



Department of Public Works

Highways Solid Waste Engineering

Willy F. Grimmke, P.E. – Superintendent
 Kyle M. Vanderwater – Public Works Manager

MS4 STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN

BACKGROUND: The MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) is a federally mandated program through the Clean Water Act to control stormwater runoff and protect water quality. In New York State this program is under the auspices of the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). An MS4 is a conveyance system (such as roads with drainage systems, municipal streets, catch basins, curbs, gutters, ditches, man-made channels or storm drains) that is designed for collecting or conveying stormwater, not a combined sewer and not part of a publicly owned treatment system.

There are currently eight "Regulated Small MS4" communities in the Lake Champlain - Lake George area: Town of Fort Edward, Village of Fort Edward, City of Glens Falls, Village of Hudson Falls, Town of Kingsbury, Warren County DPW, Town of Queensbury and Washington County DPW. As "Regulated Small MS4s", a designation given by NYSDEC, the communities have to implement Phase II Stormwater Regulations by January 2008. The Storm Water Phase II program is designed to improve the Nation's waterways by reducing the quantity of pollutants that stormwater picks up and carries into storm sewers, ditches, etc. during storm events. This includes implementing their individual Stormwater Management Programs (SWMP).

This SWMP must address six minimum control measures (MCM's) that include identifiable goals and management practices required to achieve them. These six minimum measures include:

1. Public Education and Outreach
2. Public Involvement and Participation
3. Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination
4. Construction Site Runoff Control
5. Post-Construction Runoff Control
6. Pollution Prevention and Good Housekeeping

Washington County has been working towards this goal of developing and implementing their MS4 Stormwater Management Plan by January 8, 2008. (*Assistance in developing the Plan has come from a number of partners from the Greater Glens Falls Urbanized Area MS4's*)

Public Education and Outreach

Washington County SWMP needs a variety of partners, including citizens, to help reach goals and make sure that people take some responsibility to see that our local water bodies are protected. People need to see how their actions on the land can contribute to water pollution problems and then to learn actions to protect water quality.

As part of the ongoing public education and outreach program, posters and numerous educational brochures have been placed in the Washington County Municipal Building. These materials explain the effect of stormwater runoff on water bodies, some pollutants that might be in this runoff and their sources, and provide useful information as to what steps citizens can take to reduce the amount of polluted runoff on our water bodies. When necessary, more materials will be sought out to replenish supplies.

Educational displays and handouts have been and will continue to be provided and displayed annually at the Washington County Fairgrounds during fair week.

Public Involvement and Participation

To encourage public involvement and participation, programs are to be developed so that citizens can become a partner in furthering the goals of the MS4 program. Departments have gone about achieving this goal through different activities that individuals and/or groups have participated in such as “Adopt-A-Highway” or “Clean-Up Day” events. Departments will continue to involve citizens in the future to continue to reduce pollutants of concern in stormwater.

The MS4 is required to identify and publish the name of a contact person for the Stormwater Management Program. This info will be published on the Washington County website.

Illicit Discharge and Detection

While stormwater runoff contributes pollutants to waterways, significant amounts have been found to come from illicit and/or inappropriate discharges, direct or indirect, to the MS4. Therefore Washington County has developed a program to detect and eliminate inadequately treated discharges. A policy and local law has been passed to prohibit these illicit discharges in the MS4. However, the county defers to the local governments on stormwater ordinances and code enforcement as the limits of the current MS4 areas. Washington County has prepared mapping and will continue to map outfall discharge locations and watershed areas for its MS4. Again, education and partnerships are key elements in the MS4 program and its pursuit towards its goals.

Construction Site Stormwater Runoff Control

Washington County defers to Town and Village governments on stormwater ordinances and code enforcement in the current MS4 areas for construction sites that disturb one acre or more. Nevertheless department foreman have been instructed in erosion and sediment control and actively employ best management practices in erosion and sediment control management on all construction sites regardless of size and/or location throughout the county. Training workshops for DPW crews on erosion and sediment controls are given annually as part of its own "Safety Day" event.

Post-Construction Site Stormwater Runoff Control

Washington County defers to Town and Village governments on stormwater ordinances and code enforcement in the current MS4 areas for construction sites that disturb one acre or more. The discharge of pollutants from development or redevelopment can be a post-construction problem. Washington County departmental procedures in this management plan include the inspections and monitoring of their own construction sites.

Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping

The Stormwater Management Program attempts to address all sources of water pollution from stormwater. This section focuses on municipal operations and maintenance activities that might contribute pollutants to nearby waterbodies and to develop and implements to reduce/prevent this from happening.

The DPW maintains a wash area for degreasing equipment that includes settling tanks and grease traps, and discharges to the sewer district. Annual employee training covers good housekeeping practices for maintenance at our fueling systems, storage and handling of road salt and containment and cleanup of hazardous spills in the right-of-way.

Buildings and Grounds department maintains parking areas throughout the Municipal Buildings complex. Trash, grass clippings, tree and shrubbery debris, etc. removal are ongoing good housekeeping practices. Maintaining, mowing, and inspections of the retention basins on the municipal building site are also ongoing or continuing.