Ulster County Department of the Environment
Summary of 2023 Stormwater Annual Report
(Reporting Year: March 10, 2022- March 9, 2023)

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), the Wallkill River Watershed Alliance, 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 https://ulstercountyny.gov/environment/environment/stormwater-and-green-infrastructure/ms4-reporting, 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 revised in 2022 is available for review at https://ulstercountyny.gov/sites/default/files/Ulster-County-Stormwater-Management-Program-Plan.pdf.

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. No training on MS4 best management practices, pollution control, and illicit discharge detection and elimination was required for Ulster County and Municipal employees this reporting period.

The County is 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 offered technical assistance to one MS4 municipality this reporting period. The County also continues to provide technical assistance to watershed groups across the county.

Stormwater information brochures are available to the public in the tourism kiosk in the County Office Building's lobby. In addition, the Ulster County Department of Health distributed 650 brochures on the *Food Service Waste Reduction Act* and *Stormwater Pollution Prevention Guide for the Food Service Industry* to Ulster County restaurants with their permit renewals. These brochures were created by the Department of the Environment and are distributed annually by the Department of Health.

The Kingston Center of SUNY Ulster (KCSU) along with the green infrastructure (GI) practices at the main County Office Building complex continue to serve as practical public demonstrations of using GI to handle stormwater volume and pollutants.

The County and the Wallkill River Watershed Alliance provided training on MS4 programs and Annual Reports to 11 attendees.

The Wallkill River Watershed Alliance assisted with sponsorship of the Hudson River Watershed Alliance Annual Conference and Toast the Tribs Conference, tabled the New Paltz Regatta, assisted and joined the Beyond the Plastics organization, and attended multiple water quality talks and conferences.

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 Resource Recovery Agency (UCRRA) continues to offer household hazardous waste (HHW) collection events. This year HHW collection days were held in April, June, August, and October with 977 households participating. Some highlights

include 52,650 lbs. of paint, 13,250 lbs. of pesticides, and 15,350 lbs. of bulk flammable liquids. The total mass of hazardous waste collected for the year was 92,421 lbs.

Ulster County convened the County's Water Quality Coordinating Committee six times during the reporting period with three meetings open to local organizations and municipalities. Presentation topics included MS4/stormwater, Stream Management Planning, Harmful Algal Blooms, Emerging Contaminants, and Water Quality Sampling.

Ulster County and Ulster County Soil and Water Conservation District partnered on a tree planting program and supplied 48 large native trees and mulch purchased from local nurseries to five municipalities for planting and public benefit.

The Wallkill River Watershed Alliance participated in monitoring a harmful algal bloom on the Wallkill River, participated in a New Paltz Conservation Overlay Zoning Committee, participated in the RIverKeeper Sweep and had one member become certified to assess road-stream crossings.

MCM 3: Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination

We continue to inspect our outfalls at least once in 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. There were no illicit discharges to the County MS4 system identified this year. A total of 64 (12%) MS4 road outfalls were inspected and 29 (100%) of building outfalls were inspected during this reporting period. Ulster County continues to develop a cloud based outfall inspection GIS platform.

MCM 4: Construction Site Runoff Control

There was one active construction project on Ulster County owned property. This site, on Golden Hill Drive, was inspected weekly for stormwater management and compliance.

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, there are two rain gardens and a bioretention area at the Ulster County Office Building complex and pervious pavement at Kingston Center of SUNY Ulster. These practices were inventoried, inspected, and cleaned/maintained as needed during this reporting period.

MCM 6: Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping

Pollution Prevention and Spill Response plans were developed for the County's ten Highway Substations and the substations were inspected for stormwater issues.

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. The advisory committee met twice this year to discuss requests by the Catskill Mountain Railroad for the use of herbicide on a portion of the rail corridor. One waiver was issued.

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. The County has stopped using sand during winter events (except for ice events and in mountainous terrain), this greatly reduces the sediment entering the MS4. No catch basins were cleaned in this reporting period given the reduction in sand use, likewise, no County parking lots needed sweeping. All 87 miles of county road in the MS4 area were swept during the reporting period.

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. A switch to brine application should be further explored to continue to limit salt use as a deicer.

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