

NPDES Phase II Update

Protecting and Improving the watersheds within and around Genesee County

Visit us on the Web at www.ClearGeneseeWater.org

February 2007

I hope 2006 was good to you. We had many things happen last year and we want to update our communities on the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Phase II program for Genesee County. In an attempt to keep all the communities informed, we have developed this newsletter that will summarize where we are at in this process. So if you are new to this and have never heard of NPDES before or you have been involved from the beginning it is our goal that this update and future updates will be informative. Past updates will also be available on our website.

*Susanne Kubic, Drain Engineer
Genesee County Drain Commissioner's Office*

Why are we doing this?

The initial emphasis of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) under the Federal Clean Water Act of 1972 was to control discharges from industrial and large municipal wastewater treatment plants. Once these discharges were substantially under control, it became apparent that the combined impact of various smaller widespread (non-point) pollution sources was preventing many streams and receiving waters from meeting State & Federal water quality standards. These diffuse sources include failing septic systems, storm water runoff from residential lawns, agricultural fields, parking lots, roadways and construction sites, illegal dumping, and airborne deposition. Adequate control of all these point and non-point sources is necessary to restore and maintain the use of the nation's water resources.

Within Michigan, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), under EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) supervision, manages this program. The MDEQ is allowing local units of government to establish goals to improve water quality through development and implementation of a watershed management plan. In 2001, the communities were faced with meeting this unfunded mandate and expressed their preference for the County to take the lead. Genesee County designated the Drain Commissioner's Office as the county agency responsible to engage in watershed management activities and establish a system of stormwater management services under Act 342, Public Acts of Michigan, 1939, as amended ("Act 342"). Although not all of the communities located within Genesee County are regulated under the NPDES Phase II program, all the communities have signed a contract under Act 342 with the Genesee County Drain Commissioner's Office to provide stormwater management services.

Committee Structure

The **Advisory Committee** is the decision making body made up of those communities that have signed a contract. Each community has a representative, that should have been elected by their board that can vote on their communities behalf. This person also serves on one of the three subcommittees. The **Public Education and Participation Sub-committee** is responsible for the development of the Public Education Plan. The **Construction Standards and Practices Sub-committee** is responsible for establishing a unified review process and adopting a standard for best management practices. The **Monitoring and Mapping Sub-committee** is responsible for the methods that are going to be used to monitor the water for improvement or degradation. Each of the Sub-committee's have a work group where their representatives can work with stakeholders and the public to perform the necessary work that the Subcommittee Community members will then vote on. The decisions of the Subcommittees are reported back to the Advisory committee. If you are unclear which subcommittee your community serves on, see the following list.

Sub-Committee Members

Monitoring and Mapping

City of Fenton - Leslie Bland
City of Montrose - Frank Crosby
City of Mt. Morris - Jake LaFurgey
City of Swartz Creek - Tom Svrcek
Argentine Township - Bob Cole
Davison Township - Kurt Soper
Flushing Township - Andrew Trogot
Gaines Township - Paul Fortino
Mt. Morris Township - Phyllis Moo
Village of Gaines - Diane Nowak
Village of Lennon-Barbara BakerOmerod

New Construction Standards

City of Flushing - Dennis Bow
City of Grand Blanc - Randy Byrne
City of Linden - Dale Martin
Atlas Township - Paul Amman
Fenton Township - Bonnie Mathis
Genesee Township - Scott Streeter
Grand Blanc Township - Jeff Zittel
Montrose Twp - Mark Emmendorfer
Richfield Township - James Jacques
Village of Goodrich - Jakki Sidge

Public Education

City of Burton - Charles Smiley
City of Clio - William Kovi
City of Davison - Pete Auger
Clayton Township - Rod Shumaker
Flint Township - Sandra Wright
Forest Township - Valerie Pace
Mundy Township - Karen Bond
Thetford Township - Shelly Ayotte
Vienna Township - Bob Palmer
Village of Otisville - David Tatrow
Brandon Township - Lois Robbins

Above are the designated representatives for each Community. If the representative listed above is incorrect or if your community has to appoint a new representative to this committee, the Drain Office will need a written notice that your Board has changed their representative, with the attached minutes or resolution. Remember the person your Community has on the Surface Water Advisory Committee and the Subcommittee needs to be someone that can make decisions and vote on behalf of your Community.

Participation on a sub-committee is a **requirement** for each municipality, the individual(s) and the voting member has to be the same person that sits on the Surface Water Advisory Committee. It is understood that many municipal officials are spread very thin as far as their time commitments go, and there is an opportunity for either a resident or another elected or appointed official to be involved in the process on the workgroup. There are a number of municipalities that have delegated this responsibility to a resident who has a strong interest in the quality of our waterways, who then reports back to the governing body.

The **watershed workgroups** are made up of those communities that are physically located within that watershed. Since watersheds do not follow municipal lines many communities are located within more than 1 watershed. The Municipal officials may assign a staff member or a resident to represent their community. At this time all the watershed master plans except the Cass River have been submitted to the State. The Cass River is only 18.5 Mi² within Genesee County is made up of Headwaters. The requirements, such as a watershed plan for the Cass Watershed within the State permit are deferred at this time. Because of its size and limited watercourses it is expected that this area will be included in the Saginaw County watershed planning area.

Watershed plans are evolving documents that require periodic updates. The State permits have the watershed plans scheduled to be reviewed and updated every 2-years. During this revision period it will be necessary for the watershed workgroups to meet in regards to the revisions.

If you aren't sure which watershed(s) your municipality is located in, they are as follows:

Middle Flint River

City of Burton
City of Grand Blanc
Brandon Township
Elba Township
Gaines Township
Groveland Township
Independence Township
Richfield Township
Village of Ortonville
Oakland County

City of Davison
City of Swartz Creek
Clayton Township
Fenton Township
Genesee Township
Hadley Township
Mundy Township
Springfield Township
Genesee County

City of Fenton
Atlas Township
Davison Township
Flint Township
Grand Blanc Township
Holly Township
Oregon Township
Village of Goodrich
Lapeer County

Lower Flint River

City of Clio
City of Mt. Morris
Flint Township
Montrose Township
Vienna Township

City of Flushing
City of Swartz Creek
Flushing Township
Mt. Morris Township
Village of Lennon

City of Montrose
Clayton Township
Genesee Township
Thetford Township
Genesee County

Upper Flint River

City of Davison
Forest Township
Millington Township
Thetford Township
Watertown Township
Tuscola County

City of Mt. Morris
Genesee Township
Mt. Morris Township
Village of Otter Lake
Genesee County

Davison Township
Marathon Township
Richfield Township
Village of Otisville
Lapeer County

Shiawassee River

City of Fenton
Burns Township
Fenton Township
Rose Township
Village of Gaines
Oakland County

City of Linden
Clayton Township
Gaines Township
Tyrone Township
Genesee County
Shiawassee County

Argentine Township
Deerfield township
Holly Township
Village of Byron
Livingston County

Public Education Update

You may hear NPDES Phase II referred to as the “Our water Campaign”. One of the many things the Public Education workgroup has done this year. The logo was chosen and will be incorporated into correspondence or education on this program such as in the cover of this update. The groundwork was laid for implementation of the education program in 2006 with the help of the University of Michigan (U of M) Flint Center for Applied Environmental Research (CAER). The Public Education Program has a contract with CAER to help coordinate and develop the actions identified in the watershed plans and the public education plan.



The first step to a public education campaign was to brand our message with a logo.

Once the logo was approved to place on our product/information there were several things needed to lay the groundwork, such as:

- “Our Water” campaign *web-page*: www.ClearGeneseeWater.org please take a moment and visit.
- A *brochure* featuring the seven elements of storm water education. These have been printed and sent to each community to distribute as you see best.
- A *display booth* and education activities for public events. The booth was ready and used at this year’s Genesee County Fair to distribute education information. See Below for more information on the Fair.
- Write *articles* on the seven elements of storm water education and other identified subjects. 20 articles have been written and are being provided to each municipality with this update on a CD. If your municipality has a website or newsletter please use the provided articles.
- An educational *Microsoft PowerPoint presentation* that contains the appropriate branding for the “Our Water” campaign. This 60-slide presentation contains several modules that address various target audiences and topic areas. Audiences are generally separated into government and non-government. The slideshow is modular so it can be customized for time and interest of its audience.

Genesee County Fair

The Genesee County Fair was held in August of 2006 and lasted for 7 days. The PEP Committee set up a booth at the fair. The booth included a table and a freestanding banner outlining the seven simple steps to clean water.

The fair booth was staffed by municipal officials and staff from governments participating in the PEP program. 14 shifts of 2-3 volunteers from local governments talked to the public about keeping our water clean.

Giveaways included rain gages, tote bags, and water bottles were available as prizes for people who could answer a question on water quality correctly.

At the fair, staff interacted with 1,325 individuals. Each of these individuals received a copy of the information brochure, and a prize for participating in the event.



Photo: Display Booth 2006 Fair

Thank your to all the volunteers that made this possible

Contracts

When this program began it was expressed that whenever possible, we would partner with organizations or support existing programs that are already doing water quality and environmental education. With that in mind the Public Education Workgroup has contracted with non-profit groups to provide education services.

- The Public Education Committee has contracted with the Genesee Conservation District to support an existing program already in place, which is administered by a retired schoolteacher in school classrooms. The three-hour program meets Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) standards, and with little changes, would fulfill the NPDES Phase II requirements. Last year alone, the program reached 5,500 school-aged children in Genesee County.
- The Flint River Watershed Coalition is contracted to promote and provide presentations with the Microsoft PowerPoint "Our Water" campaign.
- The Public Education Committee has also contracted The Flint River Watershed Coalition to support their existing Project GREEN program. Although this program has educational elements for school age children, this program is being supported through the Monitoring and Mapping Subcommittee.
 - Global Rivers Environmental Education Network (GREEN) is a curriculum based, mentored program designed to propose solutions to local environmental problems using water quality testing. Monitoring and Mapping has supported this project because it would provide us water quality testing data that will be used in the monitoring.

Keep an eye out for our upcoming programs

Plans for 2007

Watershed Signs

Genesee County is in the planning stages to put up 24-inch by 30-inch watershed road signs at the break between the Shiawassee River and the Flint River Watersheds. The County is also planning to install stream / river identification signs to increase public awareness of the various rivers and their paths.

Catch Basin Stencils

The GCDC is planning to stencil catch basins while doing normal maintenance and repairs. The stencils will say "Dump no Waste - Drains to River". A volunteer program is developed to encourage volunteer groups to participate by placing stencils. Volunteers will distribute doorknob hangers that explain to residents why we are stenciling.

Local Watershed Maps

24-inch by 36-inch local watershed maps with Stormwater education will be offered to schools through Genesee Intermediate School District (GISD) to teachers who want them.

Monitoring and Mapping Update

In 2005 the Monitoring and Mapping Subcommittee had determined the methods that were going to be used to monitor the water quality. Because it is very hard to have accurate water quality monitoring, the committee decided on the following four ways to track water quality.

Benthic Monitoring

The Monitoring and Mapping Committee has also contracted The Flint River Watershed Coalition to perform Benthic Monitoring on 16 of their 32 sites. The FRWC has been monitoring the Flint River and its Tributaries for more than 5-years now. It is planned within the next year to expand the program with 2 new sites within the Shiawassee Watershed.

Basin Water Quality Monitoring

The Monitoring and Mapping Committee has also contracted The Flint River Watershed Coalition to support their existing Project GREEN program. Although this program has educational elements for school age children, this program is being supported through the Monitoring and Mapping Subcommittee.

Hot Spot Chemical Testing

Once an area is identified to have high pollution, professionals will go in to do more indepth chemical testing to track and ultimately remove/ reduce the pollutants from entering the watercourse.

Photo history of Stream Crossing

Using Drain office staff or combining with the Road Commission bridge photo program, it is the intent to photo at least 50% of stream crossings every 3 years. As a database of photos and reports are accumulated it can show if or how the watercourse changes over time.

Best Management Practices Update

The Best Management Practices Committee will be over the next couple of years responsible for developing several ordinances and templates to meet our watershed action plans and ultimately the SWPPIs. The first ordinance the committee will be working on is a countywide ordinance that will be developed to specify the general guidelines for Stormwater management in new developments. This ordinance will include a BMP manual and guidelines for long term maintenance of private storm systems.