Storm Water Management: “It’s a fee, not a tax.” That was the topic of discussion at a public hearing held by the City of Glasgow last night at the South-Central Kentucky Cultural Center in order to educate the public on an ordinance that will be presented on first reading to the Glasgow City Council next Monday.

For over 10 years, the City of Glasgow has planned for Phase Two of Storm Water Management as part of Federal EPA mandates. Phase One included only the cities of Louisville and Lexington. Phase Two pertains to cities of 10,000 or more in population. Glasgow, along with 53 other Kentucky cities are obligated to educate the public and install infrastructure and labor to help control the environmental effects of what ultimately ends up in our drinking water.

The City of Glasgow will vote on an ordinance to create a budget and plan for meeting these federal requirements. The budget will be funded by a fee assessed to households, businesses, churches, and industrial facilities. The fees are determined by what is known as an ERU, or, Equivalent Residential Unit. An average ERU would be about 2,600 square feet.

According to a survey conducted by Western Kentucky University, the average monthly fee in Kentucky for cities that have already developed funding for storm water management is around $3.75 per month. According to Councilman Doug Isenberg, this fee will be collected similar to the way taxes are collected with an annual bill with discounts for early payment. Isenberg also said the households and other entities will be billed based on a list generated by the P.V.A. Office. Those involved in developing this budget project that fees assessed to citizens of

Glasgow could be close to around $24 per year, per household, but no definite rate has been set. The City of Glasgow will operate it's Storm Water Management revenues and expenses out a separate fund, not the general fund. Therefore a fee, not a tax, would be appropriate for funding a Storm Water Management.

Councilman Isenberg tells WCLU News, "out of necessity", the city will have to employ new workers to meet all requirements and some current employees of The City of Glasgow will receive a percentage of their wages directly from the Storm Water Management budget.

{audio}http://wcluradio.com/newscuts/1120isenberg.mp3{/audio}

More on this from WCLU News following the November 26 meeting of the Glasgow City Council.