



## SASWA Progress Report for 2012



### History of the SASWA

In 1987, Congress amended the Clean Water Act (CWA) to require implementation of a national program for addressing storm water discharges from municipalities, industry and construction sites. The program was designed in two phases. **Phase I** required NPDES permits for storm water discharge from sources including **medium** and **large** Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4s) serving populations of 100,000 or more and several categories of industrial activity, including construction activity that disturbs five or more acres of land. **Phase II** of the storm water program requires permits for storm water discharges from specific **small** municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4s) serving populations of 50,000 or more, and construction activity generally disturbing between 1 and 5 acres.

The term MS4 does not solely refer to municipally owned storm sewer systems but has a much broader application that can include, in addition to local jurisdictions; State departments of transportation, universities, local sewer districts, hospitals, school districts, military bases, and prisons. An MS4 also is not always just a system of underground pipes. It can include roads with drainage systems, gutters, swales, open drains and ditches.

Based upon the 2000 Census information and other regulations of this act as implemented in Michigan, the following 16 municipalities, county agencies, and educational institutions in Saginaw County were required to secure and maintain a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit by March 10, 2003.

Buena Vista Charter Township & Schools  
Bridgeport Charter Township  
Bridgeport Spaulding Schools  
Carrollton Township & Schools  
City of Zilwaukee  
Kochville Township  
Saginaw Valley State University  
Tittabawassee Township

Saginaw County Public Works Department  
City of Saginaw  
Saginaw Charter Township  
Saginaw Township Community Schools  
Saginaw County Road Commission  
Thomas Township  
Swan Valley School District  
Saginaw Intermediate School District

State agencies in Saginaw County, such as the Michigan Department of Transportation and Department of Corrections obtained permits through their parent organizations and have permits in place for their locations throughout the state.

The purpose of the Saginaw Area Storm Water Authority (SASWA) is to provide guidance to participating members and provide a method to share in some of the associated costs. Each participating community is responsible for costs that do not benefit the Authority as a whole. The authority was formed under Public Act 230 of 1955 and was modeled after the Mid-Michigan Waste Authority and Northwest Utilities Authority.

**For additional information about the SASWA and its programs go to our website at:**

[www.saswa.org](http://www.saswa.org)

## **2012 Progress Report**

The Saginaw Area Storm Water Authority (SASWA) held six General Board Meetings and six Executive Board Meetings in 2012. The NPDES Permit has finally been released by the MDEQ. The SASWA is still working under the original 2003 permit, but the local MDEQ regional office is accepting the portions of the 2008 permit that the SASWA has implemented. This was done to keep plans and reports that the SASWA has completed under the 2008 permit in effect and to keep our forward momentum in place. Specifically, the revisions completed to the Public Education Plan, Public Participation Plan, Illicit Discharge Elimination Plan, Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan and development of the Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plans for specific members have been acknowledged and approved. These plans are available on the SASWA web site at: [www.saswa.org](http://www.saswa.org)

The MDEQ held stakeholder two meetings in Lansing, June 13, 2012 and July 23, 2012 of which, the SASWA had representation present as parts of the new permit were explained. The new permit is finally complete and being implemented starting in 2013. The implementation of the permit application phase is different than in past years. Instead of all 300+ permittees applying all at once, permittees will be applying based on the watershed their municipality or county is located in. The watersheds in Michigan have been divided into 5 groups and the permits are for 5 year intervals. So theoretically, only 60 permits will be applied for each watershed year. This will help the MDEQ staff in administering the program with their limited resources.

We have already negotiated with the MDEQ district office and have decided that we will do all of the SASWA permits in one year, 2016. This means we will need to begin preparing for this permit application over the next two years in order to spread the cost of the application out over a period of time. The SASWA consultant will be working with clients in other watershed areas as they prepare their permit applications obtaining experience in this new process before it has to be done here for the SASWA. This should result in a streamlining of the application process and potentially save funds.

### **Annual MDEQ Audits of SASWA Members**

Two members of the SASWA were audited by the MDEQ in 2012; they were; City of Saginaw on April 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, 2012; and Saginaw Intermediate School District on April 11, 2012. The audits for storm water permit compliance were from 8 to 16 hours in duration, during which the MDEQ reviewed practices by each of the members that related to storm water. Each of these audits resulted in a letter from the regional MDEQ office that had to be answered by a specified date. For the most part the letters were positive in nature and one violation was noted. There were recommendations from the MDEQ to enhance the implementation of certain plans, most notably the Public Education Plan related to quantification of the education of the public. The SASWA has been gathering survey data to develop this quantification of the effectiveness of the public education plan. This has been provided to the MDEQ already.

The audit also brought out the recommendation to continue with the education of the SASWA member's maintenance and public services staff. The SASWA has completed another training session with the Saginaw County Road Commission in which over 50 field staff was trained in storm water pollution prevention and good housekeeping practices. The City of Saginaw had 51 staff members trained in pollution prevention and good housekeeping procedures related to storm water runoff and illicit connections and spill reporting in April of 2012. The participants in the 4.5 hour training session took a pre-test and post-test to measure the effectiveness of the training and the overall scores improved by an average of 20% after the training was completed. The Saginaw ISD had another training session to add to past training to upgrade them for their work environment. Again, feedback from all participants was positive and they felt the training was useful for their job settings. This training helps municipal and