Confronting Flooding from Multiple Angles, Hopkinsville’s Approach to Flood Hazard Mitigation

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Why Hopkinsville?????
What is the answer to 99 out of 100 questions?
What did we do????

§ 54.001 TITLE AND PURPOSE.

(A) Title. This chapter shall be known as the "Surface and Storm Water Utility Ordinance for the City of Hopkinsville, Kentucky".

- Passed December 6, 2005
- Developed a Master Drainage Plan
- Established a fee structure (later)
What is a Master Drainage Plan??

- Basis for our mitigation work that we do
- List of projects, based on several Public Hearings
  - North Fork Little River
  - South Fork Little River
  - 32 Surface drainage projects
- Estimated Cost for the Program
- Preliminary resolution to each issue
  - Budget
  - Cost/Benefit Analysis
How much money was all this going to cost????

$22,500,000
Does Hopkinsville have $22,500,000???

✗ I’m sure we do somewhere, but I don’t know where.....
What is a Storm Water Utility?

- The Storm Water Utility is a public utility organized as a separate enterprise in the same fashion as the City's Water Utility, Sewer Utility, or Parking Utility. Assets owned by the utility include storm sewers, greenways, detention basins, and equipment used for managing the storm drainage system.

- Funding source for operation and maintenance of the governing body’s drainage system
How much money does the Hopkinsville Surface and Storm Water Utility have?

- Not $22,500,000
- Annual budget is over $1.2M
- Have been billing since 2007
Hint: Start work immediately....
Since 2007...

- Almost 525 remedial drainage projects
- 150 logjams removed
Then hit the big stuff...

* It’s important to get things rolling....
Grants

- $8,500,000 in Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funds
- Over $1,000,000 in Severe Repetitive Loss funds
- $500,000 in NRCS funds
Keys to successful grant applications.....

- Local Knowledge
- Data
  - Dates of flood events
  - Damages from owners
  - Road closures
- Patience
- Patience
- Patience
Grant Match

✗ Don’t be scared
✗ Acquisitions/Demolition Projects do not require Davis-Bacon wage rates
  ✗ Drainage Projects do......
Grant Match continued....

- How much do we have to match?
  - HMGP – 13%
  - FMA – 25%
  - RFL – 10%
  - SRL – 0%!!!!!
How many projects has Hopkinsville had funded???

- We have been awarded 12 HMGP projects and 2 SRL Projects
  - Why so many????
    - Because we applied
- People are scared to apply
- If you have SRL properties in your community, WHY NOT APPLY?!?!? THERE’S NO MATCH!!! FREE MONEY!!!
Self-funded projects

- We have paid for 8 projects out of stormwater utility rates.
  - Totaling about $4.2M
What kind of Projects has Hopkinsville applied for under HMGP???

- 12 drainage projects
  - Range from $130k to $4.2M
- 3 acquisition demolition projects
  - We have demolished 33 flood-prone homes under HMGP and SRL
What else have we done???

- Streamflow gages through USGS
Inundation Mapping

- Who has heard of inundation mapping?
- Project with USGS
- Based on forecast from National Weather Service
What can we do with Inundation Mapping???
Microbial Source Tracking
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