



SASWA Progress Report for 2015



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 Urbanized Area (UA) 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
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

2015 Progress Report

The Saginaw Area Storm Water Authority (SASWA) held five General Board Meetings and five Executive Board Meetings in 2015. The new NPDES Individual MS4 Permit is slowly being implemented by the MDEQ. The SASWA completed the application for all members and submitted for the new individual permit on April 1, 2015. The new permit application is still in the review process by the MDEQ and when they have finished the review process they will provide the Permit language to each permittee for their review. The MDEQ will "Public Notice" the permit for a period of 20 days for public comment. After the public notice period is complete they will then issue a permit to each member of the SASWA. The permit will be good for 5 years.

The SASWA has applied for a \$92,000 SAW Grant to help with the application process. The grant is scheduled for 2018 and we will determine what costs from this NDPEs Permit application process we can use to re-capture costs from the original permit application. If we can do this within the appropriation time frame we may be able to substantially reduce the annual SASWA budget for at least one or two years.

The SASWA has passed a new budget for 2016 which is lower than the 2015 budget year by \$3,000.00.

The SASWA still maintains a presence on the MDEQ's NPDES Implementation Team which oversees the administration of the new Individual NPDES permits. The SASWA is the only authority represented on the committee. The consultant also represents numerous other municipal and county clients around Michigan to this group.

Annual MDEQ Audits of SASWA Members

There were no MDEQ Audits of SASWA Members in 2015 and the MDEQ has stated they will use the Permit Application Review process as a form of auditing members of the SASWA. The MDEQ has also implemented a new limited audit process which only looks at two of the plans, for example they will only audit a permittee's public education plan and pollution prevention / good housekeeping plan.

Public Education

We have been active with the use of the SASWA table top display in township halls and at school districts in 2015. Many communities signed up for the display. If you are interested in hosting this display at events or in your township offices, contact your SASWA representative and they will coordinate this stormwater educational opportunity with the consultant.

Waste Management Staff Training

The SASWA has reached out to Waste Management to address concerns regarding a potential stormwater pollution issue. The SASWA has offered to train the Waste Management staff to recognize spills and prevent situations that may cause pollutants to enter the storm systems. Waste Management will be placing spill kits on their vehicles and their staff will be trained in the use of these kits to prevent stormwater pollution in the case of an accidental spill or discharge. Training is scheduled for January, 2016.

SASWA Web Site

The SASWA will be updating its website in 2016, in 2015 the consultant did an inventory of each page of the web site to identify where updates must occur. This work will occur in the late spring of 2016.

Community Newsletters

If you have a community newsletter, the SASWA would like to contribute articles to it to help meet Public Education goals in 2016. The Saginaw County Road Commission is still pro-active in getting articles into their newsletter.

New Education Brochures

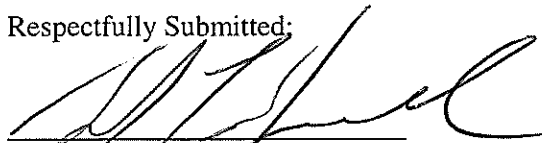
In 2016, the SASWA will begin a mailing program for the following two brochures: one for restaurants and another for fueling stations and automotive repair shops to help prevent oils, grease and hydrocarbons from entering into our storm drainage systems. These brochures will be mailed to local area businesses. We had hoped to implement this in 2015, however, budget constraints did not allow for this expense as the permit application process was the primary concern.

Pollution Prevention and Good Housekeeping efforts

Another very successful clean-up effort that removed a substantial amount of sediment from city, county and township paved roads and roadside storm sewers was reported by the Saginaw County Road Commission, City of Saginaw and others. In 2015 the workers from the Road Commission removed 332 cubic yards (560 tons) of sediment with their street sweeping program. The City of Saginaw continues its programs of cleaning materials from the restrictor plates in the street catchbasins, street sweeping program and catch basin cleaning programs. Typically, these amounts are pretty sizable and we will have numbers for next year's report. This sediment removed usually has pollutants attached to it such as heavy metals like lead, chromium, zinc, aluminum and nutrients such as phosphorus, nitrogen and petroleum compounds. These materials have an effect on our water resources. For example, the 560 tons of sediment are estimated to contain 476 pounds of Phosphorus. Phosphorus is a limiting nutrient in freshwater, so if it becomes available in freshwater, aquatic plants and algae grow at a very rapid rate. One pound of phosphorus can yield up to 10,000 pounds of algae and aquatic vegetation. This algae and aquatic vegetation, when it dies off, is the source of organic muck in lakes and rivers. Most of this goes out to Saginaw Bay. **The street sweeping program of the Road Commission of Saginaw County has helped eliminate the growth of over 2,380 tons of algae and nuisance aquatic plants in our region's water resources, ultimately the Saginaw Bay.** These efforts are helping us preserve our water resources. This also helps reduce the probability of having harmful algal blooms in Saginaw Bay.

The SASWA had six reports for spills or illicit discharges reported for 2015. The six spills/illicit discharges were investigated.

Respectfully Submitted:



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Chair - SASWA