



## SASWA Progress Report for 2013



### 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 & 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)

## **2013 Progress Report**

The Saginaw Area Storm Water Authority (SASWA) held six General Board Meetings and six Executive Board Meetings in 2013. The new NPDES Permit is slowly being implemented by the MDEQ. The SASWA is still working under the original 2003 permit until we make an application for a new permit in 2015, which will be submitted in April of 2016.

The MDEQ held a meeting in Mundy Township, Genesee County, November 6, 2013 and the SASWA had representation present as parts of the new permit application process were explained. The application process involves answering 87 questions for the permittee. The MDEQ will be asking for specific items from each permittee that relate to storm water or standard operating procedures to protect storm water from daily activities of maintenance personnel and other staff. It also asks how the community regulates storm water for development, re-development in the private sector and also in the municipality. In reviewing the questions, we have determined that some storm water management plans / ordinances will need minor revisions. These revisions will be done for all applicable members before the 2016 submittal date. Spicer Group is already completing permit applications for other counties and negotiating permits with MDEQ and will be well versed in the application process before the SASWA members need to apply.

The SASWA will be budgeting to address the increase in work necessary to complete the permit applications for all members and will keep the cost as low as possible for all members, but anticipate slightly higher annual costs for the next two years.

The SASWA has applied for a \$92,000 SAW Grant to help with the application process and if the grant comes through then there should be no annual budget increases.

The SASWA also 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.

## **2010 Census Data Changes Urbanized Area in Saginaw County**

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.

In 2013, the 2010 Census data was developed into the new Urbanized Area (UA) for Saginaw. Based on this new population data there is a new Urbanized Area with 50,000 or more population that will now have to come under the NPDES Phase II storm water permit system, that is the Midland Urbanized Area. Also, new areas in Saginaw were added to the UA, those added areas will affect our SASWA members in the following ways:

1. Bridgeport-Spaulding School District will now have to develop a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) for its bus maintenance facility, as this area is now in an UA. This document is being put together now.
2. Freeland Public Schools will now have to come in to compliance with NPDES Storm Water Rules also. They have opted to become a nested jurisdiction under Tittabawassee Township's permit. Freeland Public Schools bus maintenance facility will have to have a SWPPP developed for its site.

3. MBS Airport is now in the UA and if they wish may join the SASWA. They have not been contacted by the MDEQ at this time regarding compliance with the NPDES Storm Water Permit. The SASWA has extended an invitation to attend meetings to determine if they wish to join the authority.
4. The new population data has caused annual permit fees for some members to increase based on the 2010 census data. The city of Saginaw had its annual permit fee raised from \$1,000 to \$5,000 as the fee is population based and the MDEQ permit division had the population listed at just over 51,000. The City of Saginaw and Spicer Group provided documentation to the MDEQ Permits Section showing that only 2,398 residents are served by a municipal separated storm sewer system (MS4), therefore the fee should only be \$1,000.00.

**Annual MDEQ Audits of SASWA Members**

There were no MDEQ Audits of SASWA Members in 2013 and we have not heard of any audits for 2014 yet. However, that does not mean they won't occur in 2014. So all members that have not been audited should make sure they are ready for an audit. The following SASWA members have not had an MDEQ audit yet:

***The SASWA members to be audited are:***

Buena Vista Charter Township	Bridgeport Charter Township
Bridgeport Spaulding Schools	Carrollton Township and Schools
Saginaw County Public Works	Kochville Township
Saginaw Valley State University	Thomas Township
Tittabawassee Township	Zilwaukee, City of
Saginaw Township Community Schools	

The SASWA and its consultant will be working with members to help them get into compliance before the audits occur. Understand that one of these audits takes municipal and educational staff a considerable amount of time to prepare for, take part in and then respond to the review letter. The consultant will be present during the audit; will work with staff to prepare for the audit and will prepare the audit response letter for your staff.

In preparation for this audit, municipalities need to have certain plans, ordinances, or regulatory procedures in place. One such item is a Post Construction Control Procedure, also known as a Storm Water Management Plan. This plan must be in place before you apply for a new NPDES Permit also. Communities that have these in place now are:

Saginaw Charter Township	Thomas Township
Carrollton Township	Kochville Township
Tittabawassee Township (pending)	City of Saginaw

If your municipality does not have this document in place please contact the SASWA consultant soon. The SASWA developed a generic plan that can be adopted for your municipality. Educational institutions and the County do not need this document.

**Public Education**

We hope to use the SASWA table top display in township halls and at community events in 2014. 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. The

SASWA is always looking for an opportunity to educate the public on protecting our water resources in our region and education is the simplest way to stop pollution from entering our rivers and the Saginaw Bay.

#### SASWA Web Site

The SASWA redesigned its web site home page to provide a better look and provide better navigation on the site. There are two new features present, the first is "What's My Watershed?", which is explained below under the survey results. The other feature is for *Stormwater Design Guidelines - Post Construction Controls*. If you click on the button "More" you will find the design guidelines for communities in Saginaw County that have adopted these design requirements for new and redevelopment in their communities. Over the past year many developers and engineering firms have been using this site to obtain the local development guidelines for the storm water portion of Site Plan Reviews in a community. The feedback from developers, engineers and architects has been positive about having one location to go and obtain the design guidelines.

#### Community Newsletters

If you have a community newsletter the SASWA would like to contribute articles to it to help meet Public Education goals in 2014. We need to do more to educate the public and this is one aspect that does not cost a lot of money. The more activity in this area of public education will save the SASWA funds and help keep our budget down.

#### Education Survey Results

Survey results have shown that very few people in Saginaw know they live in a watershed. In fact everyone lives in a watershed. To help educate people the SASWA developed a "What's My Watershed?" feature on its web site's home page. Click on the button and it takes you to a map of the watershed where you can zoom in and find your home and click in it and the name of the watershed you live in will pop up.

#### New Education Brochures

In 2014 the SASWA will develop two brochures, one for restaurants and one for fueling stations and automotive repair shops to help prevent oils, grease and hydrocarbons from entering into our storm drainage systems.

#### 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 2013 the workers from the Road Commission removed 304 cubic yards of sediment and cleaned 677 catch basins. The City of Saginaw removed 340 cubic yards of sediment in their restrictor / catchbasin inlet cleaning program. A total of 956 Tons of sediment was removed from storm drains in the roads. This sediment removed usually has pollutants attached to it such as heavy metals like lead, chromium, zinc, aluminum and nutrients such as phosphorus and nitrogen and petroleum compounds. These materials have an effect on our water resources. For example, the 956 Tons of sediment are estimated to contain 813 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 and City of Saginaw has helped eliminate the growth of over 4,063 tons of algae and nuisance aquatic plants in our region's**

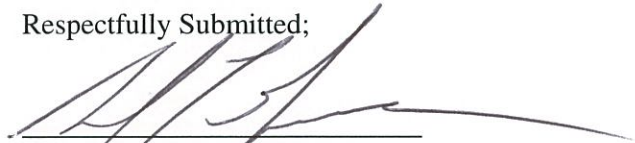
**water resources, ultimately the Saginaw Bay.** These efforts are helping us preserve our water resources.

The SASWA had two spills and one illicit connection reported for 2013. The illicit connection was reported to the Saginaw County Health Department for follow up. The two spills were investigated. On sources of a spill in the McCarty Road Tile Drain was identified and the parties involved were advised on the inappropriateness of the discharge. The second spill fortunately went to the sanitary system, which prevented a potentially costly clean up and health issue.

The Progress Report for the SASWA will need to be completed for 2013/2014 and submitted by July 1, to the MDEQ. Your representative to the SASWA can get a copy of past reports from the SASWA website. The past reports are available at:

[http://www.saswa.org/restricted/member\\_resources.php](http://www.saswa.org/restricted/member_resources.php)

Respectfully Submitted;



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Chair - SASWA