

Nampa has no choice in stormwater requirement

Posted: Wednesday, May 11, 2011 12:15 am

Nampa residents who don't like federal government-imposed regulations have another reason to be unhappy. Homeowners will now have to pay \$3 a month, and nonresidential property owners must pay \$3 a month for every 3,650 square feet of hard surfaces they own, in order for the city to meet federal Clean Water Act requirements.

The money will pay for a new program, starting in June, that will implement steps to help the city manage stormwater and reduce pollution. Because of Nampa's population growth, the Environmental Protection Agency has required the city to do this.

Stormwater gathers in drains when it rains, snow melts and we water our lawns. This water runs over soil and pavement, collecting pollution from litter, oil, gas, soap and fertilizer as it goes to the drain. The new Nampa program has been mandated by the EPA to help reduce that pollution and keep the drainage system working properly.

The money raised will go to educate the public on how stormwater affects local waterways and how they can reduce pollution, and help them take action to do so. It will find how non-stormwater waste is entering storm drains and prevent it from happening. Contractors and homeowners will get help reducing runoff from sites and projects.

Some Nampans are unhappy, saying the city should tell the feds to take a flying leap and refuse to implement the program.

That's not an option. You saw how well that worked when Canyon County tried to thumb its nose at the Department of Environmental Quality in regards to implementing a vehicle emissions testing program. DEQ forced the county to do it, anyway.

If Nampa ignored EPA, the city would wind up in costly litigation and, in all likelihood, still have to put in a stormwater program — and it would probably cost you a lot more than \$3 a month.

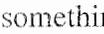
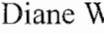
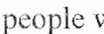
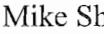
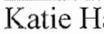
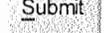
Some are blaming the city for this — including Mayor Tom Dale — and are claiming better management of and preparation for growth could have prevented this. But it's hard to imagine how city officials could have anticipated the kind of rapid growth the city has seen — a 56 percent population increase from 2000 to 2009. And growth brings with it challenges and responsibilities.

There are many who believe the EPA has gotten too big for its britches — including some in Congress. A lot of people, for example, thought the EPA had no authority to step in and regulate greenhouse gas emissions when Congress failed to pass cap-and-trade legislation.

If you want to see EPA defanged, contact your national legislators and urge them to rein it in. But until then, Nampa really doesn't have much choice but to implement the stormwater utility program.

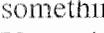
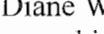
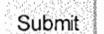
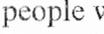
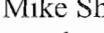
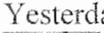
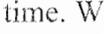
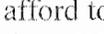
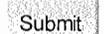
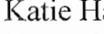
- Our view is based on the majority opinions of the Idaho Press-Tribune editorial board. Members of the board are Publisher Matt Davison, Managing Editor Vickie Holbrook and community members Tim Vandeventer, Sandi Levi, and Brandon Scholl, all of Nampa; Opinion Editor Phil Bridges and community member John Blaisdell of Caldwell, and Alex Zamora of Wilder.

Yesterday at 11:29am · LikeUnlike



Lisa Aman Patrick RAIN TAX?

Yesterday at 11:10am · LikeUnlike

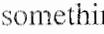
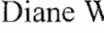
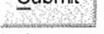
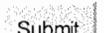
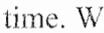
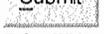


Submit

Submit

Katie Hadel Fox I would much rather pay \$3 a month than have inadequate drainage!!!

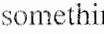
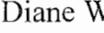
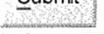
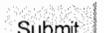
Yesterday at 11:13am · LikeUnlike · 1 personVictoria Kostenko likes this.



Submit

Liz Klepich Harding well, since Bujak stole all our money...WE have to pay for something that the City SHOULD be paying for anyway. thanks, because I know we ALL can TOTALLY afford to pay for his house, cars, vacations, etc. That's OUR money and the CITY blew it BIG time. Waaa waaa they HAVE to comply...psh! They are making US pay for THEIR mistakes.

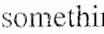
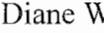
Yesterday at 11:14am · LikeUnlike · 1 personLoading...



Submit

Mike Shipman I'm for clean water and support the program. I do wish I didn't have to pay for the people who don't know any better about what they shouldn't be washing down their driveway.

Yesterday at 11:16am · LikeUnlike · 2 peopleLoading...



Submit

Diane Wright come on people ..32.00 more a year, for our health and safety. bitch about something a little bigger than THIS ! for grips sake! UGH !

Yesterday at 11:22am · LikeUnlike · 4 peopleLoading...

