



## SASWA PROGRESS REPORT FOR 2022

### 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 National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (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 one and five acres.

The term MS4 does not solely refer to municipally owned storm sewer systems, but rather 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. In 2012 the State of Michigan began defining an MS4 as pipe systems, surface conveyance systems and roadside drainage. Open county or agricultural drains are considered “waters of the state”.

Based upon the 2000 Census Bureau information, the following municipalities in Saginaw County automatically were designated as an Urban Area, and therefore were required to secure a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit by March 10, 2003.

Buena Vista Charter Township  
Bridgeport Charter Township  
Saginaw Charter Township  
Spaulding Township  
Carrollton Township  
City of Zilwaukee  
Thomas Township

Saginaw County Public Works Commissioner  
City of Saginaw  
Tittabawassee Township  
Kochville Township  
James Township  
Saginaw County Road Commission

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. Birch Run Township, part of the Flint Urbanized Area, opted to not join the Saginaw Area Storm Water Authority (SASWA).

School districts located within the Urbanized Areas were also required to obtain an NPDES permit by March 10, 2003. The school districts that were located within the UA are as follows:

City of Saginaw Schools  
Saginaw Township Schools  
Carrollton Township Schools  
Bridgeport-Spaulding Township Schools  
Swan Valley Schools  
Buena Vista Schools – **No longer a school district**  
Freeland Schools  
Saginaw Intermediate School District

Additionally, Saginaw Valley State University became a member of the SASWA based on the Urbanized Area encompassing the campus in Kochville Township.

The former Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), now Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) had to develop criteria for school districts with campuses that were not entirely within the UA. Based on the definition developed, all school districts listed above were inspected and the following school districts were eliminated from having to obtain a permit based on the 2000 census: (*NOTE: this changed with the 2010 Census Bureau and may change when the 2020 census data is completed*)

- Freeland Schools – Only one building in the UA, until the 2010 census; they have now opted to be nested under Tittabawassee Township’s Permit.
- City of Saginaw Schools – All schools are within a combined sewer district and under a City permit.

Other changes which occurred based on either court rulings or census changes are as follows:

Based on a lawsuit filed and won by Comstock and Kalamazoo Townships, if a township’s municipal buildings are not within an Urbanized Area and no other municipal properties with a dendritic MS4 are in the Urbanized Area, then the township is exempt. This ruling allowed James, Spaulding, and Birch Run Townships to be removed from the permit list. With the release of the 2010 Census Bureau urbanized area, the same situation occurred for Kochville Township and a letter was provided to the then MDEQ to rescind their permit. This may change in the next census of 2020. The Urbanized Area data from the 2020 census is not available currently.

The purpose of the Saginaw Area Storm Water Authority 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, please use SASWA’s website at:**

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

## **2022 PROGRESS REPORT**

The Saginaw Area Storm Water Authority (SASWA) held four General Board Meetings and four Executive Board Meetings in 2022. The NPDES MS4 permits that have been issued to members to date will be valid until 2023 when all members with active permits will need to resubmit to renew the permit to maintain a consistent schedule. The members listed below have completed the public notice period and have had a permit issued. The issuance for all remaining applications will continue in 2022 as stated by an EGLE representative.

### **Members with Issued Permits**

- Saginaw Charter Township
- City of Saginaw
- Bridgeport Charter Township
- Thomas Township
- Saginaw Intermediate School District
- Saginaw County Public Works Commissioner
- Saginaw Valley State University
- Swan Valley Public Schools
- Tittabawassee Township
- Bridgeport Spaulding Public Schools
- City of Zilwaukee
- Carrollton Township
- Buena Vista Township

The SASWA continues to utilize EGLE’s online database management system for submitting permit applications, compliance reporting for permits, and a tracking system. It should be noted that the MiWaters changed its name and is now the Mi Enviro Portal system located at the same website as before. The general public is still able to view documents in MiEnviro Portal that EGLE has deemed a “public” document. Most of the items produced by the SASWA for implementation of its best management practices will be able to be viewed by the public. The approved documents are also available on the SASWA website.

### **EGLE Audits of SASWA Members**

In 2022 there were eleven EGLE audits performed for Bridgeport Township, Bridgeport-Spaulding Schools, Buena Vista Township, Carrollton Township, the City of Saginaw, Saginaw Intermediate School District, Saginaw Township Community Schools, Saginaw Valley State University, Swan Valley Public Schools, Thomas Township, and Tittabawassee Township. All members were audited on all six of the six minimum measures: Public Participation Plan (PPP), Public Education Plan (PEP), Illicit Discharge Elimination Program (IDEP), Construction Stormwater Runoff Control Program (CSWRCP), Post Construction Controls (PCC) and Pollution Prevention and Good Housekeeping Program (PP & GH). Once the audit was complete, EGLE provided an audit summary requested additional information from several members. Violation notices were given due to lack of compliance for to Bridgeport-Spaulding Schools, Buena Vista Township, the City of Saginaw, Saginaw Intermediate School District, Saginaw Township Community Schools, Saginaw Valley State University, and Tittabawassee Township. All violation notices were promptly responded to, and updates are being addressed in the permit reissuance submittals in 2023.

### **Public Education**

SASWA members were able to use the display board again this year after a hiatus due to Covid. Membership signup for the display board was in full swing with all but five of the two-week sign-up slots being filled for the 2022 calendar year with 13 different members signing up for at least one slot. The display board was also revamped at the end of 2022 with updated brochures and a more cohesive design to match the website and a QR code to lead the public to the website for more information. There was still an emphasis on online resources and improving educational content for the public. The current content available on the SASWA website is information on how to protect the watershed with, such as tips on, Lawn Care, Pet Waste, and Car Washing. Additional information and activities are available for Homeowners’, Commercial Property Owners’, and Children. The SASWA has also been doing quarterly

blog posts highlighting new or seasonally relevant ways that you can protect the watershed. Any members with suggestions for upcoming blog posts are encouraged to share them. \

### SASWA Website

The updated SASWA website ([www.saswa.org](http://www.saswa.org)) launched during the 2019 calendar year and has been an integral part of getting information to members and the public alike during 2022. Just like in years past, public notice documents, educational materials, and stormwater management plans were made available on the website. Training materials for SASWA members on the website are reviewed and updated annually and have plans for a video training that is currently in the works. If there are any suggestions for improving the SASWA website, please reach out to your SASWA representative or contact us directly through the website.

### Community Newsletters/ Social Media Postings

Every quarter, SASWA posts a new blog post focusing on education about stormwater. Members and the public can share these blogs on their social media pages. In addition to the SASWA blog posts, if you have a community newsletter or social media page and would like to assist the SASWA to meet its Public Education goals in 2023, please let your SASWA representative know, and they will obtain articles for placement in community newsletters or social media pages. These efforts will also help communities with any future stormwater audits that may occur.

### **Pollution Prevention and Good Housekeeping Efforts**

SASWA hosted a comprehensive training in 2019. These trainings are intended for public works, grounds maintenance, building maintenance and custodial staff who may come into contact with stormwater during the course of their work activities (i.e., anything outside). The trainings were structured in a way that staff can be rotated and not away for the entire workday. The following topics were covered during the training sessions with the same material covered at each session: NPDES Phase II overview including the six minimum measures, IDEP and Dry Weather Screening Training, Spill Prevention and Clean-up, Construction Site Best Management Practices (BMPs), and Pollution Prevention and Good Housekeeping. The trainings are evaluated using pre and post tests and the results get compiled as a unit of measurement for comparison purposes. These trainings are a required part of the NPDES MS4 permit, and staff has attended these sessions in the past. Moving forward, members suggested that video recordings of the large group trainings be made available on the SASWA website for access at any time to allow for greater flexibility in providing training to staff. Updated presentation and video recording are still in development and should be available for use in 2023.

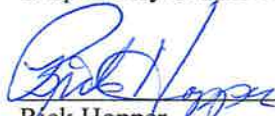
The Road Commission began their Catch Basin Inspection Program in 2020 as part of the NPDES MS4 permit application. This program has helped to proactively determine areas of concern and to address any catch basin maintenance issues before they get out of hand. The SCRC will continue this program throughout this permit cycle. The City of Saginaw continues its programs of cleaning materials from the restrictor plates in the street catch basins, street sweeping program, and catch basin cleaning programs. The SASWA had a team from Spicer Group inspect catch basins on township, school district, and county properties in the Urbanized Area of Saginaw. All structural storm water controls scheduled for inspection in 2019 were completed, including those on Saginaw Valley State University's campus. The approved catch basin inspection program with the new NPDES permits for all SASWA members, began in 2021. All member's, apart from the SCRC, high and medium priority catch basins were inspected and cleaning maps were developed.

The sediment removed from street sweeping and catch basin cleaning usually has pollutants attached to it such as heavy metals like lead, chromium, zinc, aluminum, petroleum products, and nutrients such as phosphorus and nitrogen. These materials impact our water resources. For example, the 888 tons of sediment from street sweeping and catch basin cleaning are estimated to contain 754 pounds of phosphorus. Phosphorus is a limiting nutrient in freshwater, so if it becomes available in freshwater, aquatic plants and algae grow at a rapid rate. One pound of phosphorus can yield up to 10,000 pounds of algae /aquatic vegetation. The 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. These efforts are helping us preserve our water resources and helps reduce the probability of having harmful algal blooms in Saginaw Bay.

IDEP dry weather screening was also done during 2022. For ease of tracking and to ensure all points are inspected during a permit cycle, the SASWA outfalls and points of discharge were divided into 5 sections (one to be completed each year of the permit cycle). In 2022, the second year of inspections were completed with 65 outfalls and points of discharge inspected. The remaining outfalls will be screened in the coming years according to the proposed schedule. Of the outfalls screened, seven needed a follow up visit and of those seven, five needed to have water quality sampling completed. Two of the outfalls were determined to have a potential illicit connection due to high levels of human E. coli and a third had enough concern that additional follow up was needed. The necessary information was provided to the Saginaw County Health Department and EGLE for follow up investigation.

The SASWA had one spill reported during the year. The incident was a hydraulic fluid leak from a vehicle in Thomas Township. This was not classified as a release under the Part 5 Rules so there was no need to report the incident to EGLE. Staff arrived promptly on site to apply an oil absorbent and clean up the area. Once all the absorbent had been given adequate time to work it was swept up and disposed of properly by the Thomas Township Fire Department. The clean up process was documented and will be provided to EGLE with future reporting.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Rick Hopper  
Chair - SASWA