

Ulster County Department of the Environment

Summary of 2015 Stormwater Annual Report

(Reporting Year: March 10, 2014- March 9, 2015)

Under the federal regulations commonly known as Stormwater Phase II, Ulster County is regulated as a traditional, non-land use control Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4). The Departments of the Environment, Public Works, Information Services, and Planning worked together to achieve this year's stormwater program objectives. Ulster County Soil and Water Conservation (UCSWCD), Ulster County Cornell Cooperative Extension-Ulster County (CCE-UC), Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency (UCRRA), and Ulster County Environmental Management Council (EMC) significantly contributed to meeting the County's stormwater goals particularly in the areas of Public Education and Outreach (MCM1) and Public Involvement/Participation (MCM2).

The County's MS4 Annual Report is prepared to comply with MS4 regulations and is submitted to the NYS DEC. The full annual report is available for review at <http://ulstercountyny.gov/public-works/stormwater-management>, and any comments may be submitted via email to stormwater@co.ulster.ny.us or in writing to the **UC Department of the Environment, PO Box 1800, Kingston NY 12402**.

The Ulster County Stormwater Management Program plan (SWMP), which was completely revised in 2013, is available for review at <http://ulstercountyny.gov/public-works/stormwater-management>.

The MS4 program mandates are divided into six minimum control measures (MCM): public education and outreach, public involvement/participation, illicit discharge detection and elimination (IDDE), construction site runoff control, post-construction stormwater management, and pollution prevention/good housekeeping. The County's activities in each of these areas are detailed below.

MCM 1: Public Education and Outreach

The County's education efforts focus on internal staff development, educating the public on pollution prevention, providing educational opportunities for municipal stormwater and code enforcement officers, as well as educating local contractors. All training for Department of Public Works personnel was conducted during the prior year; therefore, no training was due this year. Ulster County partnered with Hudson Valley Regional Council and the Village of New Paltz to provide training on Green Infrastructure for Stormwater Management.

The County is very committed to providing technical, mapping, and GIS support of our municipal MS4 communities (sixteen municipalities within Ulster County are independently regulated under the MS4 Stormwater program). The County assisted three MS4 towns with mapping and MS4 questions. The County also continues to offer a lending library of water testing and training materials in support of watershed groups and municipalities.

Stormwater information brochures are available to the public in the tourism kiosk in the County Office Building's lobby. The Department of the Environment also provided literature for the County table at the Ulster County Fair as well as town environmental events. Over 500 pieces of stormwater related literature were distributed this year.

Ulster County completed construction of green infrastructure (GI) retrofit practices at the main County Office Building parking lot in the City of Kingston. This project was partially funded by a grant from the DEC's Hudson River Estuary program. Along with the Rain Garden installed in 2011, this site serves as a demonstration of GI practices for handling stormwater volume and pollutants.

MCM 2: Public Involvement/Participation

As a traditional non-land use MS4 under the regulations, the County is not required to provide participation opportunities to the general public. However, our County agencies have continued to involve the public and reduce potential pollutants through various efforts. These efforts not only strengthen the County's stormwater program but help the local MS4 municipalities which do have an explicit requirement to involve and educate the general public.

Ulster County partners with the Ulster County EMC in providing an annual Creek Week, consisting of variety of participatory and educational events centered around water and watersheds. This year, 15 events involving 205 participants took place.

A public hearing was held on Proposed Local Law No. 12 of 2014, A Local Law Regulating the Use of Polystyrene Foam Disposable Food Service Ware By Food Service Establishments in Ulster County.

Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency (UCRRA) continues to offer household hazardous waste (HHW) collection events. At the April, July, and October 2014 collection events 788 Ulster County households disposed of over 3000 gallons of liquid and over 25,000 lbs of solid HHW, and 640 lbs of pharmaceutical waste. UCCRA facilities also collected over 300,000 pounds (150 tons) of electronic waste for recycling. These events provide for the safe removal and disposal of potential pollutants.

MCM 3: Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination

The County has collected field data on its stormwater infrastructure in the MS4 regulated area. This data has been distributed as maps to field crews for verification and to aid in maintenance and inspection tracking. All of our outfalls have been inspected at least once in the last five years. The purpose of these inspections is to detect and eliminate any illicit connections or discharges to our County storm drainage system. The County also maintains a stormwater hotline for the public to report suspected illicit discharges or other stormwater concerns. No calls were received this year; however, one inquiry came to our stormwater e-mail. This concern was addressed by UC DPW personnel. There were two illicit discharges to the County MS4 system that were identified and corrected.

MCM 4: Construction Site Runoff Control

The County's Stormwater Management Specialist (SWMS) reviewed and approved three Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plans (*SWPPPs*) for projects that discharge stormwater into the county drainage system. The County had no active construction sites requiring SPDES coverage during this permit year.

MCM 5: Post-construction Stormwater Management Practices

Ulster County's post construction stormwater management practices include a dry pond at Golden Hill, a retention pond at the Ulster County Law Enforcement Center, a Vortechs unit at the DPW main yard, and a pond at the county highway substation in New Paltz. In addition, we have rain garden and bioretention areas at the Ulster County Office Building complex. These practices were inventoried, inspected, and cleaned as needed during this reporting period.

MCM 6: Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping

In 2009, the Ulster County Legislature enacted Local Law No.4 adopting a non-toxic pest management (NPM) policy on all land owned or leased by the County. This policy mandates the use of natural, non-toxic, or, as a last resort with advisory committee approval, least toxic cultural practices that promote healthy soil and plant life as a preventative measure against the onset of turf and landscape pest problems. This will ensure that the safest and most sound (in terms of human health and the environment) methods will be used in County landscape management practices. The advisory committee did not meet this year.

In the field, drainage inspections and maintenance are conducted at all 21 county owned properties (19 in the MS4 urbanized area). These inspections ensure that any problems are addressed timely. In this reporting period, 376 catch basins were inspected and cleaned as needed. This included catch basins at all Ulster County maintained buildings and on several of the MS4 roads. The County purchased a new sweeper in 2012. All county parking lots and all 50 miles of county road in the MS4 area were swept this permit year.

All road salt is kept in covered salt storage sheds at County highway garages. Ulster County continues to try to minimize salt usage and its negative environmental impact without sacrificing safe winter travel on our roads.

All relevant County departments conduct an annual inventory and inspection of chemical storage.

All DPW employees receive training on pollution prevention/good housekeeping at municipal facilities at least every three years. No training was required during this permit year.