



SASWA Progress Report for 2016



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 (2) 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 (5) 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 (1) and five (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 fifteen (15) 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
Thomas Township
Swan Valley School District
Saginaw Intermediate School District

Saginaw County Public Works Department
City of Saginaw
Saginaw Charter Township
Saginaw Township Community Schools
Saginaw County Road Commission
Saginaw Valley State University
Tittabawassee Township

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

2016 Progress Report

The Saginaw Area Storm Water Authority (SASWA) held five (5) General Board Meetings and five (5) Executive Board Meetings in 2016. The new NPDES Individual MS4 Permit Application submittal from April 1, 2015 is slowly being reviewed by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) as 2016 wains. The review of Saginaw Charter Township's permit has been completed by the MDEQ and the SASWA has replied to the MDEQ's comments; this permit will soon be up for Public Notice by the MDEQ. The MDEQ will "Public Notice" each member's permit for a period of twenty (20) days for public comment via the MiWaters online database system (discussed below). After the public notice period is complete the MDEQ will then issue a permit to each member of the SASWA. The permit will be valid for five (5)-plus years, dependent upon when it is issued. The next member scheduled for permit review is the Saginaw County Public Works Commissioner; the review with the MDEQ will occur on January 13, 2017.

Last year the SASWA reported that a SAW Grant was applied for in 2013 to offset the preparation costs of the MS4 Permit Applications. The grant was tentatively scheduled to be issued in 2018. However, the SASWA had its grant awarded in late 2016. The SASWA will receive a \$92,500 SAW Grant to assist with the application process; \$83,250 will be awarded with a \$9,250 cash match (10%) by the SASWA (this match has been accounted for in the budget for 2017). The SASWA will submit the contractual paper work for the grant in 2017, after the SASWA has completed a portion of the MDEQ review process for the MS4 permit applications. This will be the first time this has been done by an Authority for this type of grant. Once we have received the grant disbursement, the SASWA will look at its budget standing and determine how it will proceed for the remainder of 2017.

The SASWA has passed a new budget for 2017 which is lower than the 2016 budget year by \$10,000.00. Due to changes in both the definitions on a MS4 system and the Urbanized Area based on 2010 Census Data, Kochville Township was able to submit a letter requesting to be removed from the MS4 Permit system. It appears this will happen although we have not received final confirmation from the MDEQ in regards to this matter. Based on this change in membership, the apportionment has changed from 6.25% to 6.67% for members; with the lower budget, however, each member's share of the budget was lowered by approximately \$167.00. With the SAW grant we hope to lower the budget again in the future.

The SASWA still maintains a presence on the MDEQ's MS4 Implementation Team (MIT) which oversees the administration of the new Individual NPDES Stormwater permits. The SASWA is the only authority represented on the committee. The consultant also represents numerous other municipal and county clients around Michigan to the MDEQ. We are in an enviable position to have a direct voice to the MDEQ on this committee. It has not met for the past two (2) years with the new permit application process taking up a lot of the MDEQ's time, however, they have requested a meeting on Thursday, January 26, 2017 in Lansing.

This year also marked the MDEQ's roll out of their new online database management system for submitting permit applications, compliance reporting for permits and a tracking system. As with any statewide large database, it is not without a "few" bugs. Fortunately, we have a consultant who has fought her way through the system and knows its intricacies well and keeps the MDEQ staff well informed of glitches and system errors which occur frequently. The new MS4 permit application is now on-line. In the future all NPDES progress reports will have to be submitted for each member individually on-line. We will be providing feedback to the MDEQ on this system on the MS4 Implementation Team and be trying to get our technical consultant on the MiWaters committee to help us bring up issues which communities and the general public may have with the system. It should be noted that the MiWaters system is a public system; the general public will be able to view documents that are submitted to the MDEQ in which are 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. These same public documents are available on the SASWA website.

Annual MDEQ Audits of SASWA Members

Again in 2016, there were no MDEQ Audits of SASWA Members and there probably will not be any audits in 2017. The MDEQ is using the MS4 Permit Application review process as a form of auditing members of the SASWA, as stated in last year's summary of activities.

Public Education

The members of the SASWA have been very active with the use of the SASWA table top display in township halls and at school districts in 2016. Again, if your community or school district is interested in hosting this display at events or at your location, contact your SASWA representative and they will coordinate this stormwater educational opportunity through the consultant. The SASWA handed out over 200 children's activity books to area children. This activity book has educational items in it to help children understand stormwater, the environment and how to protect our water resources. This book is being updated and changed with assistance from environmental engineering students from Michigan Tech and Michigan State Universities.

Waste Management Staff Training

On January 27, 2016 at 5:00 a.m. SASWA's consultant completed Spill Kit Training for over forty (40) Waste Management employees. Waste Management now carries small spill kits on each truck which goes into communities to pick up waste and recycling. These kits will help soak up hydraulic oil leaks or spills and protect the storm sewer systems of our communities.

SASWA Web Site

The SASWA will be updating its website in 2017; in 2015 the consultant did an inventory of each page of the web site to identify where updates must occur. This work will occur in the late spring of 2017. The SASWA postponed this work on 2016 for budgetary reasons.

Community Newsletters

The Saginaw County Road Commission is still very pro-active in obtaining articles related to stormwater and placing them into their quarterly newsletter.

If you have a community newsletter, and would like to assist the SASWA to meet its Public Education goals in 2017 please let your SASWA representative know and they will obtain articles for placement in community newsletters.

University Student Sponsorship

In 2016 SASWA teamed up with a Saginaw Valley State University (SVSU) student who was doing a study of *E.coli* in stormwater discharges from county drains discharging into the Saginaw River. The student was completing her undergraduate degree in Analytical Chemistry. Her research was presented at a national conference in California in early April, 2016. She also presented her findings to the SASWA General Board. Her research provided useful data for the SASWA on the health of our regional drains and provides the SASWA with an opportunity to obtain additional focused research for the future. The SASWA donated \$250.00 for the student to cover her travel expenses to present her research in

California. The Bay Area Storm Water Authority also provided \$250.00 to the student. The SASWA will be coordinating with SVSU again in 2017 to obtain stormwater research information. This information is being developed in collaboration with the Saginaw Bay Environmental Studies Institute at SVSU. We feel that a collaboration with our regional University (and member of SASWA) will help in the future. This also provides a real life application of the student's chosen field of study and opportunity to see what careers are available in the Great Lakes Bay Region. The former student who presented the original study now works for a local consulting firm as their water quality analyst.

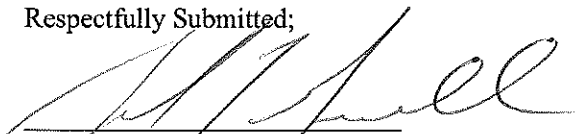
Pollution Prevention and Good Housekeeping efforts

The SASWA will be hosting eight (8) training sessions 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). These educational sessions are **required** as part of the NPDES MS4 permit, and staff has attended these sessions in the past. The training sessions will be done in a manner so staff can be rotated and not be away from work the entire day. The training will take place in late January and early February; a staff person has to attend **one (1)** of the 2.5 hour sessions. The same material is being covered at each session.

Another very successful clean-up effort which 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 2016 the workers from the Road Commission removed 452 cubic yards (650 tons) of sediment with their street sweeping program, a 27% increase over 2015 totals. 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 substantial. This sediment removed 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 have an effect on our water resources. For example, the 650 tons of sediment are estimated to contain 648 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 (1) 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 3,240 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 in Saginaw Bay.

The SASWA had two (2) reports for spills or illicit discharges reported for 2016. The two (2) spills/illicit discharges were investigated; the incidents, both dumping reports, were in Buena Vista and Thomas Townships.

Respectfully Submitted;



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Chair - SASWA