

Council of Infrastructure Finance Authorities

John Schombert, Executive Director,
3 Rivers Wet Weather Demonstration Program

May 11, 2006

3 Rivers Wet Weather

- ◆ Founded as an independent nonprofit organization
- ◆ Managing state and federal funds to help communities with sewer rehabilitation and stormwater best management practices
- ◆ Cultivating inter-municipal partnerships for cost-effective regional watershed solutions
- ◆ Facilitating development and implementation of regional approaches and standardized engineering protocols

Wet Weather in Southwestern PA

- ◆ Public health issue: Microbial contamination of waterways
- ◆ Sources: combined and sanitary sewer overflows, stormwater, failing septic systems, urban and agricultural runoff
- ◆ Individual ownership of collection systems
- ◆ Fragmented rehabilitation of infrastructure

SOUTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA

10 COUNTIES



- ◆ \$10 billion in infrastructure needs
- ◆ Over 500 municipalities
- ◆ 3,500 elected officials
- ◆ Regional prioritization and oversight needed

3 Rivers
Wet Weather
Demonstration Program



Innovative Funding Sources

- ◆ Federal earmarks
- ◆ State appropriations
- ◆ Sewer and water surcharges
- ◆ Private foundation grants

Current funding supports assessment and planning for County-based management programs

3RWW Use of Federal Earmarks

- ◆ Leverages federal dollars through state and local matches
- ◆ Creates smart infrastructure investment through regional approaches
 - ◆ Allows strategic planning for capital projects
- ◆ Sets the foundation for more collaborative revolving loan applications (Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority)

Examples of Regional Approaches

- ◆ Mapping of 4,000 miles of municipal collection system (100,000+ manholes)
 - ◆ Cost: \$2 million
 - ◆ Savings: up to \$9 million
- ◆ Regional flow monitoring plan
 - ◆ Cost: \$10-12 million
 - ◆ Savings: up to \$15 million

Sets the Foundation for Collaborative Approaches

- ◆ Data from regional assessment projects critical for development of \$3.5 billion long-term wet weather control plan
 - ◆ Establishes regional priorities and investments
 - ◆ Allows for development of sustainable institutional and financial solutions

Examples of Sustainable Solutions

- ◆ Green Roofs
- ◆ Stormwater Best Management Practices
- ◆ Low-Impact Development (Lot-level management of stormwater)
- ◆ Rain Barrels

These all can lower infrastructure capital costs

www.3riverswetweather.org