

Maintaining your Water and Wastewater Infrastructure...Now and for Future Generations

The Capital Improvement Plan or CIP is the Commission's ten-year roadmap for creating, maintaining and funding present and future infrastructure requirements. The CIP addresses the Commission's needs related to the acquisition, expansion, and rehabilitation of long-lived facilities and infrastructure. The CIP serves as a planning instrument to identify needed capital expenditures and to coordinate the financing and timing of improvements in a way that maximizes the return to the customers.

A critical element of a balanced CIP is the provision of funds to both preserve or enhance existing facilities and provide new assets to respond to changing service needs and growth of the community.

The Capital Budget is funded in accordance with the latest Cost Recovery Policy, through two primary revenue sources; Operating Revenues and Growth Related Revenues.

•**Operating Revenues** – are funds collected through rates and used to fund capital expenditures for the Renewal & Replacement (R&R) of existing facilities and infrastructure, as well as routine capital outlays for equipment such as vehicles and backhoes.

•**Growth Related Revenues** – are funds collected through impact fees and used to fund direct costs of planning, designing, or constructing capital facilities that will be Extended & Expanded (E&E) for future customers. Impact fees recover major capital costs associated with expanding water and wastewater service facilities, including, but not limited to, water treatment plants, storage facilities, pumps and distribution mains, wastewater collection, transmission, storage, treatment and disposal facilities, and other capital equipment. These funds ensure that growth pays for growth.

Through the course of this budget period several underlying economic conditions that this budget was based on changed. Over the past three years we have seen a 75% decrease of new development. As a result our growth rate has declined to an approximate rate of 1%. Based on growth projections from both the Charleston County Comprehensive Plan Update and a population report being used by the Town of Mount Pleasant, our growth projections have been adjusted.



Renewal and replacement are the main focus of MPW's Capital Improvement Plan now that growth has slowed. Projects like the pump station conversion project pictured here. Conversion of our above ground wastewater pump stations to submersible stations reduces costs and improves aesthetics. Additionally, submersible pump stations are less vulnerable during storm events.

The slowdown in growth resulted in the "pushing out" E&E projects into the future. Because build-out appears to have been extended at least 10-years, most of the E&E projects have fallen out of the 10-year Capital Improvements Planning period. As a result the 10-year E&E expenditures have been reduced by 60% or nearly \$50M.

With the slowdown in growth and deferment of E&E projects, MPW will be focusing on the renewal and replacement of aging infrastructure rather than expanding our water/wastewater infrastructure to a high growth rate over the next several years.

MPW's Capital Budget is broken into three groups: Administrative Projects; Wastewater Projects; and Water Projects. The approved Capital Budget for Fiscal Year 2010 (July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010) is \$12M. Of that amount \$10M will be reinvested in the renewal and/or replacement of your infrastructure.

Stay tuned...As we begin these projects, we will provide you with periodic updates in Water Lines to help keep you informed on how your dollars are being used to ensure sustainability in our environmental resources.

Let's Clean it Up!

We have all had our summer fun enjoying the outdoors and now it is time to clean it up. September is the month when South Carolinians and visitors participate in Beach Sweep/ River Sweep to clear trash and debris from our beaches, rivers, and waterways.

Join us September 19th, for Beach Sweep/ River Sweep 2009.

Beach Sweep/River Sweep is our state's largest one-day volunteer cleanup event of its kind. Every 3rd Saturday in September, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., thousands of South Carolinians clear beaches, rivers, lakes, marshes, and swamps of aquatic debris. The cleanup, organized by the S.C. Sea Grant Consortium and S.C. Department of Natural Resources, has taken place annually since 1988 – when Sea Grant first started it. The Sweep takes place in conjunction with the International Coastal Cleanup, coordinated by the Ocean Conservancy. Once the Sweep is over, the Ocean Conservancy tallies all of the debris data. This data helps us learn the sources of litter so we can stop pollution before it starts.

How to Volunteer

Volunteers, especially large groups from schools, churches, civic clubs, businesses, scouts and others are encouraged to participate.

Let MPW know your interest by calling 884-9626.

Where to Go

Sullivan's Island Causeway (at the end of Ben Sawyer Blvd.)

What to Bring

- Heavy work gloves
- Hats, sunglasses, sunscreen
- Mud boots or work boots
- Trash bags will be provided at each site

The MPW Commission Newsletter, Water Lines, is produced in-house and mailed to customers each month with bills and statements. Current and past issues can also be viewed and downloaded from our website.

Save Money on Your Water Bill



Water-Wise in the Kitchen and Laundry Room

- Wash only full loads of laundry in your washing machine.
- Run only full loads of dishes in your dishwasher.
- Don't pre-wash dishes! Check if your dishwasher can clean dishes without pre-rinsing them. Most newer dishwashers don't require pre-rinsing.
- Don't keep the rinse water running when washing dishes in the sink.



Water-Wise in the Bathroom

- Fix leaking faucets and toilets. (Test for a leaking toilet by lifting the lid off the toilet tank and putting a few drops of food coloring into the holding tank. Wait a few minutes, then look in the bowl. If the food coloring has made its way there, you have a leak)
- Don't use the toilet as a wastebasket!
- Consider replacing any older toilets in your home with new low-flow models that use 1.6 gallons per flush. Toilets ten years or older may be using three-and-a-half to seven gallons per flush.
- Shorten your shower by one minute to save on water and energy.
- To really save, limit your shower time to five minutes or less, or
- Install a water-saving showerhead that uses two-and-a-half gallons per minute.
 - Take showers instead of baths. A bathtub holds up to 50 gallons of water—much more than a normal shower would use. (A typical shower uses less than 20 gallons.)
- Turn the water off when shaving or brushing teeth.
- Replace older bathroom faucet nozzles (aerators) with new ones that are rated at 1-gallon per minute.



Important Contact Information

Hours of Operation

The MPW Operations Center at 1619 Rifle Range Road is open between 8 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Customer Service

Phone 884-9626 or email customerservice@mpwonline.com
Email requests received after 12 noon will be processed the following business day.

MPW Commissioners Email:
commissioners@mpwonline.com



Turn your pennies into DOLLARS to benefit East Cooper Community Outreach (ECCO) or Water Missions International (WMI). Just call 884-9626 and tell us you want to ROUND-UP your next bill payment to the next highest dollar and request the change go to either ECCO or WMI.

You can also sign up online by clicking the Customer Service tab on the navigation bar, then ROUND-UP on the dropdown menu.



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