



Westlawn Cemetery Detention

# ORSDM Update

**Perrin Niemann, P.E.**

**Sediment and Erosion Control Seminar**

**February 13, 2025**



Little Papillion Creek

# Omaha Regional Stormwater Design Manual

1 – Introduction

**2 – Hydrology**

3 – Storm Drainage System

4 – Design of Culverts

5 – Open Channels

**6 – Storage Facilities**

7 – Energy Dissipators

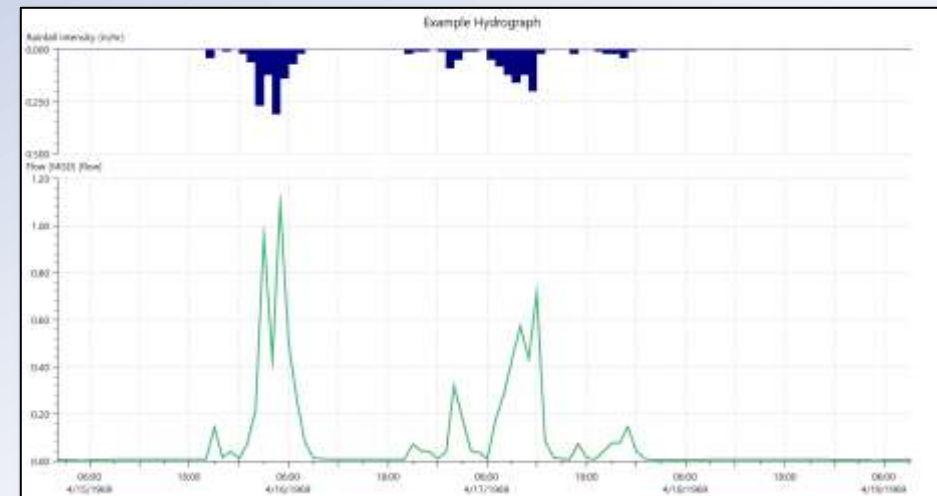
8 – Stormwater Best Management Practices

9 – Erosion and Sediment Control

*Purpose is “to provide guidance to design engineers, hydrologists, water quality specialists, and others involved in the management of stormwater runoff.”*

# Chapter 2 - Hydrology

- Hydrology is the study of water in the environment
- Chapter 2 provides guidance on estimating how much of a storm's precipitation turns into runoff and developing hydrographs
- The hydrograph is then used to design stormwater facilities
- Estimation errors can result in wrong facility sizes:
  - Undersizing could cause flooding
  - Oversizing increases costs



# Omaha's Design Storms

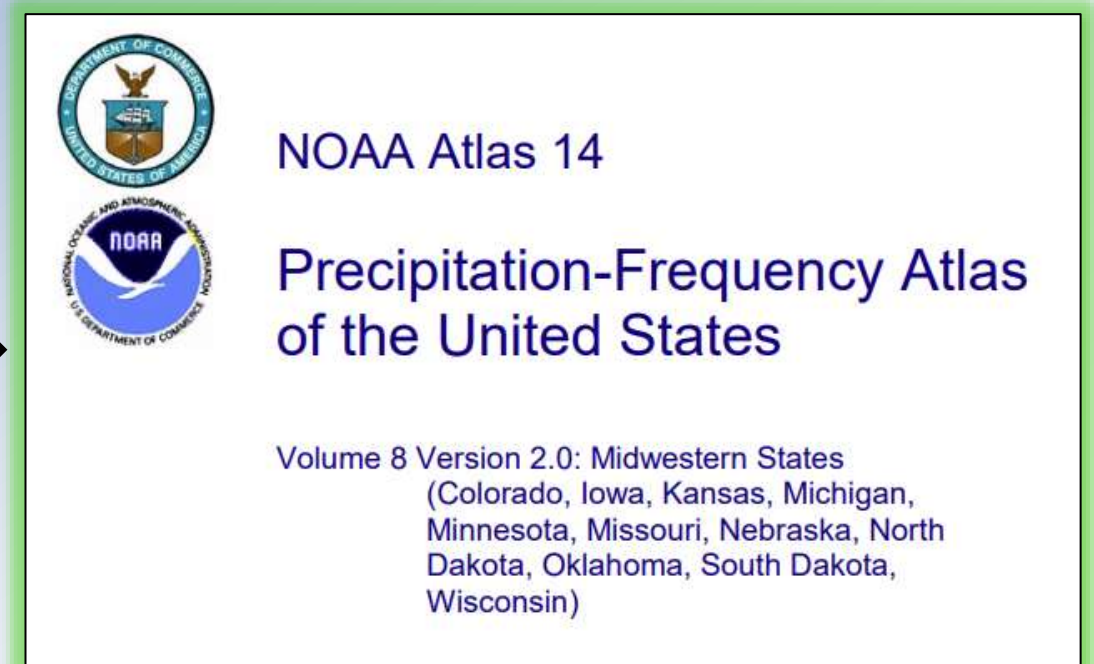
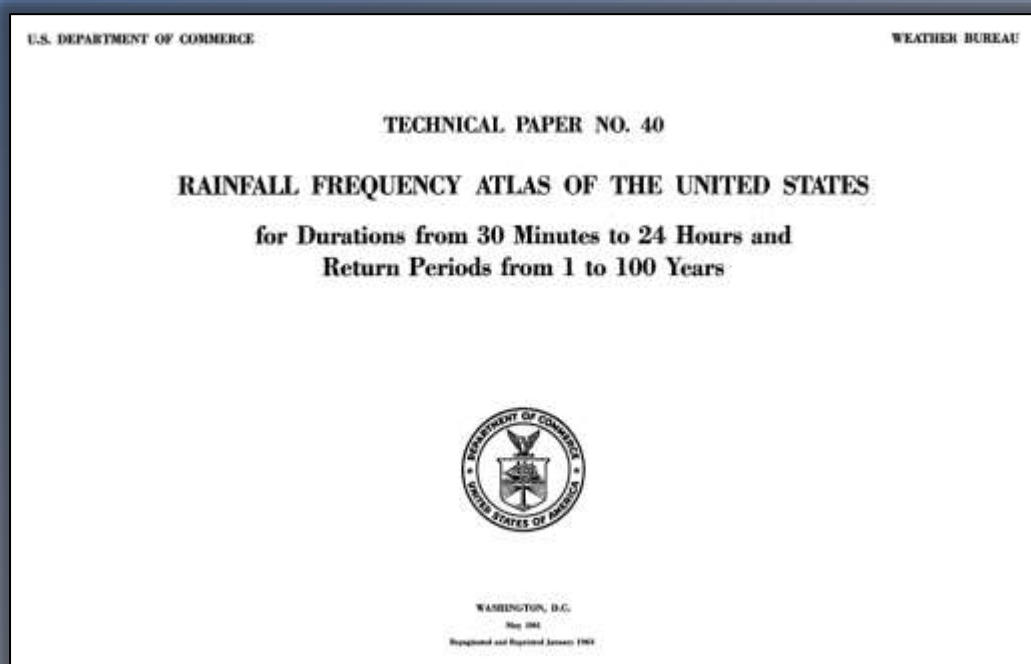
- Design storms are often named with return periods
- 100-year storm has an exceedance probability of 1%
- Detention and retention facilities need to manage the 2-, 10-, and 100-year storms
- Storm pipes and inlets: 10-year storm
- Cross drainage (under roadways): 50-year storm

Omaha's Current 24-Hour Design Storms

Return Period	24-Hour Depth (in)	24-Hour Intensity (in/hr)
2-year	3.0	0.125
5-year	3.9	0.163
10-year	4.6	0.192
25-year	5.3	0.221
50-year	6.0	0.250
100-year	6.7	0.279

# Design Storm Precipitation Depth

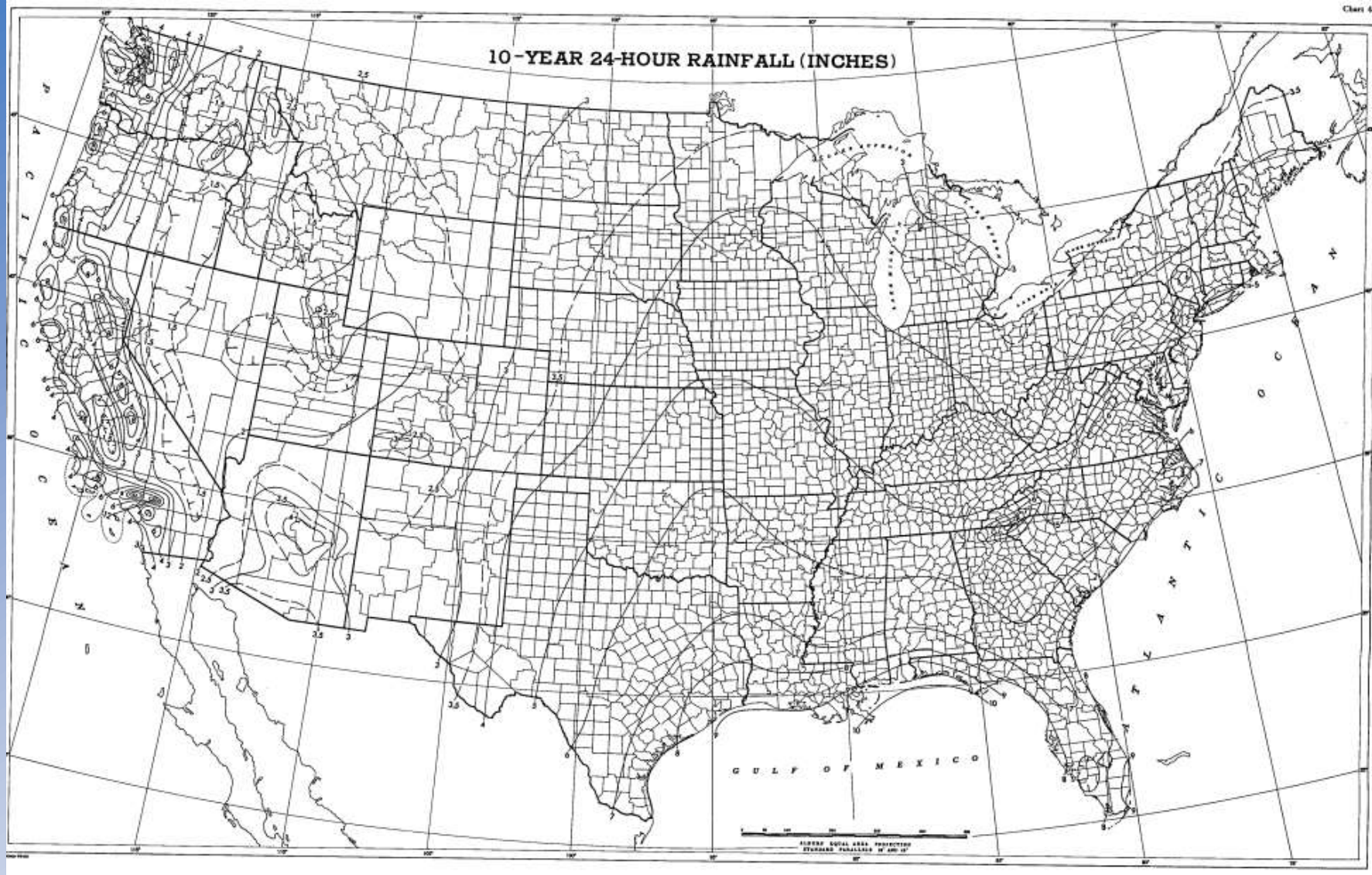
- Current ORSDM uses data from Technical Paper No. 40 (1961)
- Update uses data from NOAA Atlas 14 (2013)



# Superseded Publications

- Weather Bureau's Technical Paper No. 40
  - *Rainfall Frequency Atlas of the United States for Durations from 30 Minutes to 24 Hours and Return Periods from 1 to 100 Years* (Hershfield, 1961)
- Weather Bureau's Technical Paper No. 49
  - *Two- to Ten-Day Precipitation for Return Periods of 2 to 100 Years in the Contiguous United States* (Miller, 1964)
- NOAA Technical Memorandum NWS HYDRO-35
  - *Five- to 60-Minute Precipitation Frequency for the Eastern and Central United States* (Frederick et al., 1977)

# How We Used Tech Paper No. 40...

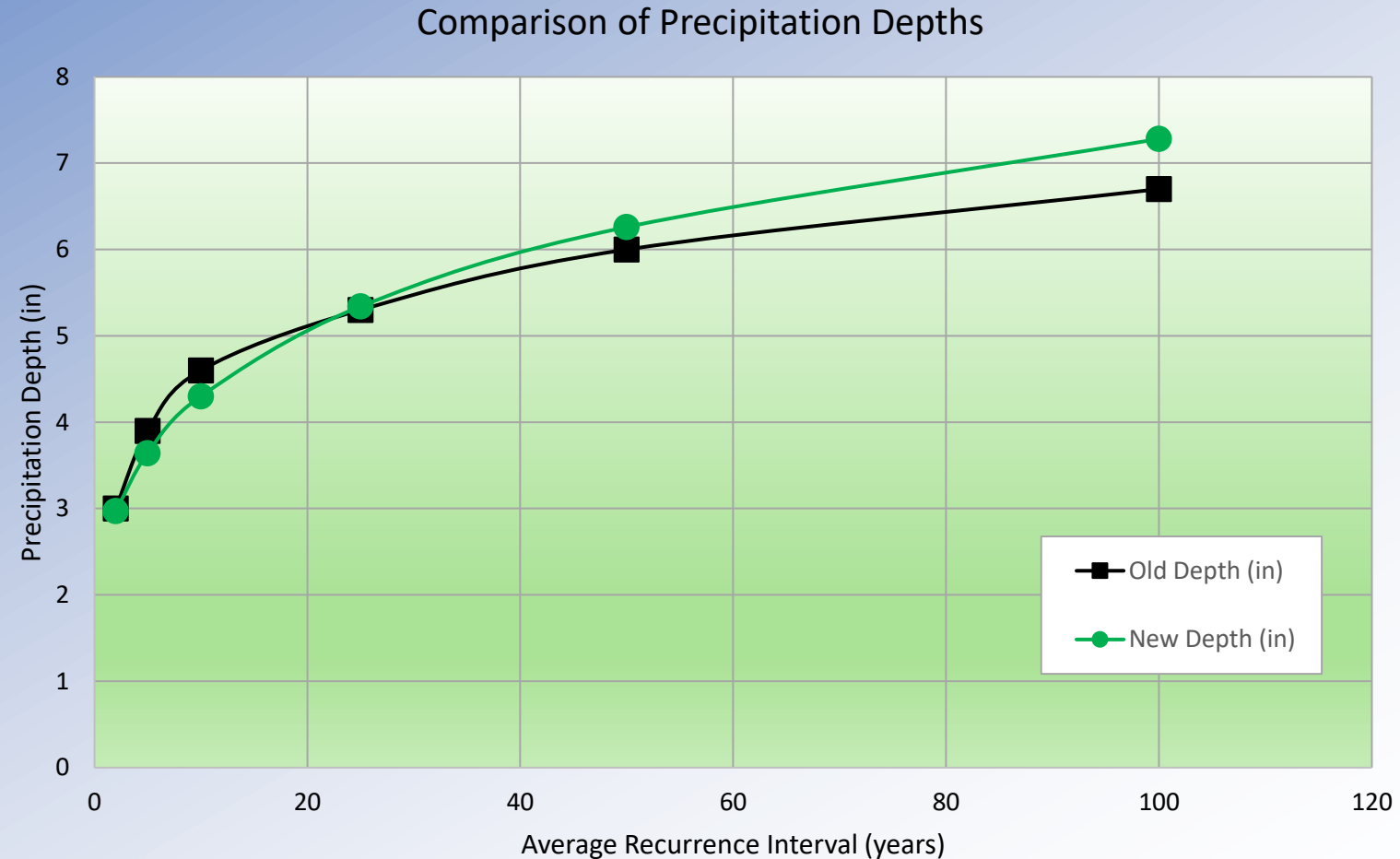


# NOAA Atlas 14

- Newer and more comprehensive precipitation data
- Daily, hourly, sub-hourly data set record lengths:
  - Daily data – 18 to 159 years
  - Hourly data – 19 to 69 years
  - Sub-hourly data – 19 to 43 years
- Volume 8 (Midwest) used over 400 rain gauge data sets in Nebraska
- Data are available from NOAA's Precipitation Frequency Data Server
- Can be generated for specific NE stations, by lat/lon, or by address

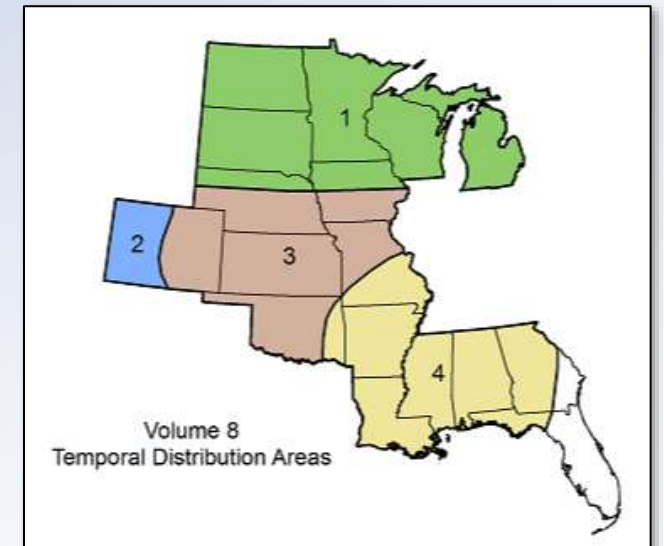
# Comparison of Rainfall Depths (24-hr duration)

Return Period	Tech Paper No. 40	Atlas 14 (Eppley Airfield)
2-year	3.0 in	2.97 in
5-year	3.9 in	3.64 in
10-year	4.6 in	4.30 in
25-year	5.3 in	5.34 in
50-year	6.0 in	6.26 in
100-year	6.7 in	7.28 in



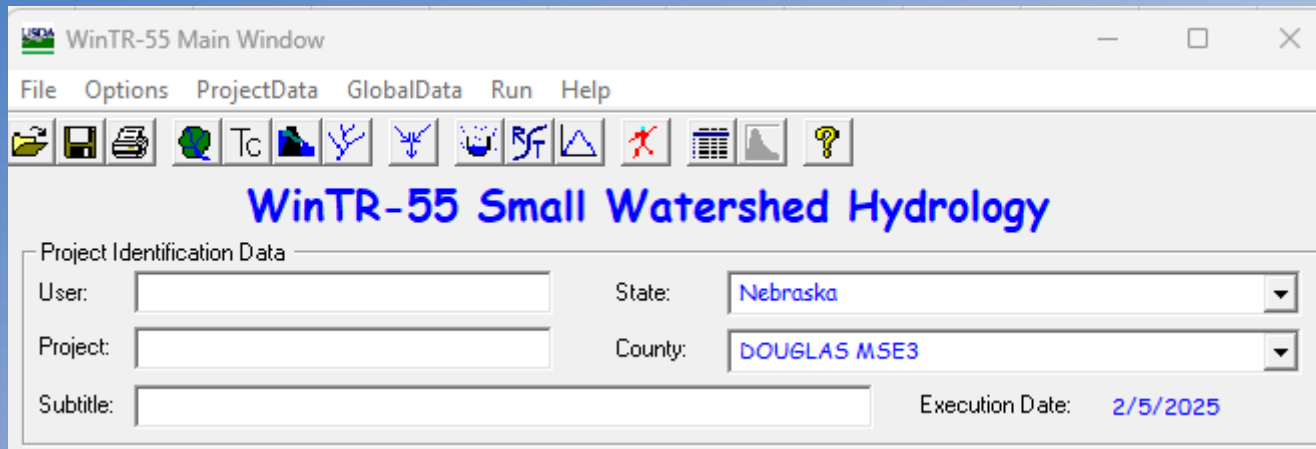
# Design Storm Temporal Distribution

- A temporal distribution describes how rain occurs over time
- Current ORSDM specifies use of SCS Type II distribution
- Use of Type II distribution with Atlas 14 rain data could lead to errors
- Nebraska NRCS is working on a supplement to the Engineering Field Handbook, Chapter 2 (Estimating Runoff and Peak Discharges)



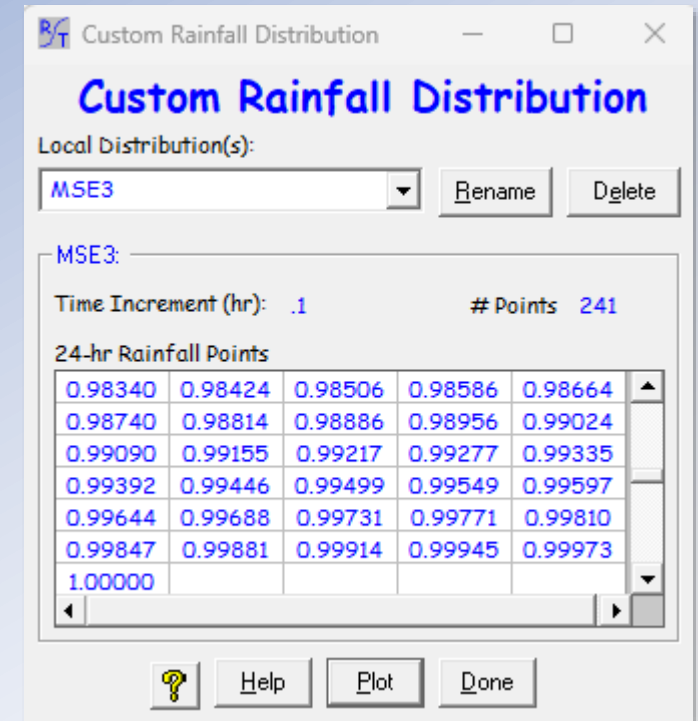
Source: NOAA

# Distribution Incorporated Into Some Software



Source: WinTR-55

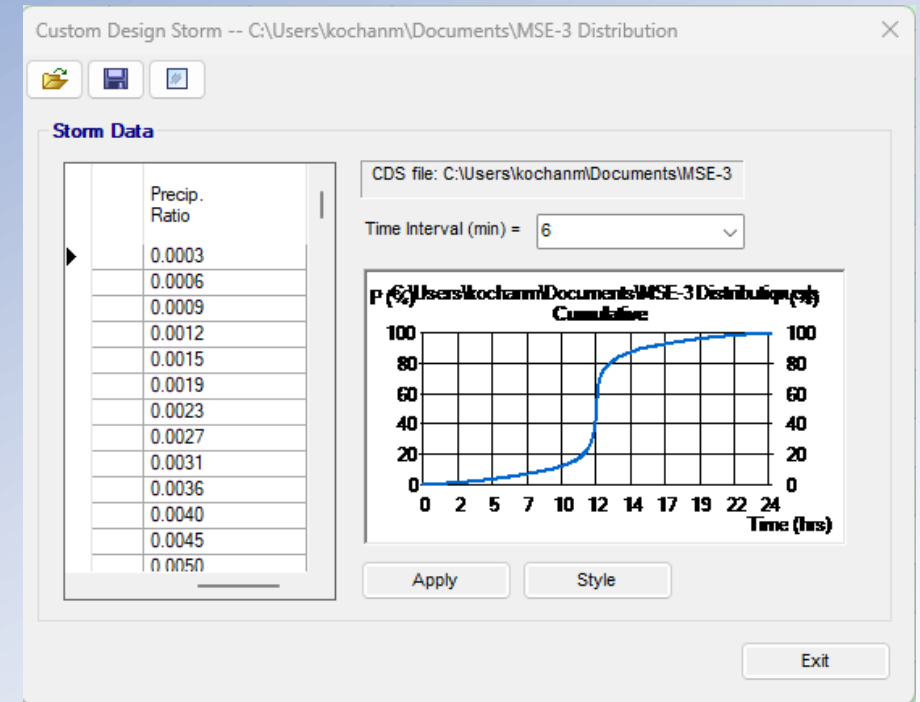
- Also WinTR-20, EFH-2, HydroCAD, maybe others
- User-defined distributions also possible
  - e.g., Innovyze provides a .xpx file for download



Source: WinTR-55

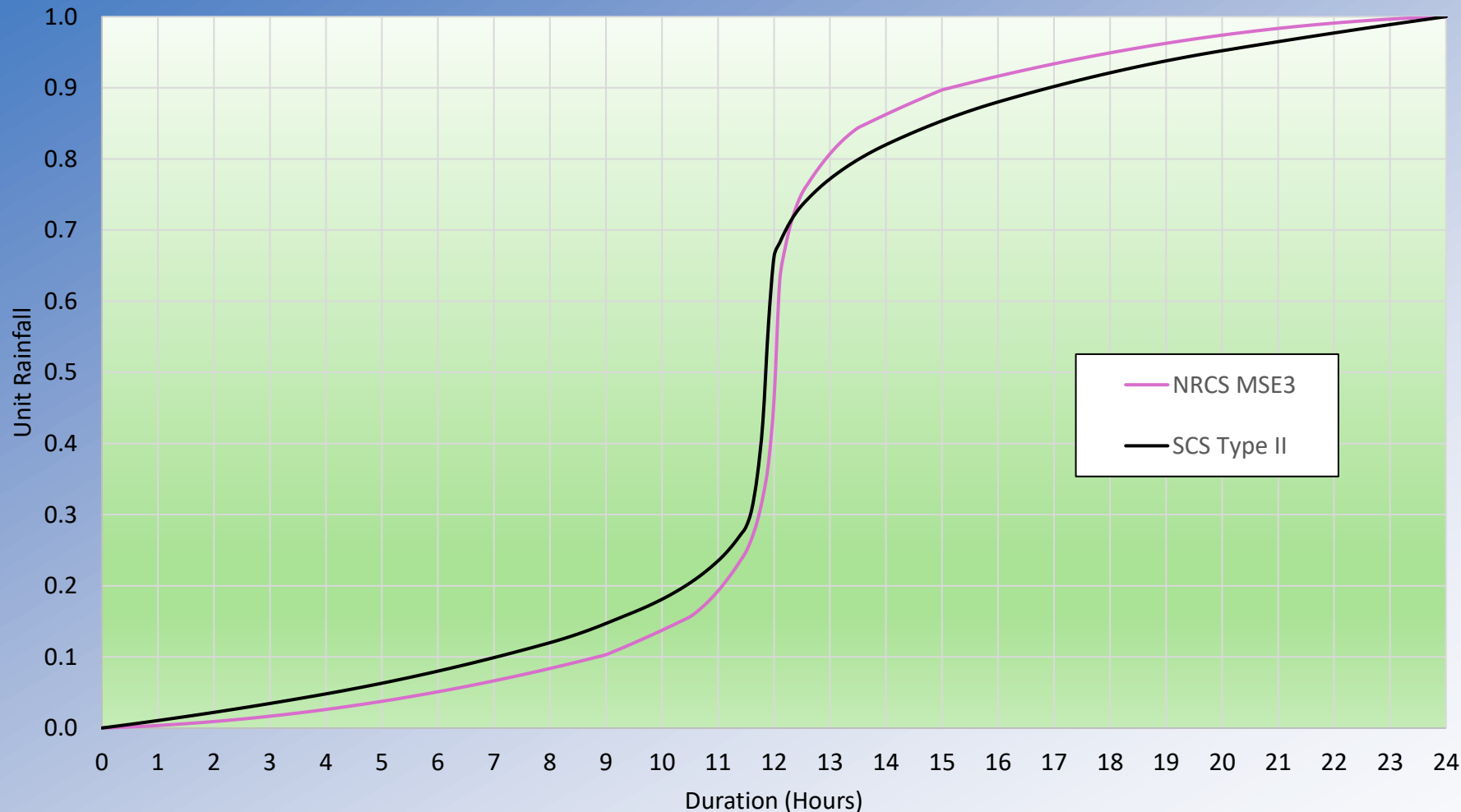
# Custom Design Storm – Civil 3D/Hydraflow

- Not just a “button press” like SCS Type II
- A custom design storm must be created to use the MSE3 Distribution
- ORSDM Update will describe the step-by-step process for creating the custom distribution
- May look into providing a spreadsheet for download



# Comparison of 24-Hour Cumulative Distributions

SCS Type II vs NRCS MSE3 Storm Distribution - Compare Unit Curves



- Curves are similar and will result in similar hydrograph shapes

# How Will the Changes Impact Flows/Volumes?

- Compared TP-40/SCS Type II to Atlas 14/MSE3 (10-yr & 100-yr events)
- 10-yr rain depth went down, but 100-yr depth went up
- Temporal rainfall distributions are very similar
- Results are dependent on individual variables, but generally we found:
  - 10-yr storm: slight decrease in peak flows and runoff volumes
  - 100-yr storm: higher peak flows and runoff volumes

# Other Changes to Chapter 2 – Hydrology

- Triangular Hydrograph Equation has been removed
  - Early/simplistic approach; much better tools available now
- Simplified SCS Method has been removed (graphical/tabular estimation approach)
  - Method was developed specifically for SCS rainfall distributions
- Travel time for sheet flow – equation/approach updated.
  - Previous equation embedded assumptions that were valid for only a limited range of precipitation intensities

# Chapter 6 – Storage Facilities

- Updating language and providing information per current design trends, consistency, etc.
- Clarifying submittal requirements to facilitate design review
  - ORSDM currently focuses on manual/hand calculations
  - Many designers use computer programs
- Adding example storage facility design using AutoCAD Civil 3D with Hydraflow Hydrographs Extension
- Enhancing instructions for outlet structure design and drawdown curves
- Engineers must use appropriate judgment

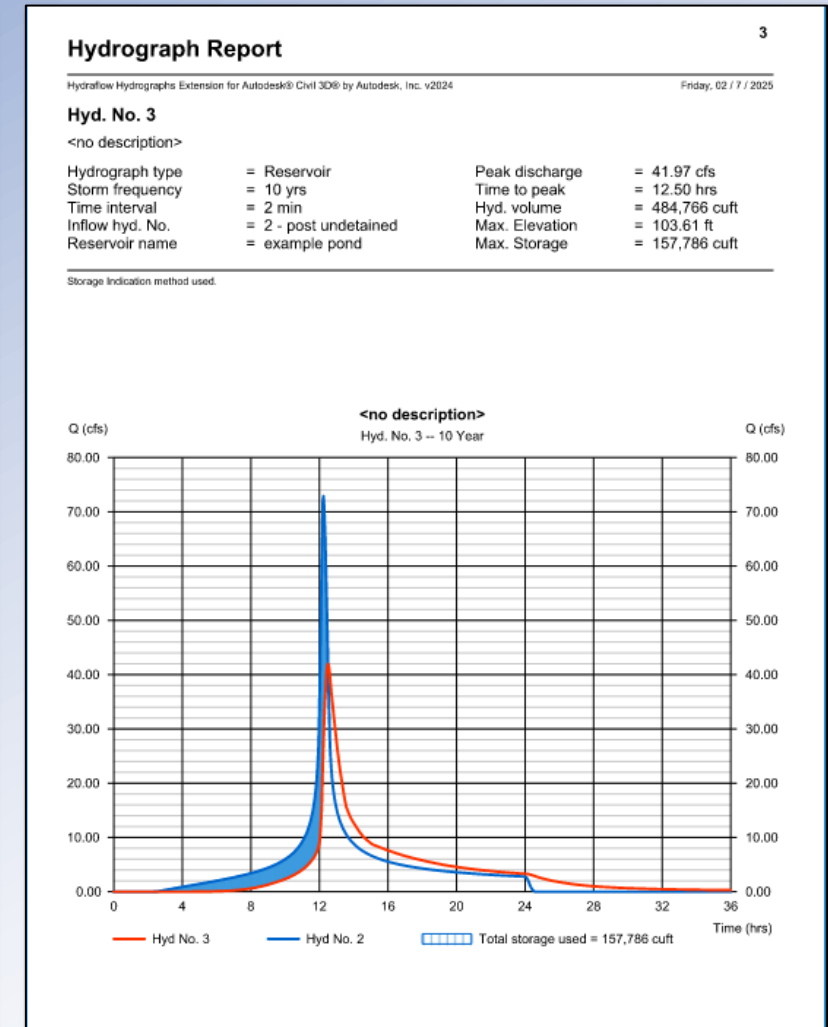
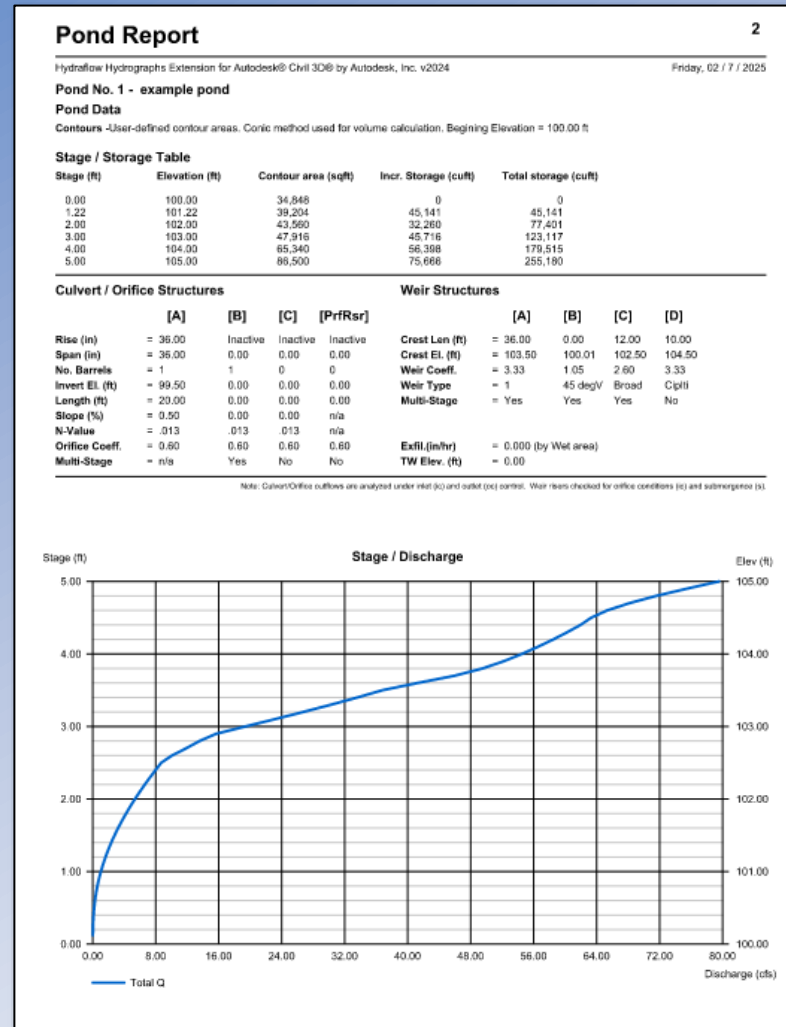
# Chapter 6 – Submittal Requirements

Adding a detailed list of information and exhibits to include for design reviews for storage facilities, such as:

- Summary tables comparing pre-development flows at the downstream study point to post-developed routed flows through the detention basin or BMP
- Pond sizing tables/graphs/drawings
- Contributing drainage area exhibits
- Outlet control structure detail drawings
- Plan view and section view of detention riser structure
- Drawdown curves

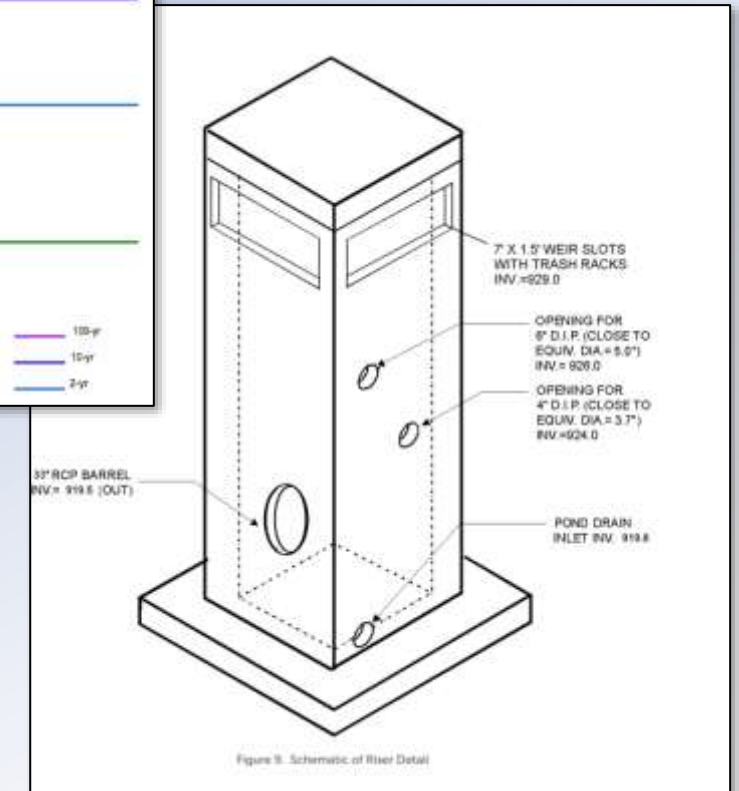
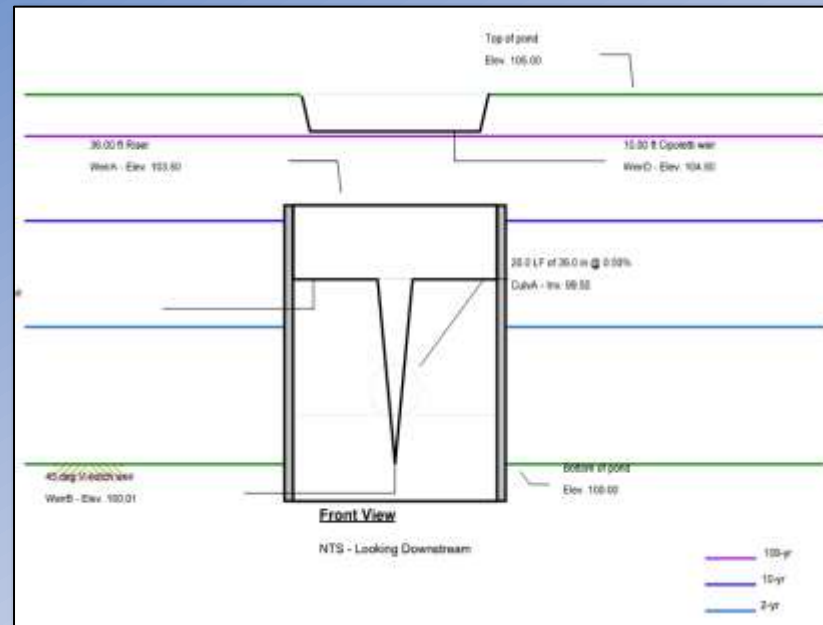
# Chapter 6 – Example Submittal Items

- Pond Reports:
  - Stage-storage table
  - Combined stage-discharge graph
  - Outlet structure sizes
  - Hydrographs



# Chapter 6 – Example Submittal Items

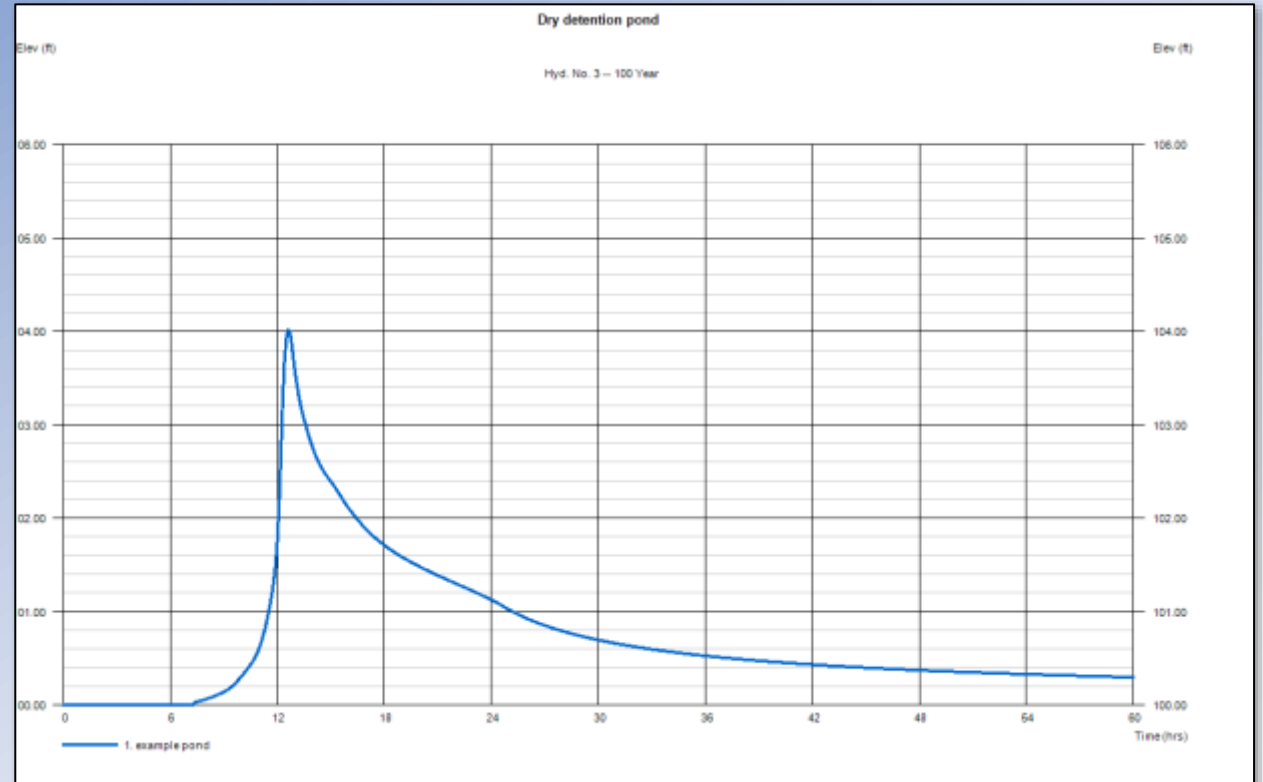
- Compound outlet control structure detail:
  - Water surface elevations (2, 10, 100 yr)
  - Outfall invert elevations
  - Pond top/bottom elevations



Source: Georgia Stormwater Management manual  
technical handbook – Vol 2 p.504

# Chapter 6 – Example Submittal Items

- Drawdown curves for each design storm
- Calculations to demonstrate min/max requirements for detention periods



# Still to Come...

- City is working on updates to:
  - Chapter 8 (Stormwater Best Management Practices)
  - Chapter 9 (Erosion and Sediment Control)
  - Minor corrections, reference updates
- Keep an eye out for an opportunity to comment on the updates. Will be posted on City's website.
- Questions? Contact Selma Kessler,  
[Selma.Kessler@CityofOmaha.org](mailto:Selma.Kessler@CityofOmaha.org)



Miller Park outfall to Pershing Basin

**Questions?**