



SASWA Progress Report for 2014



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

2014 Progress Report

The Saginaw Area Storm Water Authority (SASWA) held six General Board Meetings and six Executive Board Meetings in 2014. 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 on April 1, 2015. The new permit application will be reviewed by the MDEQ and when they have finished the review process they will provide the Permit language to each permittee for their review. Then 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 look at any public comments and determine validity or applicability to the permittee and then issue a permit. The permit will be good for 5 years.

The MDEQ held a meeting in Troy, Michigan, December 8, 2014 and the SASWA had representation present as parts of the new permit application process were explained. The application process involves answering 88 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 and/or 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 October 1, 2015 date for items that may take additional time to implement or pass. Spicer Group is already completing permit applications for other counties, municipalities, and has or is in the process of negotiating permits with MDEQ.

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. 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 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 2014 and we have not heard of any audits for 2015 yet. However, that does not mean they won't occur in 2015. At the December 2014 Annual Meeting of the SASWA, the MDEQ advised they are on a rotation schedule of 7 years for the audit process, so those audited will have a while before they see another audit. However, those members who have not been audited should make sure they are ready for an audit from the State. The following SASWA members have not had an MDEQ audit yet:

Buena Vista Charter Township
Bridgeport Spaulding Schools
Saginaw County Public Works
Saginaw Valley State University
Tittabawassee Township
Saginaw Township Community Schools

Bridgeport Charter Township
Carrollton Township and Schools
Kochville Township
Thomas Township
Zilwaukee, City of

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 the DEQ staff.

Public Education

We have been active with the use of the SASWA table top display in township halls and at school districts in 2014. Many communities have 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.

SASWA Web Site

As more development continues in the townships and municipalities of Saginaw County we are beginning to see more “visits” to the SASWA website specifically for downloading the documents on Storm Water Design guidelines (Post Construction Controls). The feedback we have gotten from out of the area design engineers has been positive. They like going to one site to find information on storm water design.

Community Newsletters

If you have a community newsletter, the SASWA would like to contribute articles to it to help meet Public Education goals in 2015. The Saginaw County Road Commission has been very pro-active in getting articles into their newsletter.

New Education Brochures

In 2015, 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.

Post Construction Controls

Post Construction Controls have been developed for five of the municipalities in Saginaw County. The Saginaw County Public Works Commissioner will be working with the SASWA to develop Post Construction Controls that can be adopted by the remaining communities to meet their obligations for the new MS4 Permit application. The communities adopting these storm water design standards will need to pass a resolution to formally adopt the standards to meet the new permit requirements. The SASWA will be working with those communities choosing this option in the near future. Aspects of these design standards will have water quality standards developed that will need compliance at the local level that cannot be provided by the county. These items will be provided to the municipalities.

Pollution Prevention and Good Housekeeping efforts

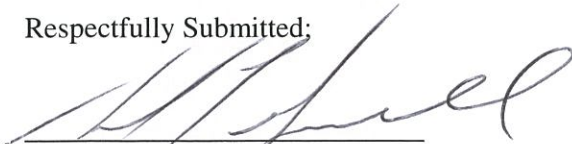
Another very successful clean-up effort that removed a substantial amount of sediment from city, county and township paved roads and roadside storm sewers was reported by the Saginaw County Road Commission, City of Saginaw and others. In 2014 the workers from the Road Commission removed 80.5 cubic yards of sediment and cleaned 523 catch basins and removed 227 cubic yards 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 520 tons of sediment are estimated to contain 440 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 2,200 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 such as what occurred in Lake Erie in the summer of 2014 where communities could not use the Lake as a source of drinking water for a time span.

The SASWA had three reports for spills or illicit discharges reported for 2014. The three spills/illicit discharges were investigated. One source was a construction site discharge of sediment into a county drain. The county drain was tapped without a permit and the construction was begun without proper review of the site plans. The site was shut down within 24 hours and all construction ceased until the plans were reviewed for compliance with the stormwater ordinance in that township. A permit to tap into the county drain was received and the site could discharge stormwater again. The Saginaw County Public Works Commissioner's engineer monitored the site throughout the summer for soil erosion concerns and Saginaw Township's engineer monitored the construction. Second, Saginaw Valley State University's employees reported an illicit discharge which resulted in the discharge of a weak heating system rust inhibitor into a county drain. This was rectified by the university quickly and education of the contractors involved occurred. Next, Saginaw Charter Township employees reported an illicit discharge of carpet cleaning tank residue into storm drains in the township. Further investigation revealed that the catchbasins were in the combined sewer district and the wastewater would be cleaned before discharge. A township DPS manager approached the resident and explained to him that he should not continue this activity as it will create problems in the future. The person found an alternate site to clean out his tanks that meets discharge criteria.

The Progress Report for the SASWA was completed for 2013/2014 and submitted by July 1, 2014 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

Respectfully Submitted;



Herbert G. "Sonny" Grunwell
Chair - SASWA