Massachusetts Stormwater News

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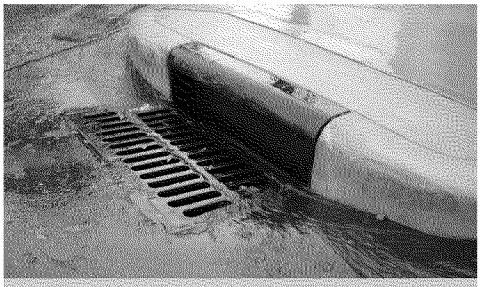
MassDEP

EPA United States Environmental Protection Agency



WELCOME

MA Stormwater News is a collaborative effort of the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (Mass DEP) and the New England office of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). This newsletter will be sent via email every few months to provide information to municipalities and others related to the Massachusetts Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit. MA Stormwater News will feature topics of interest, provide updates on upcoming permit deadlines and highlight assistance resources from Mass DEP, EPA and others.

EPA and Mass DEP know that stormwater management is just one of the many challenges facing municipalities. We listened carefully to your comments on the draft permit and made changes to the final permit to make implementation easier. We will continue to listen, and are committed to working with municipalities as you move forward on permit implementation.

This inaugural issue discusses municipal collaboration and the need for town departments beyond the Department of Public Works (DPW) to play a role in implementing the MS4 permit requirements. In this issue we also highlight some upcoming assistance and outreach resources from the EPA and Mass DEP.

Setting Your Town Up for Stormwater Success: Involve Municipal Departments Beyond the DPW

EPA and Mass DEP issued a new small MS4 general permit in April 2016. As municipalities plan to meet the requirements of the reissued permit, EPA and Mass DEP encourage municipalities to involve all the departments who may play a role meeting the requirements of the permit. The permit requires municipalities, among other things, to maintain stormwater systems, track and eliminate illicit discharges, sweep roads, and clean catch basins. While these are typical activities for a DPW, the permit also has other requirements that don't typically fall within the expertise of the DPW and may require the involvement of other municipal departments.

The permit requirements will require several municipal departments to play an active role in the MS4 program. With permit tasks ranging from public education, to removal of illicit discharges, to assessing existing regulations affecting the creation of impervious cover or management of open spaces and municipal buildings, municipal departments such as Building and Parks and Recreation, as well as other boards or commissions such as Planning, Zoning, and Conservation, will need to be actively involved in meeting the permit requirements. School, Police and Fire Departments may also be involved (e.g., a curriculum related to stormwater; enforcement of illegal dumping; knowledge of industrial chemical use and storage, etc.), but to a lesser extent than the other departments previously mentioned.

Precisely what the different departments and/or boards will do is up to each individual municipality. There is no prescribed approach and each municipality is free to determine what works best. For example, when figuring out how to meet the requirement in the 2016 permit to retain as-built drawings that depict all structural and non-structural stormwater controls for new developments and redevelopments, many town departments may be involved. For example, that task may involve: 1) the DPW, which may track where structural controls are located that need to be maintained by the municipality; 2) the Building Department, who may retain the files that locate the stormwater controls and the Operation and Maintenance (O&M) plans associated with each stormwater control; and 3) the Zoning Board, Planning Board and/or Conservation Commission who may take the lead for requiring specific stormwater controls and evaluating the sufficiency of O&M plans.

Other areas of the MS4 permit that may involve more than one municipal department and/or board include:

- Construction Site Stormwater Runoff Control. This measure involves procedures for construction site inspections, local sediment and erosion control regulations that require use of appropriate best management practices (BMPs) at construction sites, and site plan review which includes procedures for consideration of water quality impacts.
- Stormwater Management for New Development and Redevelopment. This measure aims to reduce the discharge of pollutants from new development

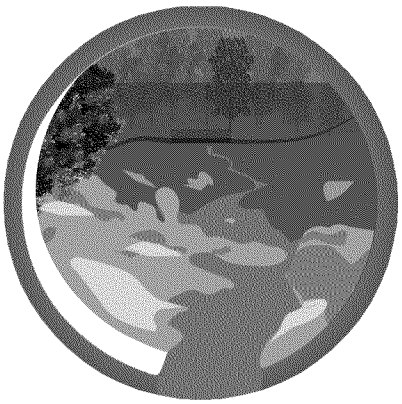
and redevelopment through the use of stormwater retention or treatment. This includes an update of local ordinances, assessment of local regulations impacting the creation of impervious cover, and identification of five municipal properties with the potential for modifications or retrofits to reduce runoff.

- Good Housekeeping for Municipal Operations. This measure requires operation and maintenance plans for parks and open space, municipal building (schools, police and fire), vehicle maintenance garages as well as for traditional infrastructure. It also requires transfer stations and public works yards to develop and implement specific plans to prevent and reduce pollution washed into stormwater runoff.

Early communication and coordination between municipal departments and/or boards will help foster compliance with the MS4 permit. Municipal budget season is fast approaching, and municipalities can begin estimating the cost to implement the new MS4 permit.

EPA has a cost estimator that municipalities can use to estimate MS4 program costs. This past fall, Mass DEP worked with Worcester Polytechnic Institute and found that EPA's cost calculator yielded realistic results when compared to actual costs. A link to the cost estimator can be found on EPA's Massachusetts Small MS4 General Permit homepage: https://www3.epa.gov/region1/npdes/stormwater/ma/ma-stormwater-program-cost-evaluation.pdf

Upcoming Assistance from EPA and Mass DEP



- Introduction to GPS for Stormwater Outfall Mapping," Webinar, May 11, 2017, 2-3:30https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5628248671651648523
- "Completing and Filing a 2016 MS4 Notice of Intent (NOI)," Recorded Webinar, Coming Soon!
- "A Walk-Through of the Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination (IDDE) 2016 MS4 Permit Requirements,"Recorded Webinar, Coming Soon!
- Stormwater Nutrient Management Optimization Tool (Opti-Tool) Training, Summer 2017
- Best Management Practices Accounting and Tracking Tool (BATT) Training, Summer 2017
- Soak Up the Rain Webinar Series and Customizable Public Outreach Tools: https://www.epa.gov/node/137811
- The MS4 permit requires each town to implement a public education and outreach program that reaches four different audiences and that includes messages that are most relevant to that community. Towns can click on the links below to download - and save - brochures, pamphlets and other materials and use those to help comply with Section 2.3.2.c of the MS4 permit: http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/water/wastewater/stormwater-outreach-materials-for-ms4-permit.html

Important Reminder: Annual Reports Were Due

For municipalities authorized under the 2003 MS4 permit, the Annual Report for the permits were due May 1, 2017

May 1 2017

Stormwater News is a collaborative effort of the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (Mass DEP) and the New England office of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Specific questions about the permit should be directed to:
EPA: tedder.newton@epa.gov or 617-918-1038
MA DEP: frederick.civian@state.ma.us or 617-292-5821

Suggestions for future topics, questions, assistance or requests to be added or removed from the MA Stormwater News mailing list can be sent to: StormwaterNewsMA@epa.gov