

Burlington Plans to Create and Fund Stormwater Management Department

The City of Burlington is working to establish a Stormwater Management Department. The current plan is to ramp up with a 50% program between April 1, 2009 and April 1, 2010 with a full program the following year.

The Plan:

- Update Stormwater Regulations
- Create a Stormwater Management Department within the Department of Public Works.
- Begin first year with \$500,000 in funding, increase funding to \$1m annually by year two.
- Raise funding through a Stormwater Fee on water and sewer bills.

How Fees are Calculated: Commercial sees are calculated based on the Impervious Surface Units (ISU) of a property. Residential properties pay a fixed fee. Credits are available for stormwater mitigation efforts. The average annual fee for a commercial property would be \$326 (based on 23,000 sq.ft. of impervious surface).

Why Now:

- To meet State and Federal Compliance Requirements
- To protect and improve the water quality of Lake Champlain.

History: The City of Burlington's Mayor's office created a Stormwater Task Force in 2006. Its goal is to assess our current regulations and practices and propose solutions and efficiencies. The city currently spends about \$400,000 a year on Stormwater Management through the work of staff from various city departments.

BBA Position: The BBA has been following the work of the Stormwater Task Force since May of 2008. The Task Force has published draft regulations which the BBA has had a chance to review and comment upon. We have also reviewed the proposed financial structure of the Stormwater Management Department. Our key areas of focus as we look to speak on behalf the interests of the Business Community are:

- Reasonable and effective regulations that do not pose an undue burden on development
- Fees are equitable for all users
- An administrative and financial plan for the Stormwater Department that is efficient and effective.

The City Council and Mayor's office have approved the draft regulations. The BBA will continue to keep a close eye on this topic and provide comment as necessary.

Burlington Business Association ~ Our mission is to enhance and promote the economic vitality of Burlington, Vermont, and to assure that the City of Burlington continues as the cultural, social, political, educational and economic center of northwestern Vermont.
