

# Guidance for Preparing a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Initiative

## **Purpose of the Storm Water Pollution Prevention Initiative**

The Storm Water Pollution Initiative (SWPPI) facilitates the process of incorporating priority elements of the Watershed Management Plan, Illicit Connection Program and the Public Education Plan into a working program that specifically identifies the community's actions proposed to reduce the discharge of pollutants to the maximum extent practicable. The Initiative includes:

- The evaluation and implementation of pollution prevention and good housekeeping activities as derived by the local communities and approved by the State
- The evaluation and implementation of best management practices (BMP's) derived locally by the stakeholders and approved by the state to minimize the water quality impacts from development activities
- Other activities that the local community believes appropriate to reduce discharge of pollutants in storm water
- A description of the methods of assessing the progress and schedule of the SWPPI
- Retention of records

## **Communities Plan the SWPPI**

The development of the SWPPI by the local communities or public agency requesting coverage under the General Permit would establish a plan that sets specific actions and schedule to implement those portions of the Watershed Management Plan that the community felt would be most important to implement. To accomplish the SWPPI the community may wish to build upon the community's current storm water activities and storm water management plan. Then using the existing community structure, i.e., the local planning commission, fire department or department of public works, develop a community storm water activity plan with a schedule. The community would need to identify a "Designated Contact Person" as required in the Permit to coordinate with the other neighboring communities, the MDEQ and/or the EPA.

## **Example Activities for SWPPI**

The team would identify the specific activities and schedules that would be submitted to the MDEQ as the SWPPI. It could included actions such as:

- *Preparation and distribution of information to homeowners on how, when and where to dispose of household hazardous materials (and where not to dispose of such materials such as storm drains).*
- *Adoption and enforcement of local ordinances prohibiting the dumping or discharge of polluting materials into storm drains (and perhaps a hot line for citizens to report violations).*
- *Routine inspection of sanitary and storm drains at businesses and homes (required inspections at the time of sale).*
- *Stepped up requirements and enforcement of soil erosion and sedimentation control requirements at construction sites (site development plan approvals, soil erosion permits, site inspections, revised standards and practices).*
- *Improved accidental spill response approaches on public roads to prevent washing of spilled products or waste into storm drains.*
- *Improved road maintenance practices (street sweeping, and deicing practices).*
- *Implementation of BMPs for public open area maintenance (golf course chemical use, application of fertilizers and other lawn chemicals on parks, parkways, medians, etc.)*
- *Routine maintenance or application of filters at storm water catch basins.*
- *Community support of a "Rouge Friendly Neighborhood Program"*
- *Adoption of ordinances to require testing, maintenance and replacement of failed septic systems (at the time of sale, or within a specific time period).*

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- *Adoption and enforcement of new storm water ordinances for on-site retention at new or substantially modified commercial, industrial, multiple housing sites.*
- *Construction of storm water detention facilities to control flooding and/or erosion.*
- *Extension of sanitary sewer systems to replace failing or poorly functioning septic systems.*
- *Repair and replacement of aging sanitary sewer infrastructure to prevent failures, eliminate cross contamination, or add in line storage capacity.*
- *Retrofitting swales or other storm water management facilities at existing road drain- age ways, or designing such facilities on new road construction.*
- *Implementing bank stabilization programs, improved road crossings, or velocity reducers at storm water discharges to reduce erosion and sedimentation.*
- *Modifying structures, removing threatened trees, or other actions to reduce flooding due to channel blockage.*
- *Modify land use plans and development control ordinances (zoning) to encourage reduction of impermeable surfaces.*
- *Operation and maintenance of BMPs*

This list provides examples of some of the actions that the community may elect to implement as their SWPPI. The specific actions would likely be identified in their Watershed Management Plan based on the specific goals and objectives identified by the community. The concepts of how to coordinate and implement the SWPPI will be left entirely up to local community. The state however will have the authority to approve a proposed SWPPI.

### State Involvement

The MDEQ will be involved by having authority to approved proposed community SWPPI. The communities may wish to solicit reviews and comments throughout the planning and development phase the SWPPI by the MDEQ. The communities may wish to have the MDEQ representative from the District encompassing the area covered by the Watershed Management Plan to review the SWPPI.

### SWPPI Summary

To be effective it is envisioned that the development and implementation of the SWPPI will be locally designed, developed, funded and operated. It will be coordinated with local programming, supplementing and not duplicating programs already in existence. Membership will be based on voluntary participation through an institutional arrangement defined by the local communities, i.e. memorandum of understanding. Each community covered under the General Permit will have equal representation regardless of population. Local governments achieve regional representation by participating in the SWPPI, with majority of the decisions reached by consensus rather than by voting. By being inclusive of all communities within the permitted area under the General Permit, the local governments have the opportunity to pool their resources, protect their environment, and meet the requirements of the General Permit.

The SWPPI must be submitted for final approval 2-1/2 years after the Certificate of Coverage.

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