MS4 Misunderstandings and Myths: Moving toward effective stormwater management for small municipalities

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Introduction

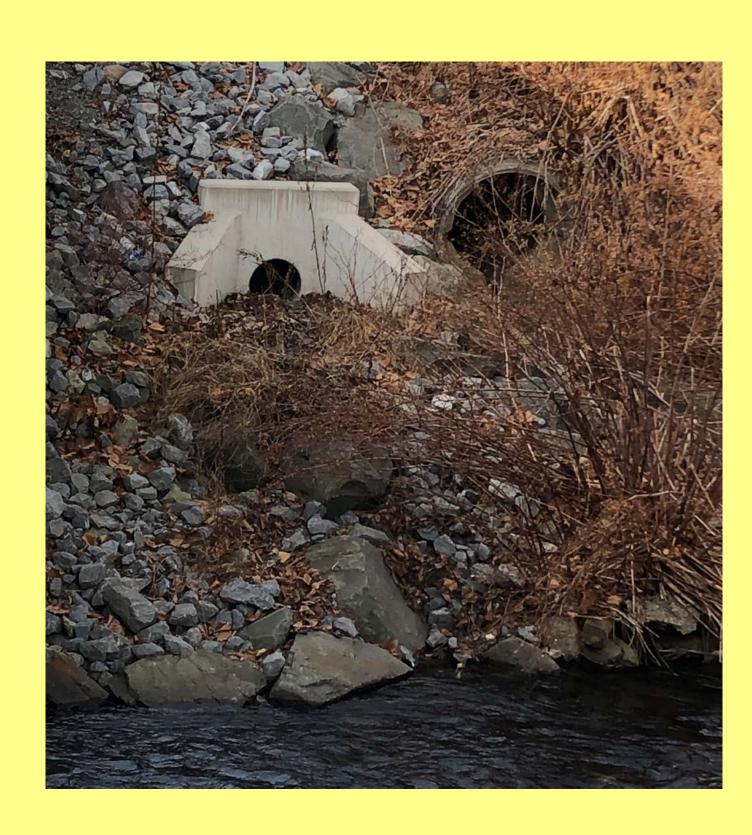
- Small municipalities struggling with MS4 requirements.
- Managers commonly lack expertise and funding
- Costs to local communities are undesirable
- Numerous misunderstandings and myths developed in response to false perceptions of MS4 programs

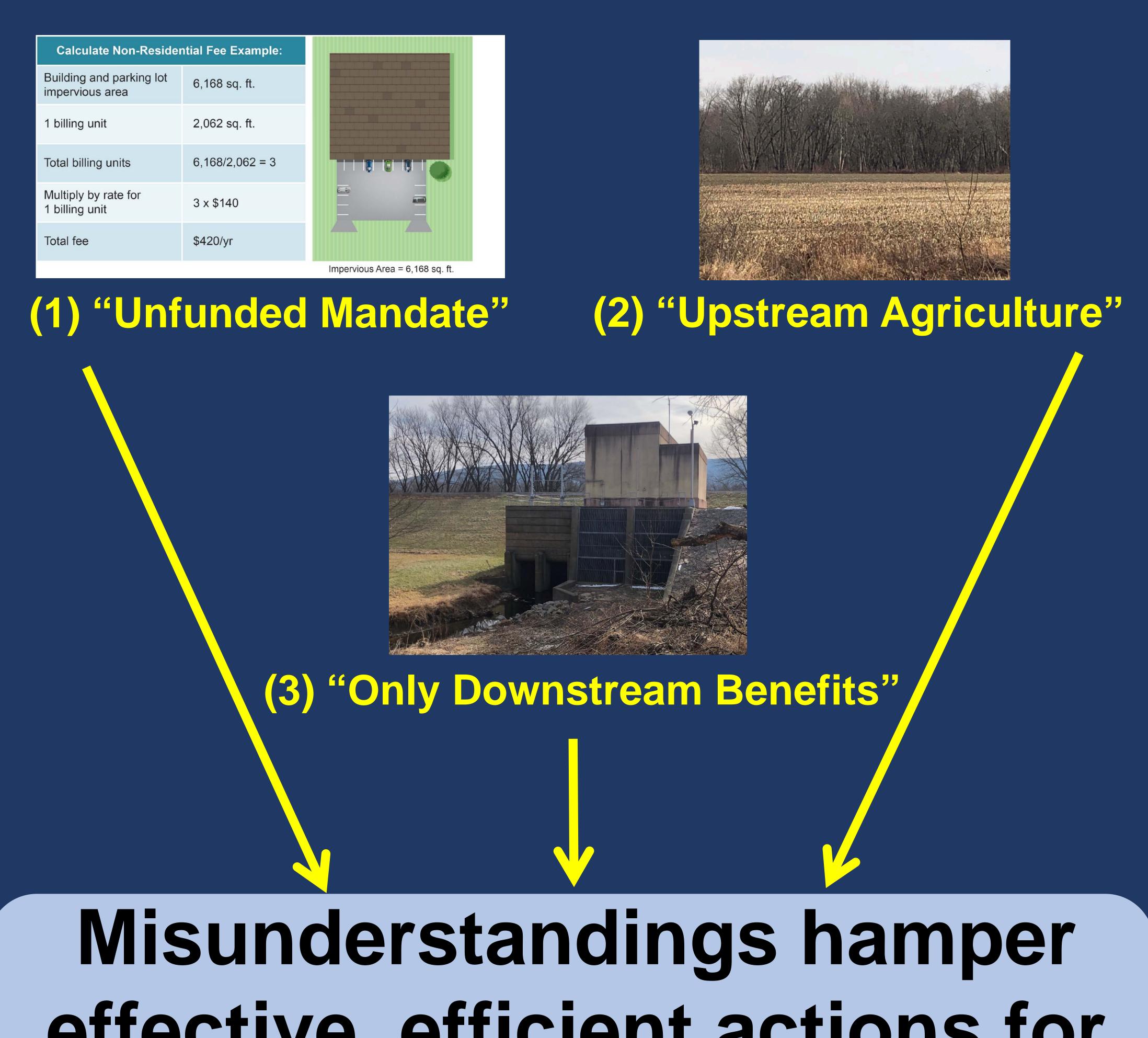
Goals

- 1. Explain misunderstandings to facilitate enhanced understanding of regulation structure & options
- 2. Provide example frameworks
- 3. Develop formal guidance documents

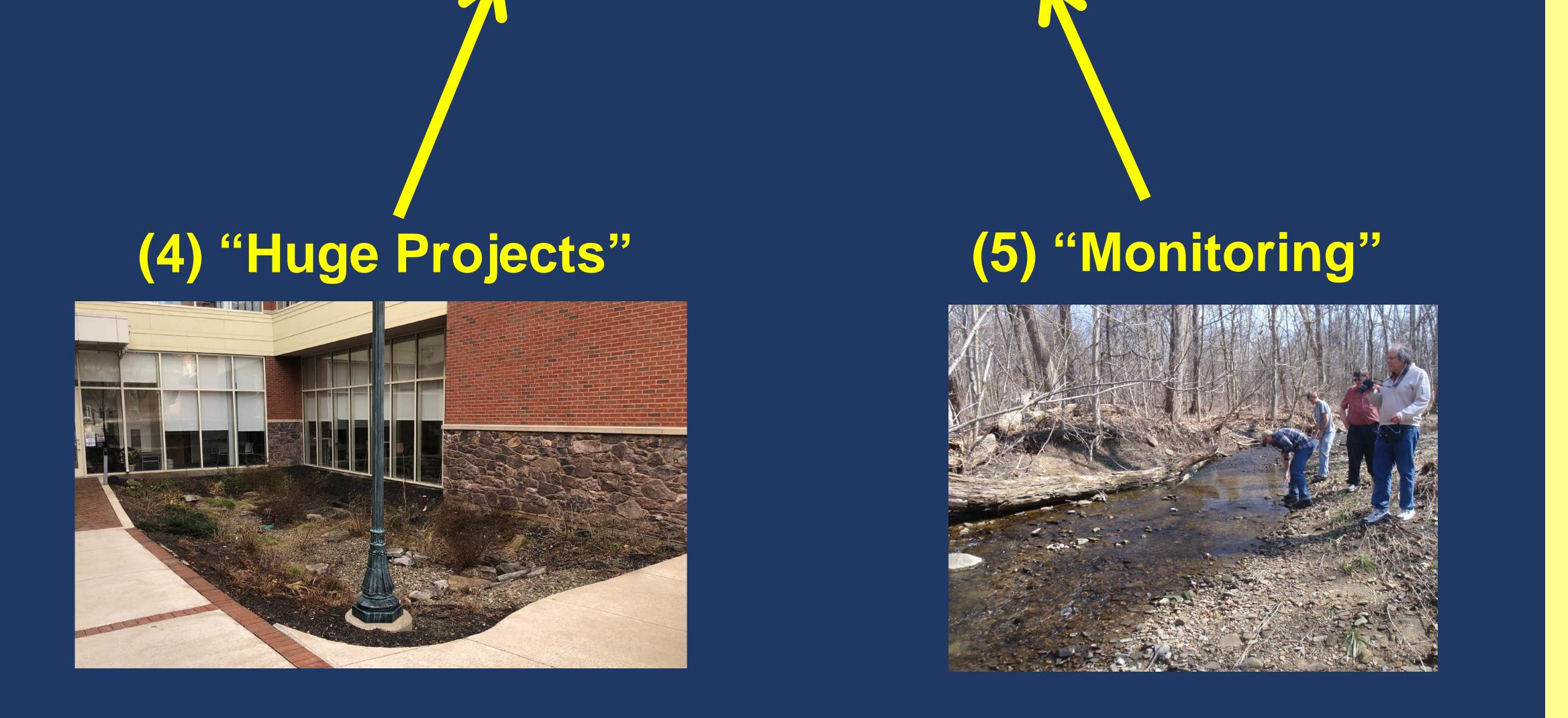
Methods

- Literature review
- Interviews (managers, state agencies, consultants, etc.)
- Identify misunderstandings and realities (present on 5 primary here)





Misunderstandings hamper effective, efficient actions for small-municipality MS4s



5 realities of misunderstandings

1) No direct funding

- Grants are difficult
- Taxes are unpopular
- Stormwater utility may be best solution

2) Other pollutant sources are addressed by separate regulations

- Need to demonstrate that urban stormwater is a real issue
- Change perceptions

3) Concrete local benefits

- Help replace aging infrastructure
- Generates local stewardship
- Increased ecosystem goods & services.

4) Promising small source-control options

- Rain gardens/barrels, swales, etc.
- Help demonstrate feasibility

5) Monitoring ≠ reporting

- Can monitor & apply for additional credits if a good option
- Address fear of "finding something wrong"

Example frameworks from the literature to discuss:

- Shepherd Creek, Cincinnati
- Cleveland, OH
- Little Stringybark Creek, Australia

