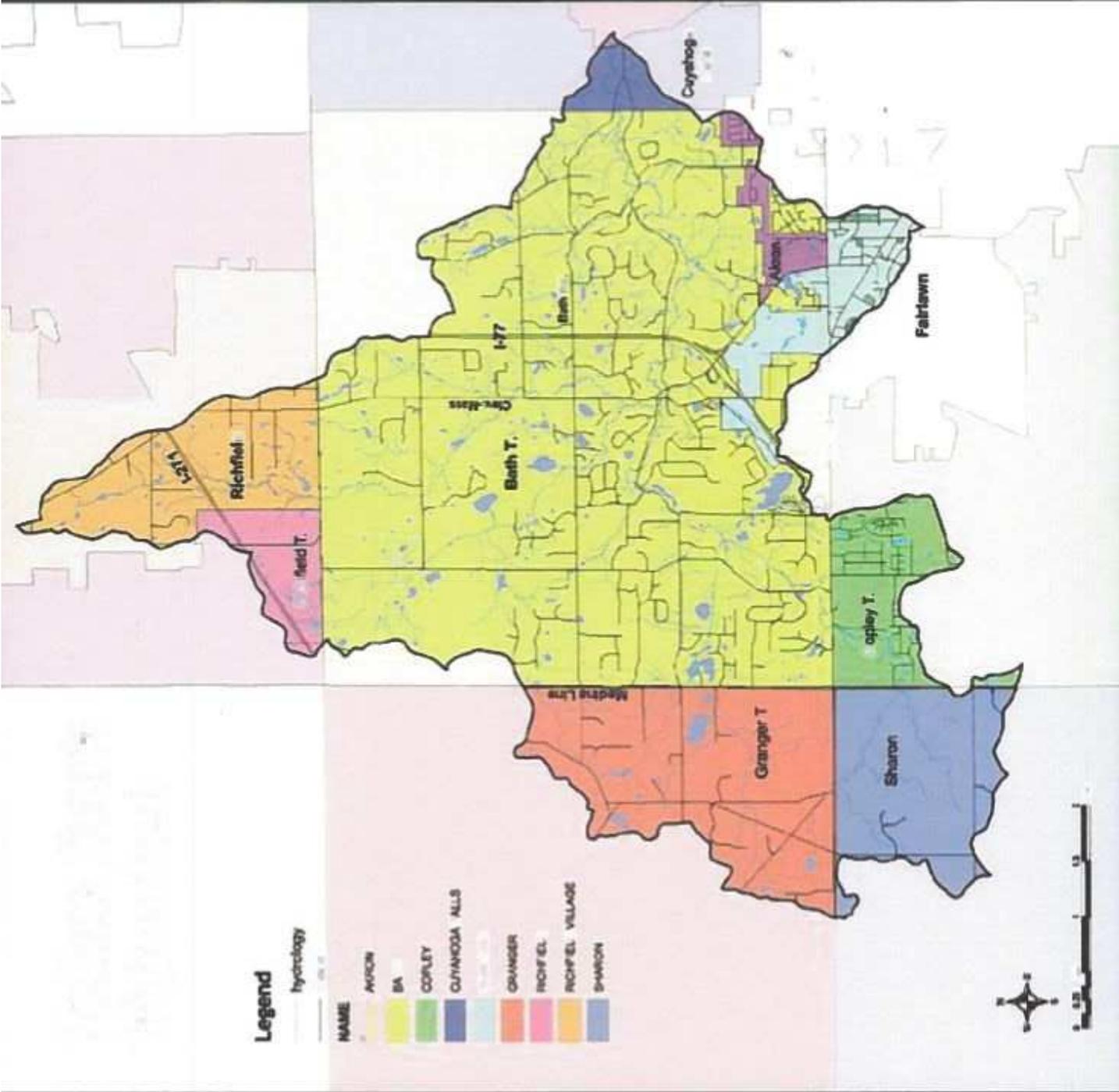


Figure 1





# Watershed Conservancy Districts' Pros and Cons

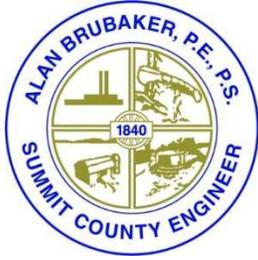
- Governed by Independent board of commissioners appointed by the court;
- Has ability to spread cost of operations over all landowners within its jurisdiction;
- Board has authority to perform work and set priorities;
- Jurisdiction is established by the court and may cross political boundaries;
- Board must employ staff to implement the program (engineering, legal and fiscal);

# Watershed Conservancy Districts' Pros and Cons

- Board has power to levy fees without citizen or elected official input;
- Limited to working within boundary and mission set by the court;
- Jurisdiction may overlap or conflict with local and/or county responsibilities;
- Limited authority to enforce rules and regulations;

# Watershed Conservancy Districts' Pros and Cons

- Permit from county required for work within existing county ditch easements;
- Must pay for R/W and easements needed for improvements (no quick take authority);
- May be watershed based with all properties within watershed paying a fee;
- May be liable should it fail to perform its court approved responsibilities.



## Surface Water Management Program

- The proposed Surface Water Management District will function as a utility.
- Participation is entirely voluntary and is open to Summit County townships, cities, and villages.
- Initial rate for 1, 2, and 3 family residential properties within an opt-in community established at \$4/month to be billed annually; rate for commercial and industrial properties established at \$4/month per 3,000sf of impervious area.



## Program will provide:

- Ability to implement projects and perform maintenance within political subdivisions who opt-in to the program;
- Ability to enforce uniform rules, regulations and mission within political subdivisions;
- Ability to set rates with approval of County Executive & Council within individual political subdivisions to satisfy community needs;
- Authority to collect fees limited to within the boundaries of political subdivisions that opt to participate in the program.



# ERUs

- The amount of impervious surface area on a property determines the monthly fee amount for most commercial property.
- Residential property 3,000 square feet and under will be charged 1 Equivalent Residential Unit or “ERU”.
- The proposed ordinance sets up an appeals process to contest ERU calculations.



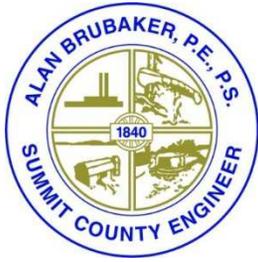
# Fees

- Initially the monthly fee is proposed to be \$4 per month per ERU.
- **All money collected from a political subdivision will be used to benefit that political subdivision.**
- Properties with a Homestead Exemption will be granted a 25% fee reduction to \$3 per month.
- Property owners already paying a stormwater assessment by living in an assessed subdivision may also get a 25% reduction.
- Property owners can receive credits for performing unrequired stormwater control measures, however no property will pay less than 1 ERU.



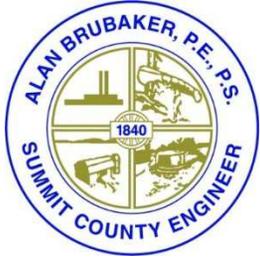
# Advantages

- Provides an earmarked source of funding for local and regional stormwater improvements
- Projects can be implemented fairly quickly
- Low administrative costs, using existing County staff for implementation of the program and for overseeing the program
- Accountable through direct elected official oversight (County Executive, County Council, County Engineer)



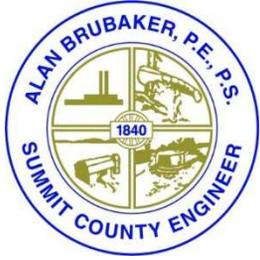
# Advantages

- Ability to adopt and enforce regulations
- May provide funding to begin addressing the maintenance and reconstruction needs of ditches established within easements to the County prior to 1953
- May help fund new petitioned ditch projects performed under ORC 6133 & 6137
- Has ability to perform projects beyond its boundary through the provisions of ORC 6133 & 6137, however funding assistance may be limited to the boundary of political subdivisions who opt to participate in the program



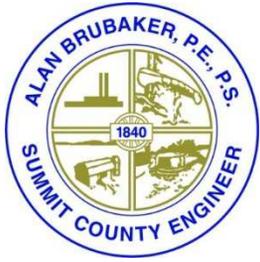
# Potential Disadvantage

- District must pay for easements to work on private property unless the Ditch Petition process is utilized.
- District will need to develop cooperative collaboration with adjacent jurisdictions where water crosses political boundaries.



# Possible District Tasks

- Solicit input from citizens and public officials to compile and prioritize problem areas
- Prepare and publish district rules and regulations
- Prepare master plan for controlling stormwater flows, erosion, and sediment transport
- Prepare short range and long range capital plan and budget
- Fund studies, plans, and cost estimates needed for pursuing outstanding ditch petitions



# Possible District Tasks

- Gilbert/Wright Pet., Bath Twp. (Design: \$31,000; Construction: \$300,000)
- Dorwick Ditch Pet., Northfield Center Twp. (Design: \$85,000; Construction: \$420,000)
- Begin routine maintenance on existing pre-1957 County Ditches
- Remove blockages and beaver dams
- Determine where pre-1957 County Ditches require reconstruction
- Determine where streams and drainage ways require improvement
- Initiate major improvements utilizing Ohio Revised Code Ditch Petition process

# Preliminary Revenue Estimates

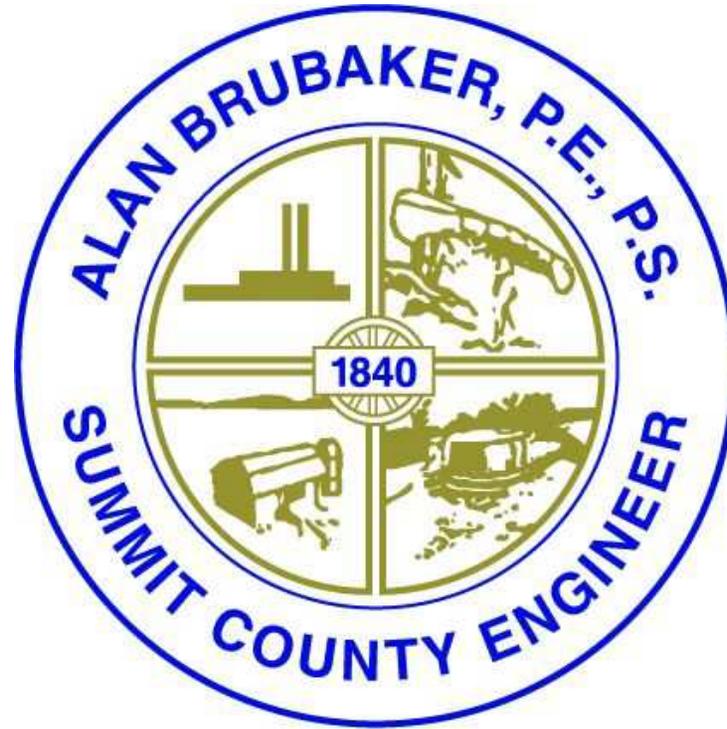
TOWNSHIP	POPULATION (2010)	ANNUAL REVENUE (\$)
Bath	9702	325,700 - 525,500
Boston	1272	32,000 - 68,900
Copley	17304	533,300 - 937,300
Coventry	10945	460,000 – 592,900
Northfield Center	5839	175,800 – 316,300
Richfield	2517	80,000 – 136,300
Sagamore Hills	10947	258,500 – 593,000
Springfield	14644	551,900 – 793,200
Twinsburg	2828	153,200 - 198,900

# Additional Comments

- Townships may petition County Council to leave the Surface Water Management District at any time. However, if the District holds debt for work done in the participating community, opting-out may not be approved until the debt is repaid.
- Communities will be offered opportunity to review and comment on annual capital plan, work program, and budget for their community before it is presented for County Council approval.

# Additional Comments

- Annual reports will be provided that list all completed and in progress work and their costs.
- The minimum billable amount is one ERU, however program budget may include cost sharing reimbursements to property owners who purchase rain barrels, install rain gardens, or make other storm water related improvements to their property.



Thank you!

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