

Licking County MS4 Partners Newsletter



November 2011

Welcome to the first installment of this newsletter. We hope it will become a medium to share information, experiences and successes of the MS4 Storm Water Partners and help keep the Partnership informed of the MS4 activities of the Licking County Engineer's Office (LCEO) and other Partners. It should enhance communication among the Partners to help achieve the goals of our Storm Water Management Program (SWMP).

Clean Water Act & the NPDES program:

The Clean Water Act (CWA) establishes the basic structure for regulating discharges of pollutants into the waters of the United States and regulating quality standards for surface waters. The basis of the CWA was enacted in 1948 and was called the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, but the Act was significantly reorganized and expanded in 1972. "Clean Water Act" became the Act's common name with amendments in 1977.

The 1972 amendments to the Federal Water Pollution Control Act provide the statutory basis for the NPDES permit program and the basic structure for regulating the discharge of pollutants from point sources to waters of the United States. Section 402 of the CWA specifically required EPA to develop and implement the NPDES program.

Beginning in 2002, Licking County joined a partnership with seven townships and three villages to submit a joint application as an MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) Operator. That application, along with the initial Stormwater Management Program (SWMP), was submitted in 2003. Incremental modifications to that plan have occurred annually since that time in an effort to meet the requirements and goals of the Ohio EPA Small MS4 NPDES Permit, now in its second generation. This second generation permit was effective January 30, 2009, and expires January 29, 2014.

The Program and its Six Minimum Control Measures:

The SWMP is based on six "Minimum Control Measures" or MCMs:

1. Public Education and Outreach
2. Public Participation and Involvement
3. Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination (IDDE)
4. Construction Site Runoff Control
5. Post-Construction Runoff Control
6. Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping for Municipal Operations

Ongoing implementation of these MCMs is critical to the success of the Partnership's SWMP and to keep in compliance with the MS4 Permit.

Recent MS4 activities by the Engineer's Office:

MCM#3-Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination

We continue to perform Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination (IDDE) fieldwork in the Partnership's urbanizing area (UA). This includes Dry Weather Screening (DWS) of the MS4 storm system outfalls and storm sewer system mapping.

Dry Weather Screening is intended to find outfalls discharging water from sources other than storm runoff, in particular, illicit connections to septic systems or other pollutant sources; this involves an observation of outfalls at least three days after a measurable rainfall (0.1 inch). Many of the outfalls were dry at the time they were identified in 2010 thus, are low on the priority list to revisit. Outfalls with a measurable discharge volume are higher on the priority list for DWS, although all must be visited during the term of the permit. Where the flow rate is measurable, a water sample is collected and tested for selected contaminants.

A few additional outfalls have been discovered and mapped during the process while some others, originally thought to be part of a public system, have been determined to be from non-storm water sources or from private systems.

Along with the DWS, we are mapping storm drainage systems within the UA of each partnering entity. Partners with any mapping of storm water drainage systems that have not already shared those maps with us are encouraged to do so. We are utilizing paper maps in conjunction with field locations of storm inlets and outfalls to develop the GIS mapping required by our SWMP.

Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping Training held.

On November 15 and 16 the Licking County Engineer's Office held training for MCM#6—Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping for Municipal Operations (PPGHMO). There were 24 participants. This type of training is mandatory (annually) for all employees involved in outside work where storm water could be adversely affected by improper action or the lack of action. County highway workers will receive this training in the near future. Please contact us if you have additional employees that need the training.

Regarding MCM#6, it is each Partner's responsibility to write a PPGHMO Plan or arrange to obtain one. With IDDE fieldwork taking a priority, we have not had much time to assist Partners in developing their program plans. We do have some generic plans to share and can share the LC Highway Garage plan as a sample. Union Twp., Newark Twp., Newton Twp., Madison Twp., and Buckeye Lake will also need a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) as a part of your over-all plan. Please contact us for the generic & sample plans as well as to discuss the need for the SWPPP.

Licking County Soil & Water Conservation District levy fails

As you all know by now, the LCSWCD levy failed at the November election. They have been an important resource for public education and involvement related to storm water and water quality in general. It is not clear what impact the levy failure may have on the

SWMP. Please keep alert to changes in the District's programs; we have been benefiting from their education and outreach work for which we have been taking credit in our Annual Reports to the Ohio EPA. (MCM#1- Public Education and Outreach; MCM#2 – Public Participation and Involvement)

To facilitate and enhance Public Participation and Involvement locally – Please consider dedicating a brief segment of each regular meeting to storm water related public comment, and offer the public opportunities to participate in your programs or events that focus on or include improving storm water quality.

Start to gather information for the 2011 Small MS4 Annual Report:

Now is the time to begin (or continue) to gather information for our Annual Report due next year. Please review last year's report for examples of the information you will need to provide to us. Also, review the planned activities portions of the report for information you should provide. Information is based on the calendar year (2011).

Some examples of information needed is:

- Up-to-date name, title, and contact information of your entity's Primary Contact Person for the Storm Water Management Program
- Storm water quality educational activities held or sponsored
- Number of Storm water quality complaints received
- Number of road & street and maintenance employees vs. number receiving Good Housekeeping training.
- Names and amounts of herbicides used during the C.Y. (actual quantities of the packaged materials used)
- Amount of salt used on roads for snow & ice control (by C.Y.)

Upcoming:

MS4 Partner's Program Status meeting – January (date TBD)

The last word:

I am here to help you meet obligations and requirements of the Permit and the Partner's SWMP, particularly Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination. It remains each entity's responsibility to be actively involved and to insure each MCM is locally (Township or Village) addressed to a satisfactory level that meets the goals of the Program.

Please send comments, contact and address changes (please include email addresses), or Program suggestions to Dan Blatter (dblatter@lcounty.com) Office of Licking Co. Engineer, 20 S. 2nd St., Newark OH 43055. Office phone: 740/670-5280.