

# Ulster County Department of the Environment

## Summary of 2012 Stormwater Annual Report

(Reporting Year: March 10, 2011- March 9, 2012)

Under the federal law 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 (SW) program objectives. Ulster County Soil and Water Conservation (UCSWCD), Ulster County Cornell Cooperative Extension-Ulster County (CCE-UC), and Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency (UCRRA) 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 Department of Environmental Conservation. The full annual report is available for review at <http://www.ulstercountyny.gov/stormwater.html>, and any comments may be submitted via email to [stormwater@co.ulster.ny.us](mailto:stormwater@co.ulster.ny.us) or in writing to the **UC Department of the Environment, PO Box 1800, Kingston NY 12402**.

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 local contractors. This permit year, eleven employees from Ulster County Department of Public Works (DPW) received training in proper SW management practices, including pollution prevention, good housekeeping, and Illicit Discharge Detection & Elimination. This brings the total to 100% of the employees at DPW that have received this training in the last three years.

Stormwater information brochures are available to the public in the tourism kiosk in the County Office Building's lobby. This year, the Department of the Environment also provided literature for the County table at the Ulster County Fair. Approximately 1200 pieces of stormwater related literature were distributed this year.

The County is very committed to providing technical, mapping, and GIS support of our municipal MS4 communities (thirteen municipalities within Ulster County are independently regulated under the MS4 Stormwater program). This permit year, the County offered two stormwater workshops targeted to stormwater municipal officers. The first, *Rain gardens: A Tool for Municipal Stormwater Management* was held in conjunction with a tour of our newly installed rain garden at 17 Pearl Street. Our second workshop, *MS4 Audits: Statewide and Regional Findings and Local Experiences* was well attended with participants from eleven of Ulster County's thirteen MS4 municipalities as well as representatives from municipalities in Dutchess, Orange, and Putnam Counties. The County also offers a lending library of materials in support of municipal employee training.

### **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.

This year we were very excited by the opportunity to install a rain garden at the Ulster County Department of the Environment office at 17 Pearl Street in Kingston. This rain garden serves as a demonstration site of how green infrastructure can be utilized in an urban setting to reduce the impacts of stormwater runoff.

Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency (RRA) continues to offer household hazardous waste (HHW) collection events. At the April, June, and October 2011 collection events, 1240 Ulster County households disposed of 5,732 gallons and over 17,000 lbs of solid HHW as well as 109,000 pounds (almost 55 tons) of electronic waste, and 1,060 lbs of pharmaceutical waste. This event provides for the safe removal and disposal of potential pollutants.

### **MCM 3: Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination**

In 2011, 38% of the 345 County road MS4 outfalls and 100% of the 29 County building outfalls were inspected for dry weather discharges. 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 be able to report suspected illicit discharges or other stormwater concerns. No calls were received this year; however, three inquiries came to our stormwater e-mail. These inquiries were referred to the appropriate jurisdictions.

### **MCM 4: Construction Site Runoff Control**

The County's Stormwater Management Specialist (SWMS) reviewed two Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plans (SWPPPs) for projects that discharge stormwater into the county drainage system. The County had one active construction site during this permit year. This site was managed by a private consulting firm.

### **MCM 5: Post-construction Stormwater Management Practices**

Ulster County's post construction stormwater management practices within the MS4 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, a pond at the New Paltz salt shed, and our new rain garden at the Department of the Environment. 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 met once this year to discuss procedural issues.

In the field, drainage inspections at all 21 county owned properties (19 in the MS4 urbanized area) and catch basin maintenance along county roads contributed to pollution prevention. In this reporting period, 383 catch basins were inspected and cleaned as needed. All 50 miles of County owned road that are within the MS4 regulated area were swept. All County parking lots were swept.

All salt/sand piles in the MS4 and NYC watershed areas are kept in covered sheds. Ulster County DPW uses Bio-Circle parts washers instead of harsh chemical washers.

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