



## Stormwater Management Program (SWMP) Plan

Suffolk County, New York



**Be the Solution to Stormwater Pollution**

## Introduction

This document has been prepared as written documentation of the County's Phase II Stormwater Management Program (SWMP). Preparation of this document is required as part of the County's Phase II Stormwater Permit requirement (Permit No. GP-0-08-002).

The County's SWMP was developed to:

- 1) Reduce the discharge of pollutants from the County's Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) to the maximum extent practicable (MEP).
- 2) Protect and improve water quality.
- 3) Satisfy the appropriate water quality requirements of the Environmental Conservation Law and the Clean Water Act.

The Stormwater Management Program Plan describes efforts that have been made or will be made by Suffolk County under each minimum control measure (MCM). The six minimum control measures are:

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

Each minimum control measure and the goals associated with it are discussed below.

## Minimum Control Measure One: Public Education and Outreach

Suffolk County's stormwater education and outreach program focuses on changing and eliminating behaviors and practices that contribute to stormwater pollution. The County provides a variety of educational opportunities for County residents of all ages. The target audiences include County employees, residents, County legislators, civic groups, and businesses.

The County has taken the following actions to address general awareness of stormwater issues:

- Hired a full-time stormwater educator who developed outreach curricula for K-7 classes, children's summer camps, adult education, civic groups, and businesses. Additionally, four part-time educators stationed throughout Suffolk County assist with stormwater educational program delivery.
- Offer stormwater classes free of charge, which include: Be a Stormwater Superhero (grades k-4); Stormwater in Your Neighborhood (grades 4-7); Introduction to Stormwater (grades K-5); Meet Stormy Waters (play); and Teacher Workshop (Scope).
- An educational brochure titled "Where Does the Rain Go" was developed in both English and Spanish. This brochure is geared towards adults and gives a description of stormwater pollution, how stormwater pollution affects the environment, and ways to reduce stormwater pollution. This brochure is available in public libraries, legislative offices, Suffolk County government buildings, and Atlantis Marine World.
- A kid's activity page entitled "Stormwater Kid's Page" was developed. On one side of the activity page there is a crossword puzzle, hidden message, and connect the dots picture. On the other side, there is information on ways to reduce stormwater pollution. The activity page is distributed to youth after educational programs and at public events.
- A stormwater program mascot and logo were developed with the assistance of local youth and the Stormwater Citizen's Advisory Committee. Local youth were involved in naming the mascot. A naming contest took place where local youth submitted names for the mascot. The winning name was "Stormy."
- A comprehensive website was developed ([www.co.suffolk.ny.us/stormwater/](http://www.co.suffolk.ny.us/stormwater/)). It provides general information, details educational outreach efforts, has a document download section, has a kids page, lists best management practices (BMPs), lists contact information, publishes public meeting notices, and provides interesting links. It has received many updates over the years, including the addition of: pop-up links with definition of terms, new duck logo, home page to report an illicit discharge, more detailed descriptions of 6 MCM's, more links to related stormwater sites, a frequently asked question (FAQ) page, links to annual reports for public interest/comments, minutes from citizen advisory committee (CAC) meetings, a video public service announcement (PSA) on stormwater, downloadable PDFs of produced flyers and brochures, an updated kid's page, information on recycling centers, a map of 303(d) listed waterbodies, and pages

on best management practices (BMPs) for homeowners and various businesses (e.g. golf courses, restaurants, marinas and landscapers). The website includes over 60 pages with a wide range of information for the general public and county employees regarding stormwater pollution.

- Customized curb markers were designed and printed. Each curb marker lists the Program name and slogan (Suffolk County Stormwater Management Program, Don't Duck Your Responsibilities), as well as the Program mascot (14,000 curb markers). They contain a "No Dumping, Drains to Bay" message. In addition, since Lake Ronkonkoma was one of our target geographic areas, 400 of the markers have a message, which says "No Dumping, Drains to Lake." These curb markers are being placed on catch basins on County roads.
- Various newspaper articles were published to highlight stormwater pollution issues. The following articles were published:
  - a) "Stormwater: Slow the Flow", Peconic Estuary Program Talk / The Newsletter of the Peconic Estuary Program, Fall 2005.
  - b) "Don't Dump!" The Sag Harbor Express, December 2005.
  - c) "Sticker to Fight Pollution", The News-Review, March 2, 2006.
  - d) "Last stop, our waterways. Stormwater runoff education important for preservation", The Suffolk Times, November 16, 2006.
  - e) "Routing Runoff", Boating World Sound Addition, March 2008.

#### Current Permit Term Actions:

- Continue to offer free stormwater classes throughout Suffolk County.
- Update school presentation as needed depending on changes in pollutants or geographic areas of concern, as well as feedback on classes from students, teachers, or the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC).
- Continue marking storm drains with curb markers until all drains have been marked.
- Routinely update website and develop new web pages to address priority stormwater topics.

### Minimum Control Measure Two: Public Involvement/Participation

#### Completed Program Elements

- A stormwater Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC) was formed to provide input on the Stormwater Management Program. The committee is composed of various segments of the population from different areas of Long Island. Each member brings unique input or skills (e.g., there are seniors, a lawyer, a teacher, a high school student etc). The CAC assisted with the following tasks:
  - Design of program logo.
  - Design and content of the stormwater website.
  - Review of radio PSAs and printed materials.

- Yearly review of the Stormwater Annual Report
- A radio public service announcement (PSA) script on pet waste was created. The PSA aired a total of 201 times on two radio stations.
- Public meetings are held each year on the Stormwater Annual Report to provide the opportunity for public review and comment. The public meeting is held within the Suffolk County Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) monthly meeting. Questions and comments from the CEQ and the public are taken at this meeting.
- Our stormwater educator works with schools and individuals on stormwater related projects. For example, he worked with an Eagle Scout to develop a stormwater questionnaire. The questionnaire was completed by residents in the Eagle Scout's neighborhood.

#### Current Permit Term Elements

- Developed new radio PSA addressing pet waste.
- Continuing to work with schools, individuals, and groups on stormwater related projects.
- Continue to hold Stormwater CAC meetings as necessary.
- Hold public meeting on Stormwater Annual Report in April 2010.
- Public contacts established and posted on the webpage (Stormwater Management Officer, Education/Outreach Coordinator, and Stormwater Specialist).

#### Minimum Control Measure Three: Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination (IDDE)

##### Completed Program Elements

- All County owned properties and roads were inspected for outfall pipes. All outfalls pipes were geolocated and incorporated into a Geographic Information System (GIS), which spatially displays the location of each pipe. In addition to mapping the pipes, attribute data was collected for each pipe (type, material, dimensions, function, receiving waterbody, and pictures). 298 outfalls have been identified and mapped.
- 265 of the 298 outfalls have been monitored for dry weather flow on three occasions. Dry weather flow means that there is water or another substance discharging from the outfall pipe after 48 hours of dry weather conditions. Information obtained during these visits includes: flow amount, turbidity, color, odor, floatables, deposits, vegetative growth, and description, if applicable.
- 47 of the pipes monitored had dry weather flow. The water discharging from these pipes was sampled and tested. The water samples were tested for chlorine, surfactants, ammonia, potassium, coliforms, turbidity, salinity, temperature, pH, and color. In a few cases E. coli DNA source tracking was performed.

## Current Permit Term Elements

- Continue educating the public of the hazards associated with illegal discharges and the improper disposal of waste.
- Continue monitoring stormwater outfalls for illicit connections and illicit discharges.
- Continue sampling/testing water quality at stormwater outfalls with dry weather flow.
- Update outfall location and attribute information if any changes occur (construction etc.).
- Map any outfalls that have not been previously identified and any new outfalls constructed.
- Map preliminary boundaries of storm sewersheds.
- Have County attorney certify that the IDDE local law is equivalent to the NYSDEC Model Local Law to Prohibit Illicit Discharges, Activities, and Connections to Separate Storm Sewer Systems.
- Develop a septic system maintenance and inspection program in the Peconic Estuary TMDL watersheds.
- If funds are available, begin mapping storm sewer system.

## Minimum Control Measure Four: Construction Site Stormwater Runoff Control

### Completed Program Elements

- Template and sample Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plans (SWPPPs) have been developed and are available for projects conducted by SCDPW staff, as well as consultants. Staff has also been provided a list of State-approved BMPs to choose from.
- The SC Planning Commission guidebook was revised to incorporate Phase II permit requirements. The new language ensures that approval of a project will only be granted if the applicant complies with State requirements (e.g., writing a NOI and SWPPP).

### Current Program Elements

Continue the development, implementation, and enforcement of the County's Construction Site Stormwater Runoff Control Program through the following actions:

- Obtain a written directive from the person authorized to sign the NOI stating that updated mechanisms must be used and who (position(s)) is responsible for ensuring compliance with and enforcing the mechanisms for construction projects that occur on property owned, under easement to, within the right-of-way of, or under the maintenance jurisdiction by the permittee or within the maintenance jurisdiction of the MS4.

- Add provisions to construction contract documents to ensure that construction site operators have received erosion and sediment control training before they do work for the County. Additionally, in these provisions, the County will alert the Contractor to consequences of non-compliance with GP-0-10-001, which may include but are not limited to notifications, monetary penalties, and/or work stoppages.
- Outline procedures for receipt and follow up on complaints or other information submitted by the public regarding construction site stormwater runoff.
- Develop an inventory of active construction sites.
- Educate construction site operators, design engineers, municipal staff and other individuals to whom these regulations apply about the construction requirements, including the procedures for submission of SWPPPs, construction site inspections, and other procedures associated with control of construction stormwater.

### Minimum Control Measure Five: Post-Construction Stormwater Management

#### Completed Program Elements

- Suffolk County has a Water Quality Protection and Restoration Program (WQRP) in place. The WQRP provides funding to protect and restore water resources throughout the County.
- The County has completed remediation of over 70 direct discharges to surface waters emanating from County roads and properties, and has funded projects at over 40 other direct discharge locations, with over 20 other projects in the planning and pre-funding stages.

#### Current Program Elements

- Obtain a written directive from the person authorized to sign the NOI stating that updated mechanisms must be used and who is responsible for ensuring compliance.
- Continue to maintain County's inventory of post-construction stormwater management practices (SMPs).
- Use inventory database of SMPs to ensure adequate long-term operation and maintenance of management practices by trained staff, including assessment to ensure that the practices are performing properly.
- Develop and implement Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for a program to inspect development and re-development sites and to enforce sanctions.
- Develop retrofit program for Peconic TMDL watersheds. Establish procedures for site identification and project selection (SOP). Establish procedures for project

permitting, design, funding, construction and maintenance (SOP). Develop and submit approvable plans and schedules for completing retrofit projects.

### Minimum Control Measure Six: Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping for Municipal Operations

#### Completed Program Elements

- Developed a Stormwater Management Employee Training Program for Suffolk County Department of Public Works employees. This training addressed the Phase II stormwater regulations and the stormwater program in place, stormwater best management practices, handling and storage of hazardous materials, spill prevention and response, proper waste disposal, fleet maintenance best management practices, fleet parking area best management practices, and salt storage and application best management practices.
- A public education program is in place at County parks to encourage visitors to pick up pet-waste and to prohibit and discourage feeding of wildlife and waterfowl. The program involved installing signs discouraging the feeding of waterfowl, installing doggie waste stations (pet waste bags and garbage cans), installing signs reminding visitors to pick up pet waste and dispose of properly.
- In an effort to provide general stormwater education to Suffolk County employees, the “Where Does the Rain Go” brochure was mailed to all County employees through a direct mailing with paychecks.
- Suffolk County has a road litter clean-up program. DPW employees pick up litter on road medians and shoulders on a daily basis.
- The County received three new “Vactors”, which are vacuum trucks that are used to vacuum out catch basins.
- County maintained roads and bridges are swept according to an annual rotating shift schedule.
- All County-maintained parking lots are cleaned at least once a year. The County also maintains five (5) “park and ride” lots, which have been identified as problem areas for littering. As a result, they are cleaned at least three (3) times each year in the spring, summer and fall. An average of approximately 3,000 cubic yards of debris was removed annually from County-maintained roads, bridges and parking lots. An estimated total of 18,000 cubic yards of debris was removed during the first 6 years of the permit.
- Suffolk County has contracts with various recyclers to recycle waste oil and other vehicle fluids generated from general vehicle maintenance.
- Suffolk County upgraded the Commack salt storage yard in 2007.

#### Current Program Elements

- Developed a winter maintenance training program for the Department of Public Works. The training program was given to DPW management staff on November 2009.

- Modified our DPW presentation for Suffolk County Parks management staff, who will receive additional training on stormwater pollution prevention in the winter of 2010.
- Developing “Cornell Marine Moments” on homeowner best management practices (BMPs). The marine moments will be aired on public access television.
- Developed a radio PSA on pet waste pick up and disposal.
- Perform a self-assessment of all municipal operations to determine the sources of pollutants potentially generated by the permittee’s operations and facilities; and identify the municipal operations and facilities that will be addressed by the pollution prevention and good housekeeping program.
- Based on the self-assessment, determine the management practices, policies, and procedures that will be developed and implemented to reduce or prevent the discharge of potential pollutants.
- Prioritize pollution prevention and good housekeeping efforts based on geographic area, potential to improve water quality, facilities or operations most in need of modification or improvement, and permittee’s capabilities.
- Require third party entities performing contracted services to make necessary certification.