

BLAIR COUNTY MS4 WORKGROUP TIMELINE AND SUMMARY OF STORMWATER REGULATIONS AND THE MS4 PROGRAM

1937 - Pennsylvania's Clean Stream's Law is enacted. Sanitary and stormwater treatment are in their infancy.

1972 - EPA's Clean Water Act is enacted, a national level approach to cleaning up the navigable waterways of the United States (i.e. making the water: swimmable, fishable, drinkable). This mandate is either handled by the EPA or a State Delegated Agency. In Pennsylvania, this is DEP.

1990 - Phase I of the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) program is launched. Phase I requires medium and large cities or certain counties with populations of 100,000 or more to obtain a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit for their stormwater discharges.

1999 - Phase II of the MS4 program is launched. Phase II requires regulated small MS4s in urbanized areas, as well as small MS4s outside the urbanized areas that are designated by the permitting authority, to obtain NPDES permit coverage for their stormwater discharges.

March 10, 2003 - Permits for MS4 Phase 2 are issued in Pennsylvania. NPDES Permit first cycle began.

March 10, 2003 - March 9, 2004 (Year 1) - During permit cycle year 1, education and outreach and public participation programs were established based on the a protocol outlined by DEP and the outfalls for each MS4 were to be mapped. The Blair County Conservation District (BCCD) also carried out tasks that fulfilled the permit requirements for each MS4 relating to education and outreach. The BCCD also mapped most of the outfalls within the MS4 areas. Stormwater Management, Erosion and Sedimentation Control, and Operation and Maintenance sections of the Subdivision and Land Development Ordinances were updated to incorporate low impact development criteria, stricter earth disturbance regulations and more detailed operation and maintenance requirements. Operation and Maintenance procedures for municipal operations and stormwater control facilities were also established during the first permit year. Annual reports are submitted within three months of the end of each permit year (On or before June 9 of each year).

March 10, 2004 - March 9, 2008 (Years 2 - 5) - Plans established during permit year 1 were carried out and improved upon. All outfalls were screened for illicit discharges at least twice during dry weather conditions and action was taken to remove the illicit discharges found during the process.

September 8, 2007 - Permits are administratively extended for 12 months (March 10, 2008 - March 9, 2009).

August 23, 2008 - Permits are administratively extended for 12 months (March 10, 2009 - March 9, 2010).

August 15, 2009 - Permits are administratively extended for 12 months (March 10, 2010 - March 9, 2011).

April 2010 - The EPA performed file reviews for most of (possibly all) MS4's in the DEP Southcentral Region. EPA Orders were sent out to 79 MS4's as a result of the reviews, including many in Blair County. The deficiencies outlined in the orders were to be fulfilled by October 2010.

August 13, 2010 - Permits are administratively extended for 9 months (March 10, 2011 - December 9, 2011).

December 11, 2010 - Permits are administratively extended for 6 months (December 10, 2011 - June 9, 2012).

September 17, 2011 - Permits are administratively extended for 6 months (June 10, 2012 - March 15, 2013).

March 20, 2012 - First meeting for the Blair County MS4 Work Group was held in an effort to share municipal resources throughout the County. Each MS4 municipality made individual efforts toward submitting applications to renew their NPDES Permit while utilizing shared resources, insight, and advice established during meetings held by the Blair County MS4 Work Group during the months to follow.

July 16, 2012 - A joint public education meeting was held at the Logan Township building by the Blair County MS4 Work Group and solicited public attendance within all Blair County MS4 municipalities.

July/August 2012 - A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was executed between each MS4 municipality and the Blair County Conservation District. The MOU outlines the responsibilities the Blair County Conservation District will take on in fulfilling permit requirements for the next permit cycle. Language was included in the MOU's specific to Best Management Practices established in each MS4 municipality's Stormwater Management Program.

September 14, 2012 - The deadline for MS4 NPDES Permit renewal submission. Each MS4 municipality submitted NPDES Permit renewal applications, which included a Stormwater Management Program (modeled from a DEP document formerly known as the stormwater protocol); proposed revisions to the Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance specific to stormwater management operation and maintenance requirements; updated MS4 system maps (e.g. outfalls, storm sewer system, ditches, roadways, etc.); Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Strategy Plans; updated Operation and Maintenance Procedures for municipal operations and stormwater control facilities; among other items.

March 27, 2013 - Joint municipal training sessions were held at the Logan Township building for highway and maintenance crews from all Blair County municipalities.

March/April 2013 - The Blair County MS4 Work Group and the Blair County Conservation District began efforts to secure grant funding to assist in creating and implementing the TMDL Plans as well as executing or enhancing other BMP's outlined in the municipal Stormwater Management Programs. The sources of potential grant money include the Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF).

May 14, 2013 - A letter of intent was authored by the Blair County Planning Commission on behalf of the Blair County MS4 Group to apply for a CBF grant providing funding for consultant services to assist the Blair County MS4 municipalities in completing the NPDES Permit renewal and in writing and implementing the required TMDL Plans.

May 23, 2013 - The grant through the CBF was approved pending an executed agreement by all parties to begin work with the Center for Watershed Protection, the consultant hired by CBF. A scope of work was established and includes developing a TMDL plan for the TMDL streams within the MS4 urbanized areas and the Chesapeake Bay TMDL Plan and assisting the Blair County MS4 municipalities with the outstanding permit items required for NPDES Permit renewal.

May/June 2013 - Multiple phone conversations with DEP revealed significant deficiencies in the NPDES Permit renewal applications, the most significant items involving the TMDL Strategy Plans.

June 24, 2013 - An agreement was executed between CBF and the Blair County Planning Commission (on behalf of the Blair County MS4 Work Group) and work officially began with the Center for Watershed Protection.

August 12, 2013 - A meeting was held at DEP's Southcentral Regional Office in Harrisburg between DEP Southcentral, DEP Central Office, EPA, the Blair County MS4 Work Group, the Center for Watershed Protection, and the Pennsylvania State University. This meeting discussed the deficiencies in the NPDES Permit renewal applications and the steps necessary to address these deficiencies. Issues with the TMDL documents prepared by DEP and approved by EPA for the Little Juniata River and the Beaverdam Branch were also briefly discussed. Research into solutions to the TMDL issues to follow.

September 2013 - Major issues with the Little Juniata River TMDL were identified and added a substantial amount of work load to the Center for Watershed Protection's scope of work. Major issues were also discovered in the Beaverdam Branch TMDL. A testing/monitoring program is being performed by the Blair County Conservation District and City of Altoona, with additional assistance from the Altoona Water Authority to obtain real data on the Beaverdam Branch to refute the data published in the TMDL. This program is in addition to stream monitoring that is continuously performed by the Blair County Conservation District throughout the County.

October 2013 - NFWF officially awarded a \$421,424 grant, with \$437,180 match, to the Blair County Conservation District acting on behalf of the Blair County MS4 Work Group. This grant will focus on implementing several projects identified by the TMDL Plans to be approved with the NPDES Permit renewals as well as provide additional resources to assist the Blair County MS4 municipalities in executing and properly documenting many of the items identified in their Stormwater Management Programs. The grant will also provide funding for equipment for testing and monitoring the TMDL streams.

December 2-3, 2013 - Individuals from the Center for Watershed Protection and representatives from the Blair County MS4 Work Group toured the Blair County MS4 municipalities to identify sites for potential structural BMP's (e.g. stream restoration, stormwater detention facility retrofits, riparian buffer plantings, etc.) and create an inventory organized by priority based on a number of contributing factors.

December 4, 2013 - A Blair County MS4 Work Group Meeting was held at the Logan Township Building with Bryan Seipp of the Center for Watershed Protection to discuss the previous days' progress. Representatives from DEP were also in attendance to discuss the major issues with the TMDL's for the Little Juniata River and Beaverdam Branch and to discuss the current progress and next steps toward addressing the NPDES Permit renewal deficiencies.

June 2, 2014 - A draft TMDL Report/Plan was supplied to the Blair County MS4 Work Group by the Center for Watershed Protection for discussion, review, and comment.

June 3, 2014 - A Blair County MS4 Work Group Meeting was held with Bryan Seipp to discuss the draft TMDL Report.

June 2014 - October 2014 - Efforts were made to finalize the TMDL Report with the Center for Watershed Protection, including several Blair County MS4 Work Group Meetings and a conference call held on July 10 with DEP to discuss the next steps in the permit renewal process.

October 17, 2014 - The TMDL Report prepared by the Center for Watershed Protection was submitted to DEP for review and acceptance.

January 20, 2015 - The first of a series of conferences/trainings was held by the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay at the ABCD Corp. These trainings are being funded by National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) grant money obtained by the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay and future trainings will be held and will cover a variety of topics for a variety of audiences designed to meet the needs of the Blair County MS4's.

January 23, 2015 - A Blair County MS4 Work Group Meeting was held to discuss the current status of MS4 permits, on-going efforts to identify and implement projects to be funded by the NFWF grant being administered by the Blair County Conservation District, and scheduling municipal training.

February - April, 2015 - DEP held two different training seminars on various dates providing MS4 permit compliance and TMDL / Chesapeake Pollution Reduction Plan guidance. The trainings were attended by professional staff representing the Blair County MS4's.

March 19, 2015 - A training seminar was held by the Alliance for the Chesapeake to discuss "Advancing Regional & Financial Planning for Green Infrastructure Solutions to Stormwater management." Representatives of the MS4 municipalities in addition to the Conservation District and municipal engineers were in attendance.

March 30 - April 13, 2015 - Green infrastructure BMP's were installed at the Hollidaysburg YMCA site as the first of six implementation projects to be funded by the NFWF Grant obtained by the MS4 workgroup and administered by the Conservation District. Design was performed by Stiffler, McGraw & Associates, construction was performed by the Hollidaysburg Borough, and the plants were planted by Hollidaysburg High School students. Conservation District staff discussed the purpose of the BMP's and provided guidance for the planting.

April 29, 2015 - A workshop was held for MS4 Managers by the Alliance for the Chesapeake. Representatives of the MS4 municipalities in addition to the Conservation District and municipal engineers were in attendance.

May 4, 2015 - A Blair County MS4 Work Group Meeting was held to discuss current activities and permit compliance status.

May 18-26, 2015 - The Environmental Finance Center held conference calls with each MS4 municipality to gather information on each community's stormwater management program and permit status. The Environmental Finance Center will follow up with in-person meetings with each municipality to discuss recommendations moving forward. The meetings will be held the beginning of July.

Note: Throughout much of the timeline leading up to and following submission of the NPDES Permit renewal applications, regular meetings were being held by the Blair County MS4 Work Group, or individuals within the Group, and substantial effort was being made to obtain or generate the necessary documents and plans to be submitted to DEP and to assist the Center for Watershed Protection in their efforts to revise DEP's TMDL's and develop TMDL Strategy Plans for both the Little Juniata River and the Beaverdam Branch watersheds.

Additionally, the grant funding currently secured and listed above are being utilized to maintain compliance with the existing MS4 NPDES permits. The continued efforts by the Blair County MS4 Work Group in securing and utilizing these funding sources have allowed each municipality to make significant strides towards permit renewal and development of the TMDL plans with minimal out-of-pocket costs. Award of these grants is largely attributed to this inter-municipal co-operation. In fact, the inter-municipal co-operation and testing/monitoring initiatives have been recognized in several stormwater conferences and by various non-profit organizations which

should provide opportunities for the Work Group to secure additional grant funding in the future.