



MDEQ

June 13 / October 1 meetings

On June 13 and October 1 the new permit advisory group met with the MDEQ to go over the new 2013-2017 permit. The biggest change for Genesee County Communities and Nested Jurisdictions is there is no more watershed permits. All new permits issued will be individual permits. Communities can still work together and combine services, but each permit will be custom to each permittee. Instead of filling out a brief application and then spelling out the details of your Certificate of Coverage (COC) in your Storm Water Pollution Prevention Initiative (SWPPI), now all those details will have to be included in the application process so each community permit can be customized. Recognizing that the application process will be much more labor intensive, the MDEQ has decided to phase in the permits over several years. Instead of applying for the new 2013 permit this year, the Flint River Watershed area will go through the application / permit process in 2014-15. This also means that your community will continue to be covered under the 2003 permit until the new permit takes effect some time in 2015.

SWPPI

On June 11, 2012 the MDEQ sent the Drain office a letter with concerns and comments on the County's SWPPI that was resubmitted in Oct 2011. Our office and Tetra Tech met with Stephanie Kammer of the MDEQ and went over those concerns. Based on the letter and our meeting the County's SWPPI was revised and resubmitted in July. Once the County's SWPPI has been accepted, the local communities can expect to see a letter from the MDEQ to revise their SWPPI. Sue from the Drain Commissioner's Office will be available to assist with any SWPPI related concerns.

Annual Report

On July 27, 2012 the MDEQ sent out a letter to permittees notifying them that effective October 1, 2012, the progress report for the NPDES PH II permit will change from annual to biennial (every other year). This is often referred to as the annual report. For continuity the Drain Commissioner's Office sent out questionnaires this October to the Communities and Nested Jurisdictions to report on their activities from Oct 1, 2011 to September 30, 2012. Permittees were requested to fill out the questionnaire and keep it for submission in 2013. Nested Jurisdictions were requested to fill out the questionnaire and submit it to the Drain Commissioner's Office. Next fall another annual questionnaire will be sent out and both this years and next's will then be submitted together to the State as the biennial progress report.

Public Education

Public Education Booth

Once again in August, we spent the week at the County Fair educating the public on water quality. Thank you to all the community volunteers that took a shift and help educate. This year we made a new arrangement with the Conservation district to provide staff to work the education booth both at the Fair and at other events. It has worked out great. Last year we were able to speak to 662 people, but with the beautiful weather and the additional staff to support the volunteers we were able to double that number and speak to over 1334 people at the fair. Also this fall we had a presence at the CRIM races for the first time and have had the booth at both the Flint and Grand Blanc Farmers Markets.

Riparian Meetings

Once again we offered free workshops to riparian land owners. For those residents that live on the water, specifically this year those who live on the Swartz Creek, Misteguay Creek or the Lower Flint River, they may have different concerns than residents that do not live on the water. Over the years we have spoken to many riparian landowners that are concerned about bank erosion, nuisance animals such as beavers and their dams, and more recently garbage and debris stockpiling in the water. These workshops have provided us the opportunity to meet with residents in small groups and discuss their specific concerns, and possible solutions.

IDEP

As we close on the 2011-12 fiscal year we have completed a significant portion of the IDEP dry weather screening. All of the Phase II permittees, except those listed below have had their outfalls mapped and dry weather screened. If an Illicit connection is confirmed a letter is sent to all affected parties, the property owner, the local community, the State of Michigan DEQ, and any other enforcement agencies such as the Health Department. Once the illicit connection is eliminated, the Drain Commissioner's Office will follow up to confirm the illicit connection has been eliminated.

An Illicit connection or an isolated dumping is often found through methods other than dry weather screening. Such as a resident can call reporting an incident, or an employee can witness a potential illicit connection while out in the field for another reason. Once you are notified of a potential illicit connection, a record must be kept even if you are not the enforcing authority. The monitoring and Mapping Subcommittee has created a spill notification form for your convenience. The form can be found on our website at the following address http://www.gcdcswm.com/PhaseII/Permit_Forms/Permit_Form.htm or in the IDEP plan as an attachment. These records should be kept, so you can include them in your annual report.

Due to the number of outfalls involved, not all Genesee County and City of Burton outfalls have been mapped and dry weather screened.

As part of the IDEP mapping, all the nested jurisdictions under Genesee County have been sent a letter this month requesting maps of their storm sewer systems. Starting this fall the County through Tetra Tech will be scheduling on site physical inspections for nested jurisdictions to review the storm operation and maintenance procedures. This program will not affect Local communities.