SWaM 2019 "National Conference on Stormwater Management – Managing Stormwater Runoff"

The Detention and Retention Ponds -

"A Bone or Bane for Stormwater Management in Housing Development in Malaysia"





SWaM 2019 - The Detention and Retention Ponds - "A Bone or Bane for Stormwater Management in Housing Development in Malaysia

URBAN STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

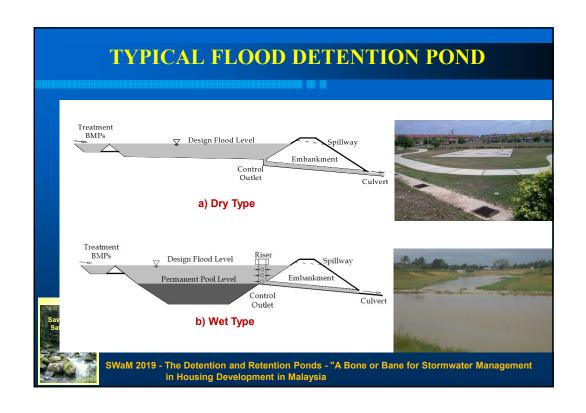
Why?:

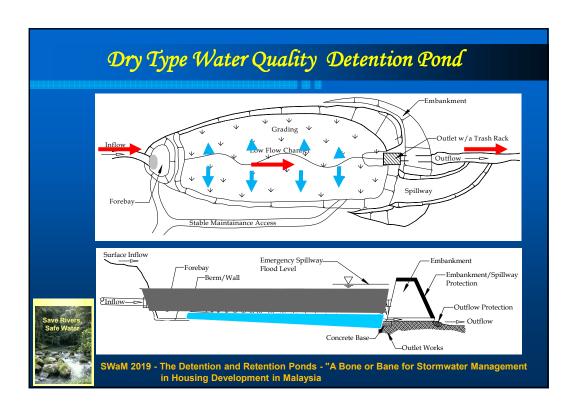
- Surface runoff has to be reduced to prevent flooding;
- Especially in urban areas where the natural infiltration is reduced;
- Sediments and pollutants must be removed.

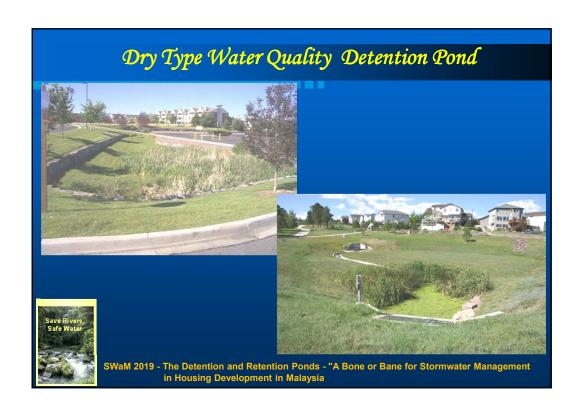
How?:

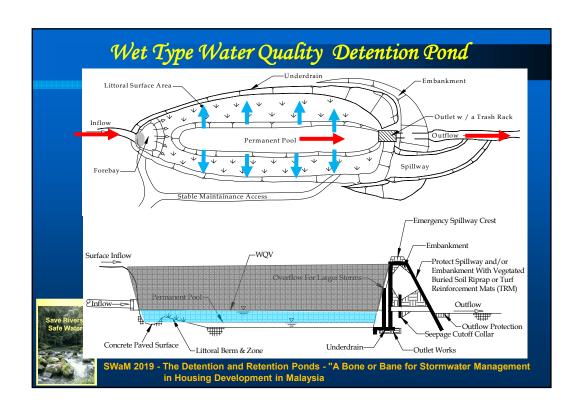
- Temporary storage (e.g. flood detention basins, onsite detention (OSD), rainwater harvesting), etc.
- Infiltration (e.g. grass filter stripes, infiltration trench, infiltration basin, etc.)

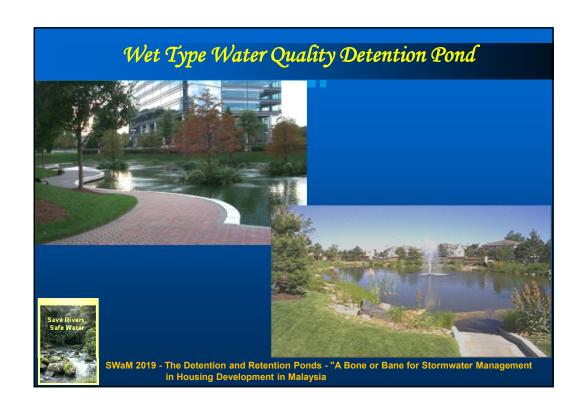


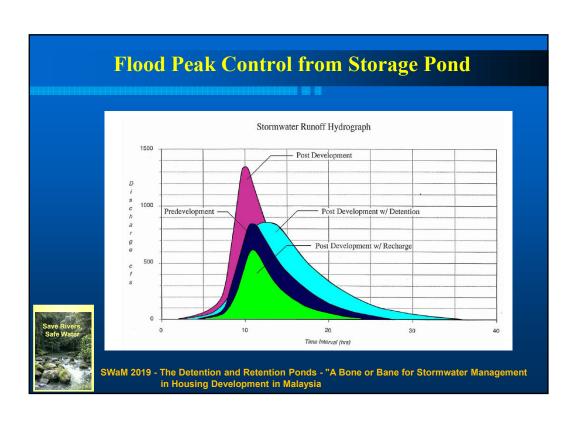


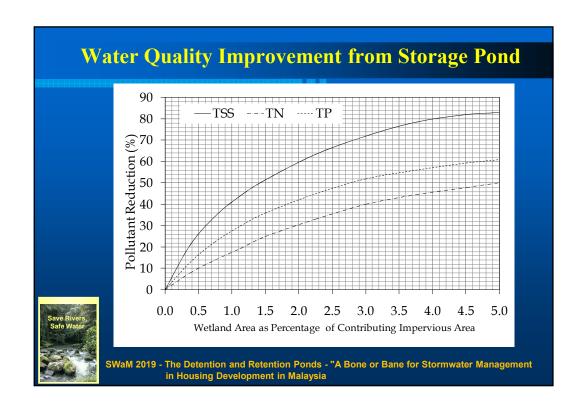




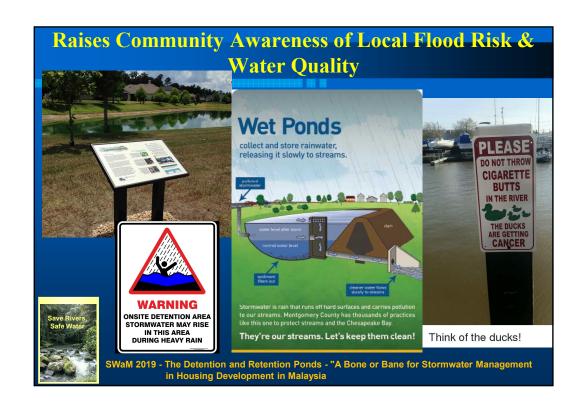


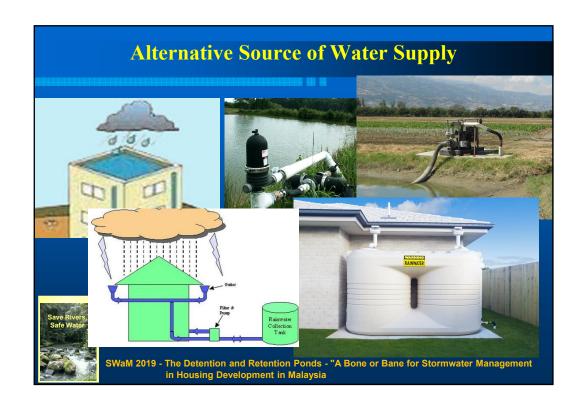












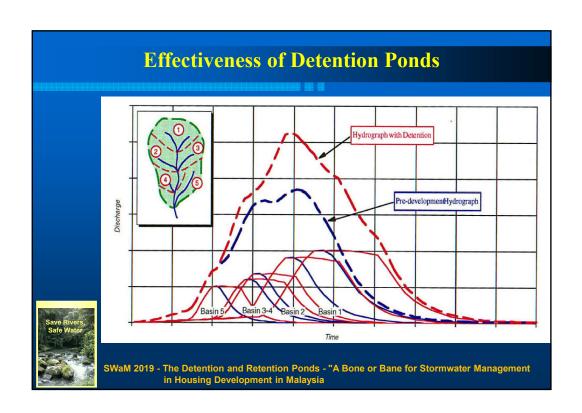
Downstream Flood Peak Control from Detention Pond

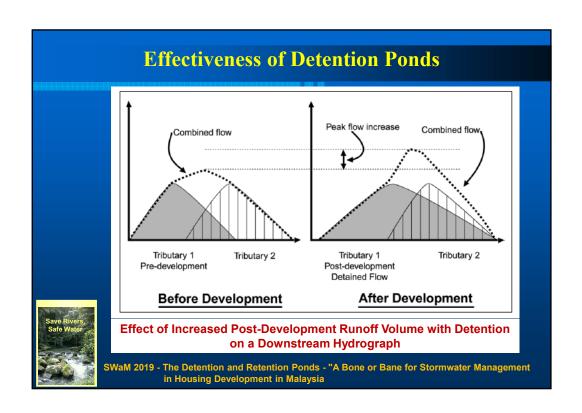
Impact towards Downstream Flood Peak (further downstream) for the requirement to control the Pre- & Post-Development to be the same normally cannot be met:

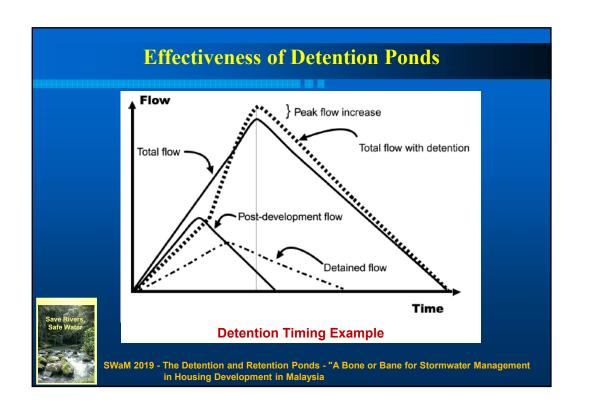
- Flood detention ponds do not reduce the runoff volume
- At downstream stretch, the time of concentration is longer.
 Longer and higher volume of runoff hydrographs normally make the individual detention upstream less effective
- Depends on the basin characteristics and rainfall patterns, with detention ponds upstream may worsen the peak discharges downstream



 Should be designed for full range of flood events (from regular to extremely rare floods) to insure their placement and function does not cause adverse impacts both upstream or downstream areas.







Water Quality Issues

- Stormwater detention pond is meant to improve the water quality from non-point sources during rainstorm and not for point sources pollution
- Pollutants and sediments that are excessively accumulated in the pond, can be carried downstream in large plumes causing major water quality issues during large flood event.
- Highly polluted detention ponds will affect the flora and fauna as well as not attractive to any recreational purposes

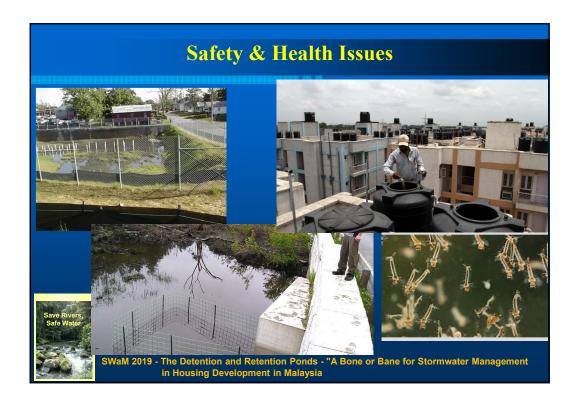




Safety & Health Issues

- If the pond outlet is not designed accordingly or choked up, it will cause flooding to the surrounding areas
- Pond edges should be safe for the community especially children. Fencing is required for areas that can post safety issues.
- Polluted detention ponds can post health issues
- Rainwater harvesting tanks can be potential mosquito breed areas

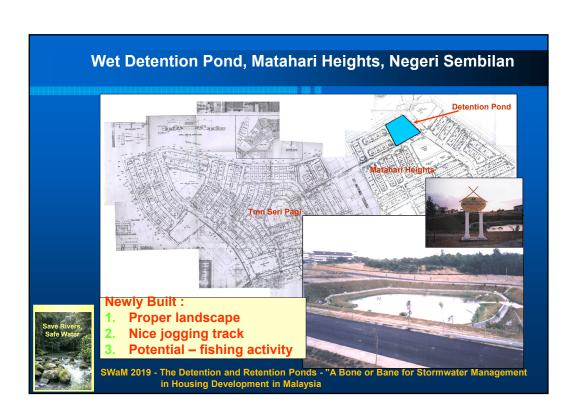


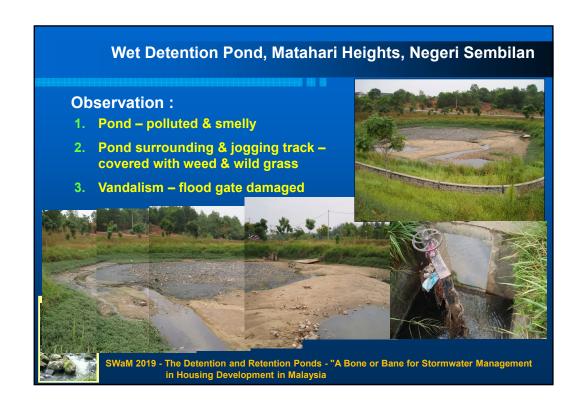


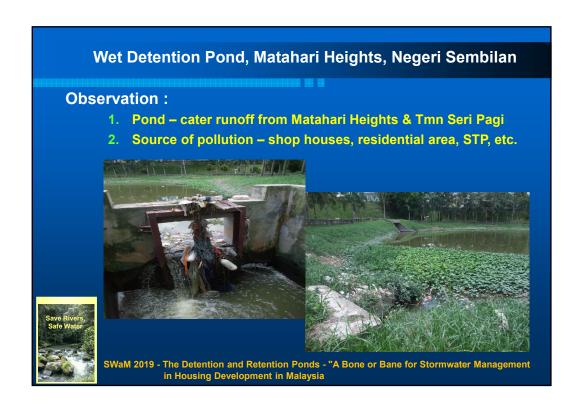
Control and Maintenance Issues

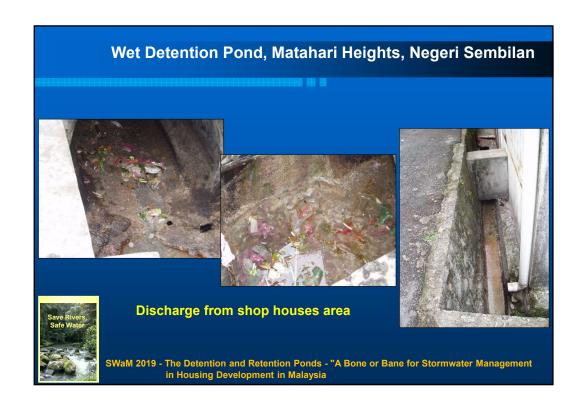
- Upstream sediment and pollution controls such as implement ESCP at new construction sites, control source pollutants, provides GPT at strategic locations, etc.
- Alterations at premises that reduce the effectiveness of OSD such as converting it to balcony, storage place, etc.,
- Proper pond maintenance so that it function as per original design such as whether the pond siltation has affected the life storage, outlet choked with debris, emergency spillways overgrowth with bushes/trees, etc.
- Ponds that located inside the Strata Land Title normally will be managed and maintained by the property management team.
 Although this relieves the local council from maintaining the ponds, the management team may alter the pond design without informing the council.

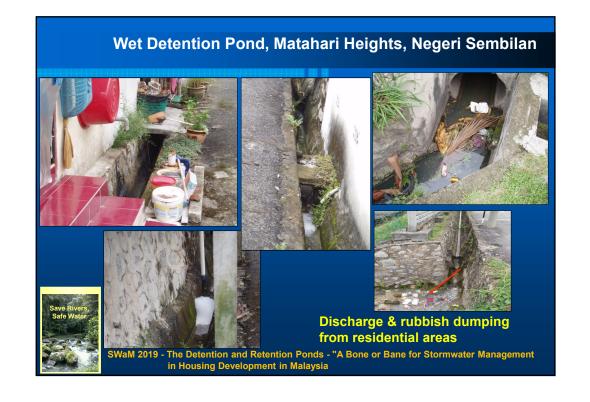


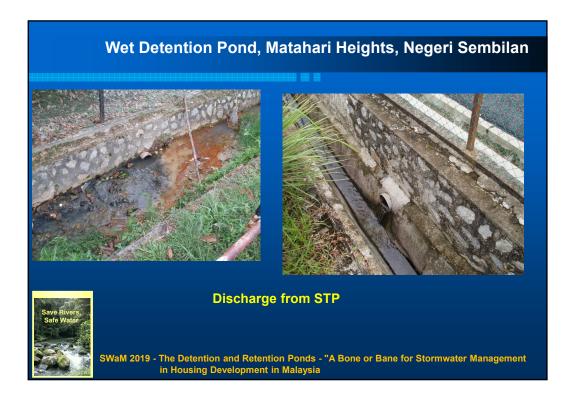












Recommendations & Conclusions

- No doubt, flood detention and retention systems (ponds,
 OSD & rainfall harvesting) have provided substantial benefits in controlling stormwater runoff quantity and quality;
- Thorough hydrological and hydraulic analysis are required to avoid any adverse impact of detention ponds at downstream river stretches although generally they will improve rather than aggravate the situations;
- Should control all the point source pollutions from discharging directly into the ponds without any treatments;
- Regular checks on the ponds, OSD and rainfall harvesting tank conditions by local authorities and relevant authorities to ensure the functionality and safety of them
- Allocate enough budget for the maintenance of the systems

Recommendations & Conclusions

- Awareness campaigns and capacity buildings to ensure the systems are managed and maintained appropriately
- Flood detention ponds should be integrated into the development as one of the landscape, recreational and community areas
- Community involvement is important to establish the sense of belonging and the long term sustainability of the systems



