

Braintree's Stormwater Utility

How we got there



Joseph C. Sullivan, Mayor

Town of Braintree Stormwater Division

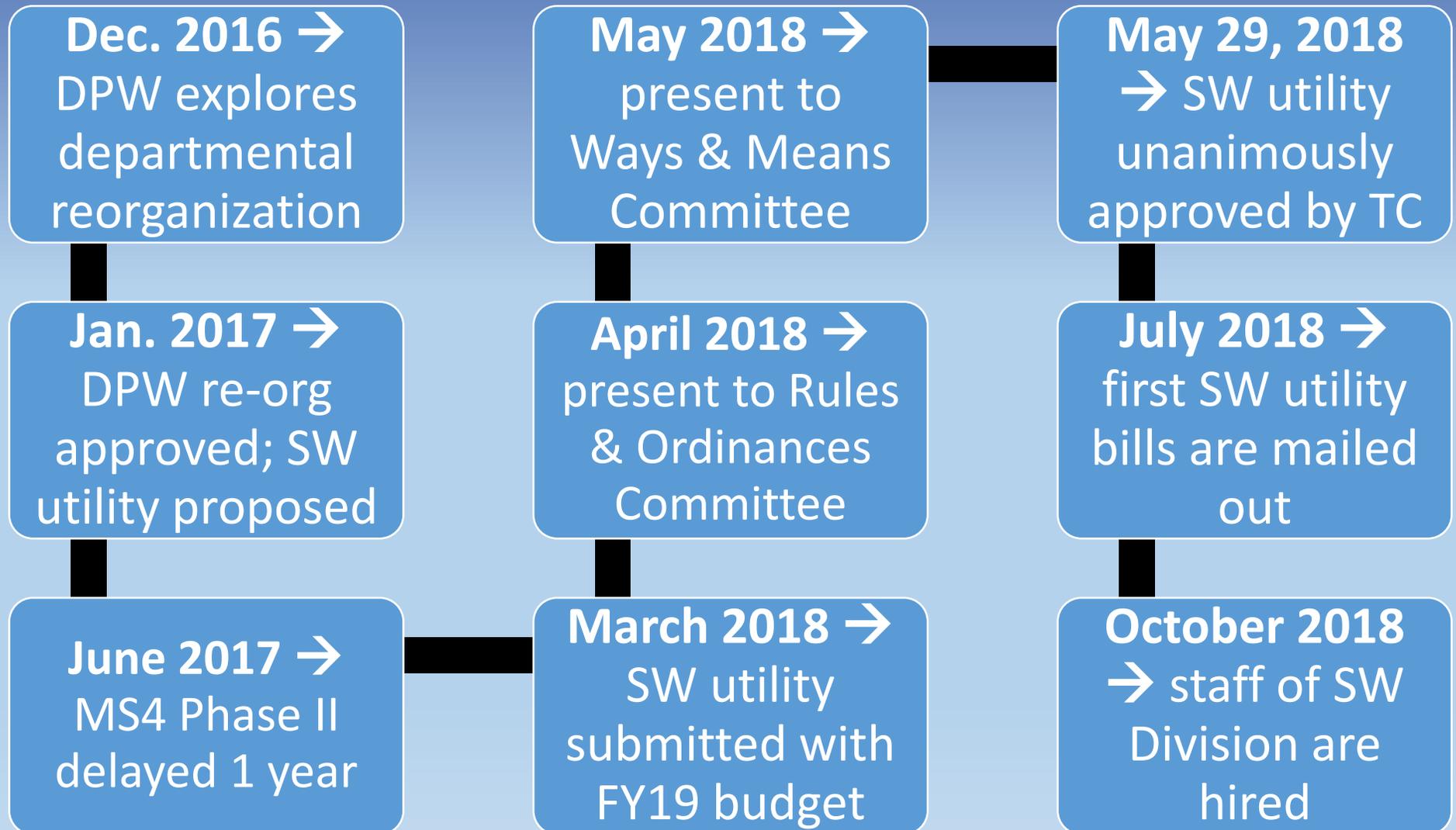
James Arsenault – Director of Public Works

Cynthia O'Connell – Stormwater Manager

Julie Sullivan – Outreach Coordinator

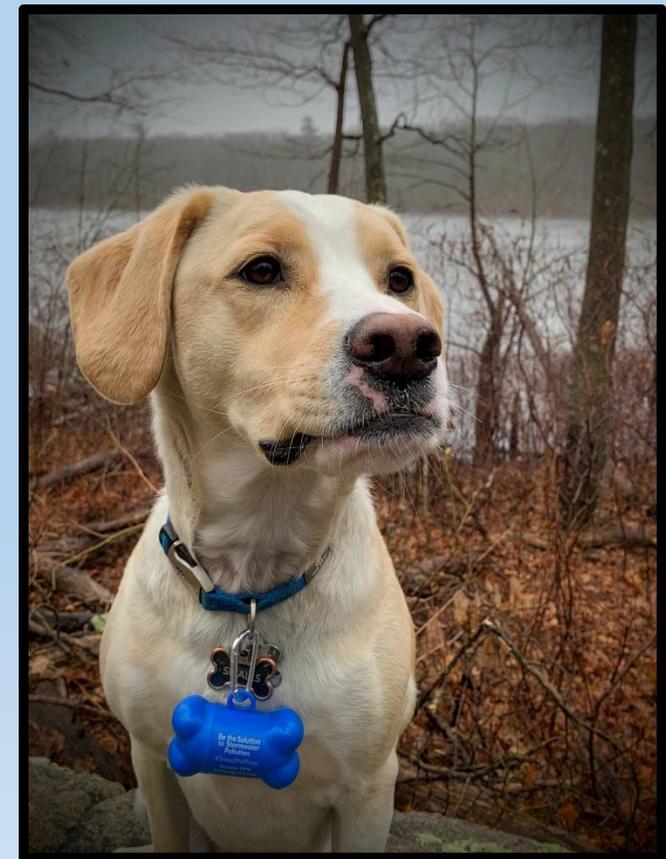
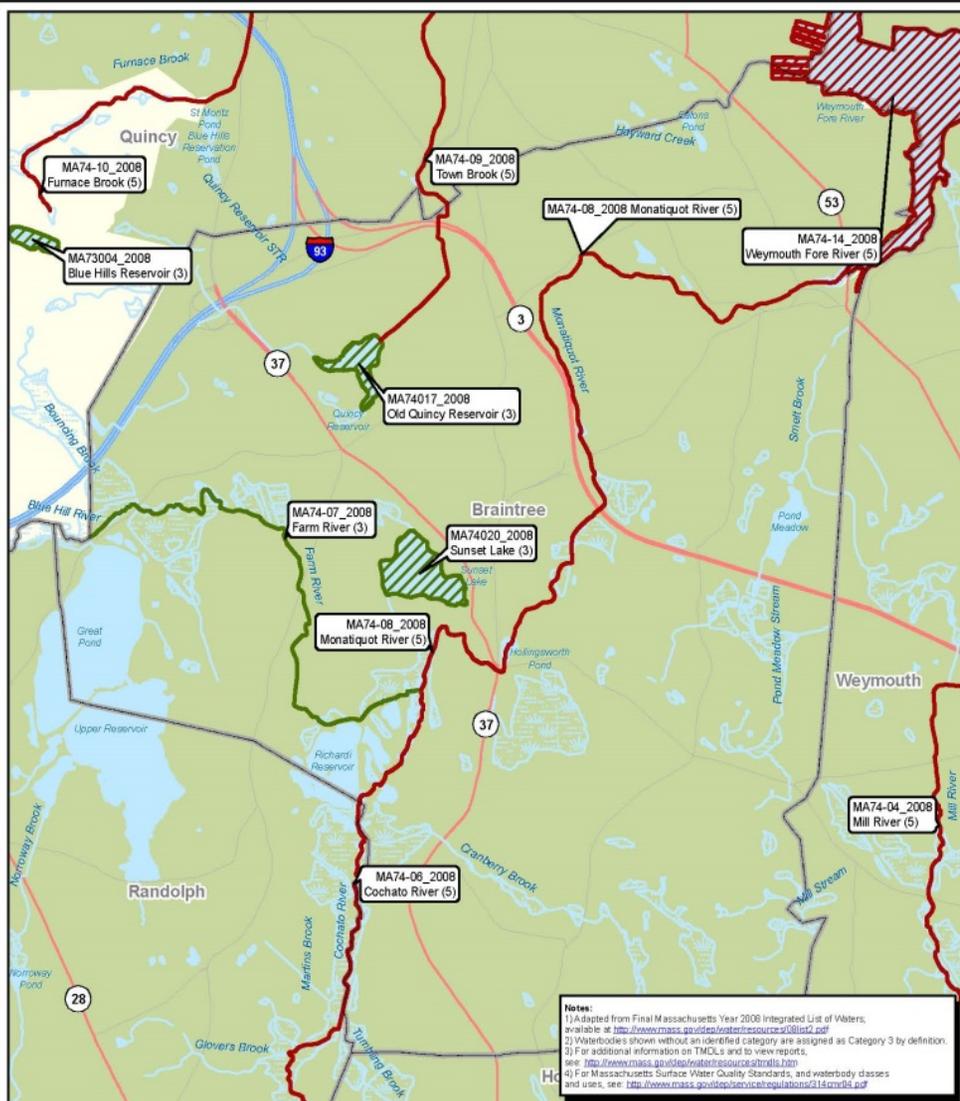
Susan Sass – Billing Analyst

Timeline of Stormwater Utility Adoption



303(d) Impaired Waters in Braintree

- Majority of Braintree's water bodies are impaired by fecal coliform
 - E. coli*
 - Enterococcus



Education of Elected Officials



- What is stormwater?
- Why do we need to treat stormwater?
 - Clean Water Act
 - Updated MS4 permit
 - ***It's the right thing to do!***



Stormwater Management

Old Approach

✗ Get the water off of the road and send it to the Surface Waters and Wetlands



New Approach

- ✓ Treat pollution at the source with Stormwater BMPs before it pollutes our natural resources.
- ✓ Improve the quality and quantity of the water.



Benefits of New Approach

- Improved public health and safety
 - Cleaner water bodies = more fishable, drinkable, and swimmable water bodies
 - Less frequent flooding
 - Safer roads
 - More aesthetically pleasing
 - Fewer beach closures
 - Improved habitat for our local wildlife
- Long range planning of drainage projects
 - Provide regular drainage maintenance to instill a **proactive** – not a **reactive** – approach
 - Avoidance of emergency repairs
- Meet all the requirements of the Clean Water Act and the 2016 EPA Phase II MS4 permit program

Potential Consequences of Non-Compliance → FINES

EPA has fined numerous communities for non-compliance with the 2003 Phase I MS4 Permit

- Canton (\$50,000)
- Concord (\$50,000)
- Dennis (\$50,000)
- Eastham (\$40,000)
- Gardner (\$60,000)
- Peabody (\$70,000)
- Winthrop (\$70,000)
- Fall River (>\$100K)

Approved Stormwater Utility Fees

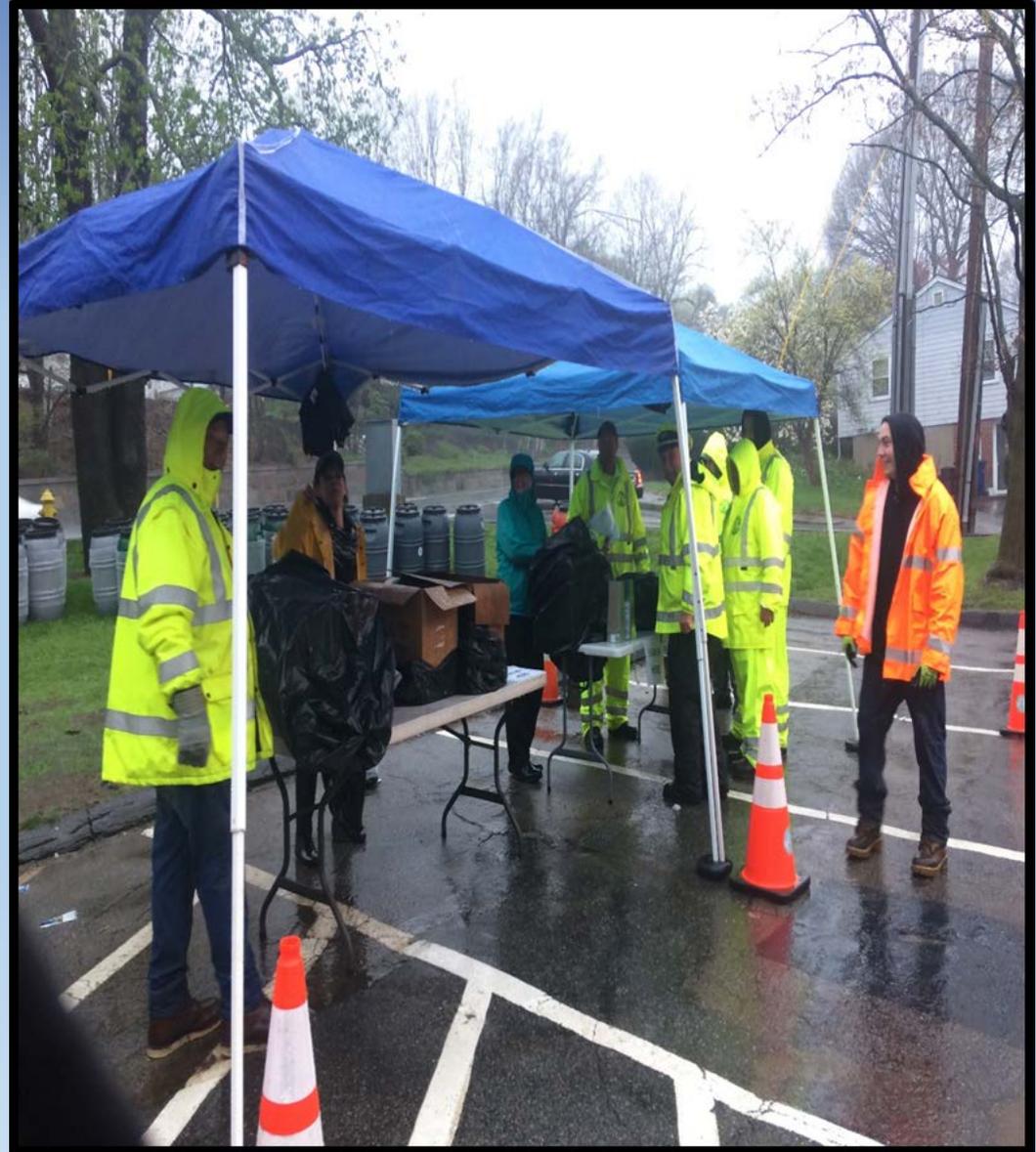
- Based on *Equivalent Residential Units (ERUs)*

$$\frac{25,090,560 ft^2}{9,030 \text{ Braintree households}} = \sim 2780 ft^2 = \mathbf{1 ERU}$$

- Single Family, Two and Three Family properties
 - \$6.25/ Quarter or \$25/ Year
- 4+ Family, Commercial, Industrial & Tax Exempt
 - Property's total impervious surface in ft² divided by 2,780 to find the ERU value
 - Fee cap of \$2,917.50 (116.7 ERUs) per parcel
- **Added to Water and Sewer bills as a line item**

What has the Stormwater Utility helped us accomplish?

- ***Full-time staff dedicated to Stormwater Management***
 - Revenue from Stormwater Utility funds the Manager, Billing Analyst, Outreach Coordinator, and three Highway field positions
 - Increased focus on BMP development and maintenance
 - More time to focus on...



What has the Stormwater Utility helped us accomplish?

- ***Regional collaboration***
 - Working with neighboring towns to form local coalition
 - Participation in Statewide Stormwater Coalition
- ***Grant opportunities***
 - Concentrated effort on pursuing stormwater grants
 - Received award from MAPC Climate Resiliency program



What has the Stormwater Utility helped us accomplish?

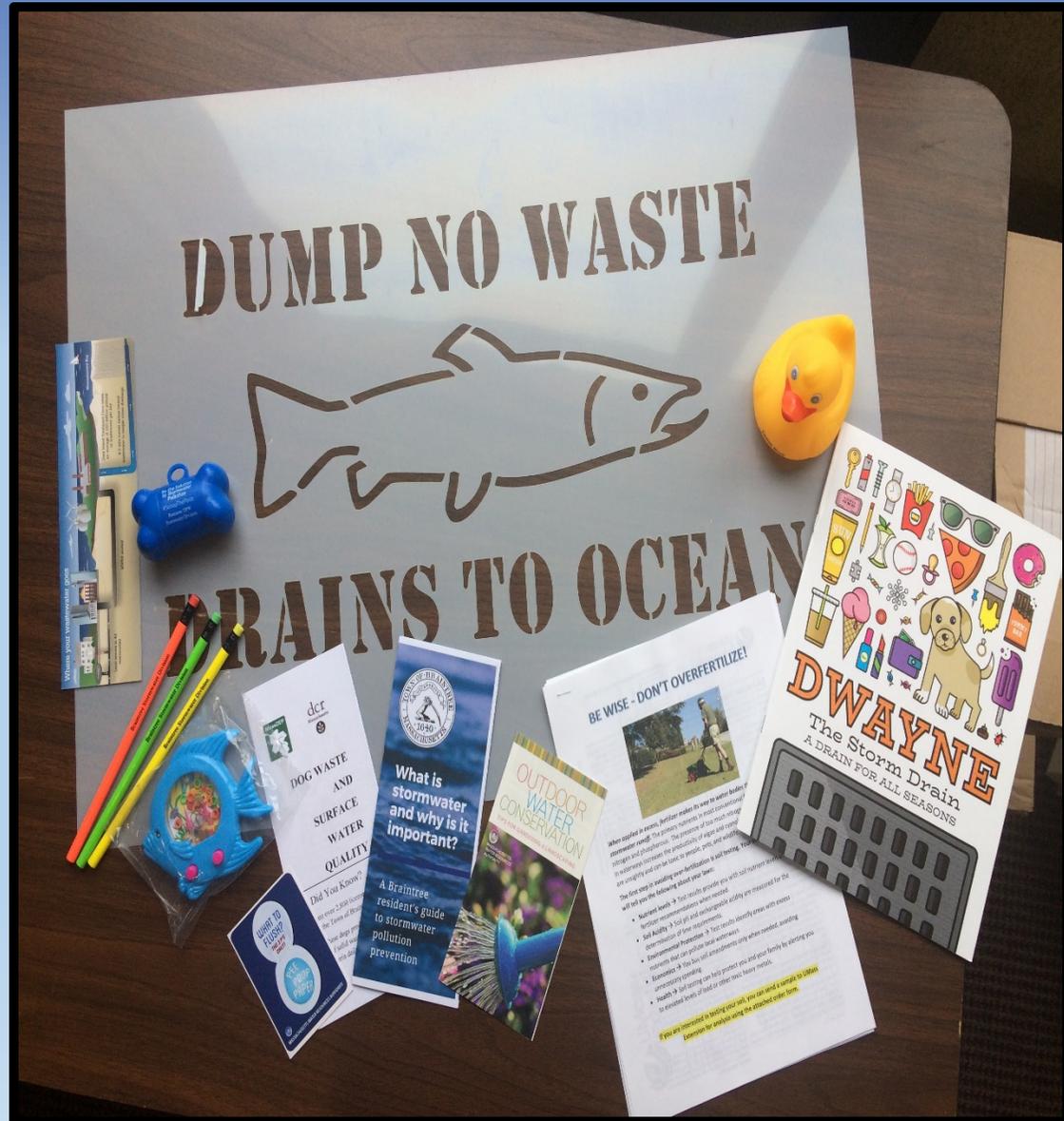


What has the Stormwater Utility helped us accomplish?

- **Outreach** → fulfillment of MS4 Public Education & Outreach and Public Involvement & Participation requirements
 - Articles in town publications
 - School presentations
 - Tabling at Farmers' Markets
 - Rain barrel program
 - #ScoopThePoop campaign and pet waste outreach
 - **Future plans:** Eagle Scout project, CZM CoastSweep



What has the Stormwater Utility helped us accomplish?





Comments or Questions?



**Contact Braintree Stormwater at (781) 794-8930
or visit our website at**

www.braintreema.gov/stormwater

Cynthia O'Connell - coconnell@braintreema.gov

Julie Sullivan - jmsullivan@braintreema.gov