CITY OF PORTLAND

PROPOSED STORMWATER SERVICE CHARGE

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Credits – A stormwater credit is a charge reduction on the stormwater service charge, credited to a bill because the property owner has taken *approved* steps to reduce their stormwater runoff from their property.

CMOM – CMOM is an acronym that stands for Capacity, Management, Operations, and Maintenance (CMOM). A CMOM is a review of all aspects of the sewer system facilities as well as operations and maintenance administered by the EPA.

CSO – A CSO is an acronym for a Combined Sewer Overflow. A Combined Sewer Overflow is an event that typically occurs when there is a large amount of stormwater runoff in the combined sewer system. The pipes get too filled with sewage and stormwater. There are points in the sewer system that act as relief valves. When the sewer system gets too filled, the sewer overflows. At that point, the combined sewer system overflows into natural or manmade waterways carrying with it any raw sewage that may be present in the pipe. The City holds a license and permit with the State for the overflow discharge. A CSO may also occur during dry weather as well do to equipment failure or pipe blockage. Such dry weather discharge triggered the CMOM review by the EPA in Portland's case.

Green Roof – A green roof is vegetation planted on a roof of a building that also captures runoff.

Impervious Area – Impervious area is any surface (expressed as an area, area = length x width) that does not readily absorb water and impedes the natural infiltration of water into the ground. Common examples of impervious areas include roofs, driveways, parking areas, sidewalks, patios, tennis courts, concrete or asphalt streets, and crushed stone or gravel surfaces used for vehicles.

MS4 – MS4 is an acronym that stands for Municipal Separated Storm Sewer System (MS4). The MS4 is a permit the City holds with the EPA as delegated to the State of Maine concerning the separated stormwater system and targeted towards improving water quality through public outreach and education, engaging residents, landowners and businesses in storm water pollution prevention efforts, training City staff about storm water pollution prevention and "good housekeeping" and taking steps to reduce pollution generated by daily municipal operations, mapping, evaluating and properly maintaining the municipal storm water management system including street sweeping, catch basin cleaning, outfall inspections and elicit discharge detection and elimination, adopting and implementing development site

standards and inspection procedures that minimize storm water pollution during construction and mitigate the impacts of storm water runoff from a completed project.

Runoff – Runoff is precipitation from rain or snowmelt that accumulates faster than the ground's infiltration capacity (the ability of the ground to absorb water) resulting from sealed ground surfaces such as paved areas, building, or in some unique situations, non-vegetated soil resisting water infiltration, soils below the surface being fully saturated and unable to absorb more water, or bedrock located immediately below the ground surface not able to absorb water. Storm water runoff is storm water which then flows across a ground surface or flows just below the ground surface (as a shallow groundwater flow), which is then collected by a City storm water conveyance mechanisms such as roadway, ditch, culvert, storm drain or combined sewer.

Sewage – Sewage is manmade or industrial liquid carried waste. Sewage includes any material that drains down a sink, is flushed down a toilet or ends up in the separated or combined sewer system.

Stormwater Outfall – A stormwater outfall were a stormwater sewer pipe exits the ground. At that point, stormwater runoff may flow into natural or manmade waterways such as a stream, pond, ditch, or channel.

Stormwater Service Charge – A stormwater service charge is a fee on impervious area charged to Portland property owners to pay for stormwater related costs that the City incurs.

Treated Sewage – Treated Sewage is sewage that has been treated at a waste water treatment. At a waste water treatment facility, the sewage undergoes a number of processes to remove the sewage itself and return the water to as close as natural state as possible.

Water Pollutants – The most common water pollutants are turbidity (cloudiness of the water), nutrient levels (such as nitrogen and phosphorous), levels of heavy metals and organic and inorganic compounds, acidity, salinity, and temperature levels of water bodies, and the presence of pathogens in water bodies.
Watershed – a watershed is an area drained by a waterbody. All water in a specific watershed will flow downhill to that waterbody.