

Stormwater Program Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What is Stormwater?

Stormwater is rain and snow melt that runs off surfaces such as rooftops, paved streets, highways, and parking lots. As water runs off these surfaces, picks up pollutants such as oil, fertilizers, pesticides, soil, trash, and animal waste. From here, the water flows through natural drainage, gullies or ditches, and can end up in creek or other water body. Or, it may go into a storm drain and continue through storm pipes until the water and its pollutants are released **untreated** into a local waterway.

Q. Who decided people in Asotin County have to pay for a stormwater plan?

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), as authorized by the Clean Water Act, created the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) to reduce pollution entering national waters. National waters are the responsibility of the federal government and include all navigable waters, including the Snake River. Congress said in the Clean Water Act that the Environmental Protection Agency can write regulations to enforce and interpret the law. In 1999 the EPA required NPDES permits for urban areas (areas with 50,000 or more people). The 2000 census identified our area as an urban area. This designation requires the identified urban area to get a permit before discharging water into the Snake River.

Being designated as an urban area also allowed the area to form a Metropolitan Planning Organization. Because the requirement for a NPDES permit and the ability to form MPO were both triggered by the urban area designation from the 2000 census, the two have occasionally been confused.

Q. Who decided what would be done minimize the pollutants flowing into rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, wetlands?

The Environmental Protection Agency issues permits allowing water to flow into navigable waters, as directed by Congress. Washington State also has a Department of Ecology for local bodies of water. Washington's Department of Ecology has awarded over \$1.5 million in grants jointly to Asotin County, the cities of Asotin and Clarkston for establishing a Regional Stormwater Program for the purposes of minimizing the pollution of stormwater in the urban areas of Asotin County. Some of the money was used to hire a stormwater coordinator. Some of the money was used to hire a consultant to make recommendations on how to do all the things required by the permit. A list of the required tasks is attached. Also, a Storm Water Advisory Group made up of citizens of the cities and the counties worked with the public works directors, the stormwater coordinator and legal counsel to provide recommendations about the best way to address these requirements. A list of public meeting dates and other events is attached. Finally, a group of city and county employees including public works directors and legal counsel wrote the ordinances that have been proposed to the city councils and the board of county commissioners. The Stormwater Advisory Group also reviewed and commented on these ordinances.

Q. What is the latest recommendation to the elected officials?

The two latest recommendations are in the form of an interlocal agreement allowing the three permit holders in the county to form a joint management team to manage the stormwater

system and revenues for the urbanized area and an ordinance proposing each city and the county form a public utility to collect the fees and implement the NPDES permit requirement.

These documents arose out of a recommendation that the Cities of Asotin and Clarkston, and the County work together so that the cost of staff, equipment and labor could be shared, instead of each government hiring it's own staff and buying it's own equipment. Also, the rules would be the same for the urbanized area, hopefully making it easier for businesses and citizens to understand the law. Asotin County, City of Clarkston and City of Asotin, for legal reasons, will each form a utility and the money from that utility will be managed by a board that has members from each government. The utility was chosen because it is allowed by Washington State law, is highly regulated, and citizens and governments are familiar with how utilities work.

Another recommendation in the utility ordinance is that everyone be charged the same fee, with the exception of the school district, which would get a discount because they will provide education every year about stormwater. Educating the public is a task that must be performed by anyone who gets a permit. While Washington state law requires every government entity to pay the fee, it allows the fees to be adjusted for in kind contributions to the tasks that must be performed by the permittees. The permittees, Cities of Asotin and Clarkston, and Asotin County could have charged an 8% tax on the utility fees for the cost of running a utility, mostly billing costs, but including office space, office supplies, office equipment, telephone and internet costs, and labor costs. The recommendation is that the 8% not be charged. Instead of taking 8% of collected fees, the streets of the cities and counties will not pay a fee.

The Stormwater Advisory Group revised its first recommendation to grant a discount to the Port of Clarkston because it has public streets. The staff recommendation is that the Port perform permit required tasks, and then request a reduction in ERUs for credit for in-kind consideration as allowed under RCW 35.67.025 and RCW 36.94.145 or, that the Port seek it's own permit. If the Port seeks its own permit, it may charge fees it sees fit, and qualify for a reduction in fees because it has a permit. The proposal that the Port roads be exempted because the permittee roads are exempted is not constitutional, it would treat them differently than every one else, a violation of the Equal Protection Clause of the Constitution. The Port is not a permittee, and they have yet to provide any in-kind consideration that would allow a legal discount.

Q. What if we don't develop a stormwater management program?

Because this is a requirement under the federal Clean Water Act, a stormwater program must be implemented. If the cities and county elect not to develop a program locally, Ecology will develop one for the community. The staff recommendation is that it is better to have local control and involvement in the program. Additionally, failure to implement a program could result in fines, legal actions, and potential loss of future funding sources. The Clean Water Act also allows private citizens to sue cities for failure to implement the law, or if the actions are not successful enough. The cities of Spokane and Pullman have both received notice that a private environmental group will sue them unless changes are made to their programs. This web site will lead you to one of the entities that sue governments for Clean Water Act violations: <http://cforjustice.org/river/>

Q. It never rains here. Why is stormwater a problem?

It's true that it rains less frequently here than in other parts of the state. But because we get our rain less often than other areas, the pollutants in the stormwater are more concentrated, so it is

Stormwater FAQ

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still important to develop a stormwater program. The streets, parking lots and other impervious surfaces that increase the amount and velocity of runoff during storms collect dirt, debris and pollutants during the dry season. The first rains of the season deliver more pollutants to the stormwater system than subsequent rains. This is called the “first flush” effect. The increased velocities of the stormwater contribute to more erosion and wash outs of banks and roads. By sweeping streets, cleaning stormwater systems and reducing erosion during the dry season, we can reduce the impact of accumulated pollutants during the rainy season. Also, working on the stormwater system all year reduces the chances that we will have a problem, such as a plugged drain that floods your lawn (garage, basement, etc.) and will be better prepared to handle stormwater when it arrives.

Q. Why are gravel parking lots and gravel driveways considered impervious surfaces?

While they are somewhat more permeable than asphalt or concrete, they can become quite compacted and largely impermeable over time. In addition, runoff from gravel roads can contain gravel and dirt that works up through the gravel and accumulated pollutants increasing the sediment load and impacts to the stormwater system.

Q. No stormwater leaves my property. Why do I have to pay a stormwater utility fee?

The stormwater system and stormwater quality is a benefit to all residents of our community, as are the rivers and streams of our area. The Cost to meet the requirements of the NPDES Phase II Stormwater Permit is spread out over all impervious surfaces which increase the velocity and pollution of stormwater. This is a fixed cost for being in the city or county urbanized area.

Q: How will the costs be divided? (How much will this cost me?)

The staff recommendation is to charge each land parcel that has impervious surface a flat fee. The most common method is through the calculation of an Equivalent Residential Unit (ERU). Through this process, the impervious surface is measured from high resolution aerial photos for several different sized single residential properties (small, medium and large). The surfaces that were measured include rooftops, patios, driveways (both asphalt and gravel), garages and outbuildings and other hard surfaces used for parking, storage or vehicle access. These impervious surfaces are measured because they allow stormwater to run off them rather than being absorbed into the ground. Using the photos and measurements, the median residential size lot in the urban area was estimated to be 3,700 square feet. This is the proposed ERU. This ERU is then applied to all residential properties, regardless of their size. (1 single family home = 1 ERU).

Once the ERU is calculated, all non-residential properties will then be measured. Note that multi-family residential units such as apartments are classified as non-residential for utility purposes. The total area of non-residential impervious surfaces will be divided by the ERU giving the number of ERUs for that property. For example, the Asotin County Courthouse has an impervious area of 43,600 square feet. We divide the Courthouse area by the ERU. Using a fee of \$5/month per ERU, the cost to the County for the Courthouse would be \$58.90 per month or \$706.80 per year.

43,600 sq ft c 3,700 sq ft = 11.78 ERU
11.78 ERU x \$5/month per ERU = \$58.90 per month
\$58.90 per month x 12 months = \$848.16 per year

Q. How much will revenue will this bring in?

For 2011 we have estimated \$775,000 in fee revenue plus \$267,000 in grant revenue. The grant revenue will be used to cover program costs because it is one-time revenue and cannot be put in reserve. The fees collected will pay for the rest of the costs to complete permit requirements and fund a reserve. The reserve can be used for capital improvements or emergency costs. Staff is proposing to manage the utility so that a reserve accumulates early in the life of the utility. The EPA has the authority to change the requirements at any time, and staff believes some reserves could be helpful to offset the costs of more stringent requirements or be used as matching funds for grants. The staff recommendation is made to reduce the need for substantial future increases in the fee due to anticipated government changes or emergency costs. Staff believes it is more responsible to build a reserve now and see how the first year or two go, than to lower the fee and work without reserves, which could result in a short fall or a steep fee increase in the future. A copy of the budget is attached.

Q: What is the difference between our stormwater program and Lewiston's?

A. Both jurisdictions fall under the same basic federal program requirements. Washington jurisdictions are guided under our Department of Ecology, while Lewiston is subject to the EPA. Lewiston's stormwater program and utility fee has a substantial cost component to upgrade their system through capital improvement projects, while also improving the existing system through storm drain cleaning, street sweeping, catch basin cleaning, etc. A story and photo of the havoc raised by a rain in June in Lewiston is attached. Both jurisdictions must enact legislation that reduces illicit discharge and pollution from construction projects.

Our stormwater program is based on the regulatory requirements of our NPDES Phase II Permit to improve and maintain water quality related to stormwater. This includes increasing maintenance activities, developing plans to implement pollution prevention practices, training municipal staff in improved pollution prevention practices and instituting improved pollution control practices by the cities and county as required by the permit. Capital improvement projects to meet Phase II Permit requirements and to improve the stormwater systems in compliance with out permit must also be done. Most of the permit requirements are new and result in added labor and equipments costs and requirements that we haven't previously had.

Q. Why isn't a more extensive credit system offered to residents and businesses as an incentive to reduce their utility fee?

Staff and Stormwater Advisory Group recommendation is to charge everyone the same fee, with the exceptions noted above for entities that are reducing the cost of the program. Expanding the credit system could require hiring another person to review all applications and make decisions about who gets what credit. This would add to the cost of the program, and perhaps increase the fee. Further, reducing a fee on one property will require the fee be increased on everyone else. While businesses and even government agencies could raise their prices or taxes, most

residential homeowners would only see their fees increase, with no way to increase their income to pay the additional costs. This is the situation staff hopes to avoid by not considering credits outside those offered for doing program requirements.

Every one in the urbanized area contributes to pollution, even if it's just from the dirt blowing off the roof, or the contaminants (oil, dirt, fertilizer, pesticides, animal waste) that enter the stormwater system from the bottom of shoes to tires on cars or other vehicles. Everyone here benefits from the river system and from reducing the amount of pollutants that enter our waterways.

Q. How was information provided to the public about the stormwater program?

Information has been provided to public in several ways. Advertisements in the Lewiston Tribune were purchased to announce Stormwater Advisory Group meetings, public hearings, and open houses. There have been numerous newspaper and television articles on the program and several radio interviews were conducted. A stormwater survey was mailed in early 2009 and a follow up mailing advertising our new website address and the results of the survey were mailed in June of 2009. And, our website, www.asotincountystormwater.com is updated with information on upcoming meetings, hearings and events and has a link to download ordinances and other documents that will be reviewed at meetings. Additionally, we have had a booth at the Asotin County Fair, Asotin Days celebration and Clarkston's Alive After Five events. We will continue to use these methods to get information to the public in the future. And, you can ask to be put on our email list if you would email notices of meetings. There is an attachment that cites dates of meetings, events attended, and other community outreach done to inform the citizens of this program.

Regional Stormwater Utility Program Required Activities

SW Management Plan (SWMP)

Prepare and submit annual reports to Ecology that includes the most current version of the Stormwater Management Plan and status of compliance with the various conditions outlined in the permit. The annual reports must include:

- Status of implementation of each Stormwater Management Plan component
- An assessment of the progress in meeting the minimum performance standards
- Other reporting requirements.
- A description of activities implemented, including the number and type of inspections, enforcement actions, outreach activities, and illicit discharges detected and eliminated

Public Education and Outreach

Develop and implement a formal Public Education and Outreach (PE&O) Program

- Distribute educational materials to the community about the impacts of stormwater discharges to water bodies and the steps that can be taken to reduce pollutants in stormwater.

Public Involvement and Participation

Develop a program to create opportunities for the public to participate in the decision making process involving the development, implementation, and update of the Stormwater Management Plan and associated ordinances.

- SW Advisory Group - Public and stakeholder participation in the development and implementation of the Stormwater Management Plan
- Public hearings
- Public meetings

Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination

Develop, implement, and enforce a program to detect and eliminate illicit discharges into the stormwater system.

- Develop a map of the stormwater system, showing the location of all known connections to the stormwater system and outfalls to receiving waters.
- Implement the Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination (IDDE) Ordinance that prohibits non-stormwater (illicit) discharges and authorizes enforcement actions.
- Maintain a hotline for public reporting of spills and other illicit discharges and maintain records of calls and follow-up actions taken.
- Implement procedures for program evaluation and assessment.
- Implement IDDE program plan
 - Develop guidelines on how to enforce the ordinance
 - Train enforcement officers, municipal staff
 - Identify priority areas and businesses
 - Respond to complaints
 - Conduct field assessments
 - Record keeping
 - Develop procedures for characterizing illicit discharges, spills, or illegal dumping, and procedures for tracing and removing sources of illicit discharges.

Regional Stormwater Utility Program Required Activities

Good Housekeeping – Operation & Maintenance Plans

Develop and implement an Operation and Maintenance Program (O&M Plan) aimed at preventing or reducing pollutant runoff from municipal facilities and/or activities.

- Municipal buildings
 - Cleaning
 - Washing
 - Painting
- Municipal parks, open space
 - Chemical applications
 - Mowing, vegetation maintenance
 - Building maintenance
- Stormwater system maintenance
- Street sweeping, all season BMPs
- Inspection Schedule
- Spot inspections – identify repairs or maintenance needs, resolve concerns, maintain records
- Training program
- Record keeping
- Implement stormwater pollution protection plans at shops, maintenance areas
 - Spills
 - Vehicle storage
 - Materials storage
 - Waste management
 - Cleaning and washing
 - Transfer of solids and liquids
 - Vehicle and equipment maintenance and repair
 - Dust, erosion and sediment control
- Inspections after 10 year flood – identify repairs or maintenance needs, resolve concerns, maintain records

Construction Site Stormwater Runoff Control

Develop, implement, and enforce a program to reduce pollutants in stormwater runoff to the stormwater system from construction activities, including private and public projects.

- Implement procedures for site plan review, including review of Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plans (SWPPPs) prior to construction.
 - Conduct plan reviews prior to construction
 - Conduct SWPPP reviews prior to construction
- Provide training information and opportunities to review staff, contractors, developers, etc.
- Record keeping
- Implement procedures for site inspection and enforcement of construction stormwater pollution control measures.
 - Conduct site visits during construction
 - Enforcement actions
- Provide adequate training for all permitting, planning, review, inspection, and enforcement staff. Maintain records of activities related to site plan review, inspection, and enforcement.

Post-Construction Stormwater Management

Develop, implement, and enforce a program to address post-construction stormwater runoff to the stormwater system from both private and public new development and redevelopment projects.

- Implement procedures for site plan review, including review of stormwater site plans prior to construction to ensure that plans include stormwater pollution prevention measures.
- Review structural BMPs
- Develop O&M requirements
- Develop training program
- Recording keeping
- Implement procedures for site inspection and enforcement of post-construction stormwater control measures.
- Maintain records.

Public Involvement and Participation

Develop a program to create opportunities for the public to participate in the decision making process involving the development, implementation, and update of the Stormwater Management Plan and associated ordinances.

- SW Advisory Group - Public and stakeholder participation in the development and implementation of the Stormwater Management Plan
- Public hearings
- Public meetings

Public Meetings and Public Hearings

11/18/08	Elected Officials Meeting	Briefing on stormwater program
5/19/09	Elected Officials Meeting / SWAG Meeting	Briefing on stormwater program conducted by consultant
1/6/10	Construction Ordinance Joint Public Hearing	Hearing to take comments from the public on the construction ordinance
1/19/10	Asotin City Council	Discuss regional office cost contributions
1/25/10	Clarkston City Council	First reading of construction ordinance
1/25/10	Asotin City Council	First reading of construction ordinance
2/8/10	Asotin County Commissioners	Public hearing on construction ordinance. Ordinance passed.
2/8/10	Clarkston City Council	Second reading of construction ordinance. Ordinance passed.
2/8/10	Asotin City Council	Second reading of construction ordinance. Ordinance passed.
5/10/10	Asotin City Council	Discuss combined utility rate.
5/19/10	Elected Officials Meeting	Briefing on stormwater utility
6/10/10	Public Open House	Open house to provide the public the opportunity to learn about the stormwater utility and ask questions
7/22/10	Utility Ordinance Joint Public hearing	Hearing to take comments from the public on the proposed stormwater utility ordinance
8/23/10	Asotin City Council	Discussion utility ordinance
8/23/10	Clarkston City Council	Discussion of utility ordinance

Stormwater Advisory Group Meetings

February 17, 2009	Introduction of Stormwater Permit Requirements
March 17, 2009	Advisory Group Bylaws, Review Annual Reports, Discuss IDDE Ordinance
April 21, 2009	Review IDDE Ordinance, begin discussing construction ordinance
May 19, 2009	Elected Officials Study Session – Introduction of utility program
July 21, 2009	Began discussing budget items in utility calculation
August 26, 2009	Continue discussing budget items in utility calculation, credit illustration
October 6, 2009	Began review of construction and post-construction ordinance
October 29, 2009	Discussed construction ordinance policy issues, small projects
December 15, 2009	Overview of changes recommended by SWAG
January 5, 2010	Review construction ordinance
April 20, 2010	Reviewed utility development timeline, utility program policies
May 13, 2010	Reviewed utility budget estimate, Pullman lawsuit
July 8, 2010	Final discussion on utility ordinance, Port roads

Public Education and Outreach

Develop and implement a formal Public Education and Outreach (PE&O) Program

- Distribute educational materials to the community about the impacts of stormwater discharges to water bodies and the steps that can be taken to reduce pollutants in stormwater.

Newspaper Articles

11/13/08	Interview prior to Elected Officials Meeting
11/19/08	Review of Elected Officials Meeting
12/28/08	Legal Notice Advertising Stormwater Advisory Group membership
1/21/09	Interview about permit requirements
6/2/09	Interview prior to Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination Ordinance Joint Public Hearing
6/9/09	Asotin Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination Ordinance Hearing
6/16/09	Asotin County Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination Ordinance Hearing
6/23/09	Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination Ordinance Hearing in Clarkston
6/25/09	Session with City of Asotin
7/28/09	Clarkston Council Passes IDDE Ordinance
8/25/09	Press release for 8/26/09 Stormwater Advisory Group meeting
9/29/09	Pass Through Grants Announced
12/9/09	DOE Grants of Regional Significance Awarded
1/7/10	Construction Ordinance Joint Public Hearing
1/21/10	Press release for construction ordinance and opportunity to review
7/23/10	Utility Ordinance Joint Public Hearing
8/24/10	Clarkston City Council Meeting

TV and Radio Interviews

1/4/10	Radio interview with KRLC regarding construction ordinance
6/2/10	Public Service Announcements for Public Open House
6/8/10	Radio interview with KRLC regarding open house
6/28/10	Interview with KLEW regarding grants, car wash kits
6/28/10	Interview with Tribune regarding grants

Public Service Announcements

- Public service announcements (PSA) faxed and emailed to local radio stations, KLEW TV and Tribune.
- PSAs are free advertising and were sent prior to each of the ordinance public hearings and the public open house.

Advertising – Tribune

Display Ads <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stormwater Advisory Group Meetings • New website – 4 days • Joint Public Hearings • Open House 	Public Notices <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stormwater Advisory Group Development – Participants needed • Joint Public Hearings – All ordinances • CESCL Training
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Public Education and Outreach (continued)

Public Events – Information Booth

Asotin County Fair <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4/24/09 – 4/26/09 • 4/23/10 – 4/25/10 	Alive After Five – Clarkston <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9/3/09 • 10/1/09 • 5/6/10 • 6/3/10 • 8/5/10
LC Builders Association Home & Garden Expo 3/12/10 – 3/14/10	
Asotin Days 8/14/10 – 8/15/10	

Mass Mailing

2008	Stormwater survey mailed to 7,450 households in Asotin, Clarkston and urbanized area of Asotin County
2009	City of Asotin mailed newsletter to 450 sewer customers
2009	Mailed 6,900 postcards announcing new website and results of the stormwater survey

Presentations

Asotin County Democrats
Asotin County Master Gardeners
Clarkston Rotary Club
Certified Erosion and Sediment Control Lead (CESCL) recertification training for contractors, builders, developers, planners and inspectors
CESCL training for contractors, builders, developers, planners and inspectors

Other

Purchased 4 car wash kits for use for charity car washes
Updated and reformatted website. New address: www.asotincountystormwater.com
Meeting information posted prior to meetings
Provided copies of all ordinances in public locations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Courthouse Annex • Courthouse • Clarkston City Hall • Asotin City Hall • Asotin County Library – Clarkston location • Asotin County Library – Heights location
Posted current Stormwater Management Plan to website
Display racks with stormwater information, copies of ordinances, etc. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Courthouse Annex • Courthouse • Clarkston City Hall • Asotin City Hall
Mailed letters to top 28 businesses, organizations that will be most impacted by stormwater utility fees. Provided two workshops to meet with staff to get more information.

	A	B
1	Stormwater Utility Budget	
2		
3	Revenue	
4	Asotin County Utility Revenue	\$ 399,664.00
5	City of Asotin Utility Revenue	\$ 52,444.00
6	City of Clarkston Utility Revenue	\$ 312,186.00
7	Other Revenue - Construction Permits	\$ 50,000.00
8	Grant Revenue - Capacity Grant	\$ 267,362.00
9	Utility Implementation Grant	\$ 13,750.00
10	Equipment Purchase Grant	\$ 180,000.00
11	Field Guide Grant	\$ 120,000.00
12	Outreach Grant	\$ 60,000.00
13	Total Revenue	\$ 1,455,406.00
14		
15	Expenditures	
16	Salary: Coordinator	\$ 50,000.00
17	Salary: 1 FTE	\$ 50,000.00
18	Salary: .5 FTE (Finance)	\$ 16,000.00
19	Social Security	\$ 7,200.00
20	Medicare	\$ 1,700.00
21	Retirement	\$ 6,200.00
22	Medical Insurance	\$ 15,000.00
23	VEBA Insurance	\$ -
24	Dental Insurance	\$ 2,900.00
25	Vision Insurance	\$ 500.00
26	Labor & Industry	\$ 800.00
27	Life Insurance	\$ 200.00
28	PBX	\$ 400.00
29	Office Rental	\$ 4,000.00
30	Data Processing	\$ 2,000.00
31	ER&R	\$ 1,000.00
32	Insurance	\$ 5,000.00
33	Supplies	\$ 10,000.00
34	Professional services	\$ 12,000.00
35	Communication	\$ 500.00
36	Travel	\$ 2,000.00
37	Training	\$ 4,000.00
38	Advertising	\$ 35,000.00
39	B&O Tax	\$ 7,200.00
40	Misc costs	\$ 10,000.00
41	Other Labor	\$ 17,600.00
42	Other Benefits	\$ 4,400.00

	A	B
43	Xpress Bill Pay Costs	\$ 3,000.00
44	Billing Expenses - County	\$ 15,000.00
45	Billing Expenses – Clarkston	\$ 30,000.00
46	Billing Expenses - Asotin	\$ 6,000.00
47	Management Team	\$ 45,000.00
48	Consultant - Utility Implementation	\$ 13,750.00
49	Equipment Purchase Grant - Sweeper	\$ 160,000.00
50	Equipment Purchase Grant - Labor (S&B)	\$ 20,000.00
51	Field Guide Grant - Labor (S&B)	\$ 10,000.00
52	Field Guide Grant - Supplies	\$ 2,000.00
53	Field Guide Grant - Consultant	\$ 113,000.00
54	Outreach Grant - Labor (S&B)	\$ 10,000.00
55	Outreach Grant - Consultant	\$ 52,800.00
56	Asotin County O&M	\$ 120,000.00
57	Clarkton O&M	\$ 98,300.00
58	Asotin O&M	\$ 3,000.00
59	Capital - equipment	\$ 29,000.00
60	Capital - equipment ER&R	\$ 40,000.00
61	Capital - equipment (monitoring/mapping)	\$ 2,000.00
62	Capital - CIP/Grants - County	\$ 111,300.00
63	Capital - CIP/Grants - Clarkston	\$ 101,840.00
64	Capital - CIP/Grants - Asotin	\$ 16,880.00
65		
66	Total Expenditures	\$ 1,268,470.00
67		
68	Operating Reserve	\$ 186,936.00

It's a wet ride in the L-C Valley

National Weather Service records more than a half-inch of rain in 20 minutes

By Brad W. Gary of the
Tribune Thursday,
June 10, 2010

Hydroplane was the name of the game for most motorists in the Lewiston-Clarkston Valley on Wednesday.

Torrential rains quickly filled streets and were too much for many a storm drain, sending waves every time a car drove through the puddles built up on city street corners. According to the National Weather Service, more than a half-inch of rain fell during a 20-minute period Wednesday afternoon, as water flowed out of manhole covers and sent 2-by-4s and garbage cans floating down Bryden Avenue.

"It was pretty bad for a little bit," said Lewiston Police Sgt. Ted Piche, who said water 4 to 5 inches deep was flowing down Lewiston Orchards streets at the height of the storm.

Hail the size of peas was also observed in portions of the Lewiston Orchards, and there were unconfirmed reports of a funnel cloud outside of Clarkston. The rain later flowed in the form of waterfalls on Bryden Canyon Road, leaving standing water creeping onto sidewalks for a few hours after the rain.

No serious damage was reported as a result of the flooding. A car that stalled after water rose to its doors on the corner of 16th Avenue and Eighth Street was gone when officers arrived on scene.

"There's a lot of debris and rock that's been washed into the roadway," Piche said, warning of the potential hazard created by the mini-rivers that have sent gravel onto city streets.

The "flash" nature of the flooding prompted the rivers that formed on Thain Road and on the grades leading from Normal Hill to downtown, which swiftly ran their course following Wednesday's rains.

"Overall, things went very well for the amount of rain that we've got in a little period of time," Piche said.

No major incidents were reported in Clarkston or Asotin County as a result of Wednesday's rains, though the bike path between Clarkston and Asotin remained submerged in a few places due to high Snake River waters. The Snake River south of Asotin, which swelled above flood

stage earlier in the week, receded to more than a foot below flood stage by Wednesday.

Nearly 900 people in south Lewiston lost power when a tree hit a wire during the storm, according to Avista Utilities. The number without power dropped to 281 about an hour later, with most power restored by 5:30 p.m. About 10 customers in Clarkston lost power as a result of the storm.

A downpour is expected again today, but meteorologist John Livingston, with the National Weather Service in Spokane, said the Inland Northwest will begin to dry out this weekend.

"It's been a very wet three weeks across the region," Livingston said.

Lewiston recorded 1.45 inches of rain this month through Tuesday, not including Wednesday's half-inch of precipitation. The month's precipitation thus far is 1.09 inches above normal, Livingston said.

The weather service is forecasting a 40 percent chance of showers today, and a 30 percent chance of showers Friday. Sunny skies are expected again by Saturday, giving the region a chance to heat up to 86 degrees by Sunday after weeks of almost constant precipitation.

"We're in for a little bit of a change," Livingston said.

Gary may be contacted at bgary@lmtribune.com or (208) 848-2262.

