Storm Water in Unity Township

An Overview of the Unity Township's Storm Water Management Program



Let's Talk About. . .

What storm water is and why it can be a problem in our community.

What our community is doing to manage storm water and how these activities will benefit us.

What is Storm Water?

Rain events

Snow melt

Other surface runoff and drainage

Where Does Storm Water Go In Unity Township?

- Rainfall and/or snowmelt travels over land
 - Collects in tributaries or is carried through municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4)
- Discharges into nearby creeks or streams (Loyalhanna Creek, Ninemile Run, Monastery Run, etc.)

Point Source vs. Nonpoint Source

POINT source discharge

 Travels through a conveyance system
 Regulated under MS4 permit program

NONPOINT source discharge

 Runoff that is not a point source
 Addressed through voluntary programs

Why is Storm Water a Problem? Problem: Decrease in quality Problem: Increase in quantity

Cause: Developed and disturbed land











Non-Storm Water Discharges

Problem: Non-storm water discharges contribute to decrease in receiving stream water quality

Cause: Illicit discharges

Cause: Illicit connections



household wastewater (toilet, sinks, etc.)

catch basin

storm drain

tunnel

sewer pipe -----

2 UNDERGROUND SYSTEMS

Storm Water Pollutants Sediment Trace Metals Nutrients (N, P) **D** Toxic Chemicals (herbicides, pesticides) Bacteria Chlorides

Biochemical Oxygen Demand Thermal Impacts Oil and Grease

 PA Water Quality and Storm Water Impacts
 Total of 83,161 stream miles in PA - 68,333 miles (82% of total) assessed for aquatic life support as of Year 2006

11,136 stream miles (16.3% of assessed waters) degraded

Urban runoff #3 source of impairment
 – 1,883 miles of rivers and streams
 – 16.9% of all impaired river and stream miles in PA

Source: 2006 PA State CWA 305(b) Report

Now We Know About Storm Water and Its Impacts on Our Community...

But What Are We Doing About It? Storm Water Permit Program for Small Communities (NPDES Phase II MS4 Storm Water Program)

New federal regulation requires permit for our community

PA DEP created state permitting program to meet federal regulation

What Does Our Permit Require?

Implement a storm water management program consisting of six minimum control measures

Track progress toward goals

Report on our progress

Our Storm Water Program (Six Minimum Control Measures) Public Education Public

and Outreach

Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination

Post-Construction Storm Water Management Construction Site Storm Water Management

Involvement

Good Housekeeping and Pollution Prevention

Public Education and Outreach

Distribute educational materials developed by PA DEP and US EPA

Raise public awareness about storm water

Public Involvement/Participation

Provide public notice of upcoming meetings, events, etc.

Identify and reach out to local groups

Hold public meeting on the program

Foster and support volunteer programs

 Water Quality Monitoring

– "Dump No Waste" Storm Drain Stenciling

Stream and Street Clean-Ups

Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination

Adopt storm water ordinance prohibiting non-storm water discharges into MS4

Develop MS4 outfall map

Implement program to detect non-storm water in the MS4 system

Educate community on problems related to dumping in storm sewers

Construction Site Storm Water Runoff Control

Adopt storm water ordinance to address construction site storm water management requirements

Continue Coordination with Westmoreland County Conservation District – Erosion and Sediment Control Program – NPDES Construction Storm Water Permitting for Regulated Earth Disturbance Activities

Educate construction industry

Post-Construction Storm Water Management

Maintain and update storm water management ordinance that addresses storm water quantity and quality control requirements

Ensure proper operation and maintenance of post-construction controls Pollution Prevention/ Good Housekeeping

Implement O & M program that focuses on pollution prevention

Train municipal employees on good housekeeping practices

Educate municipal employees on pollution prevention How Will Our Storm Water Program Benefit Our Community?

Expected Benefits of Our Storm Water Program

Enhanced fishing/recreation opportunities
Reduced flood damage
Improved drinking water quality and lower treatment costs
Reduced risk of illness
Enhanced aesthetic value

For More Information...

Visit Pennsylvania DEP website at www.dep.state.pa.us directLINK "stormwater"

Contact the Unity Township Supervisors' Office (724-539-2546), or Doug Siler at Gibson-Thomas Engineering (724-539-8562)

Visit the US EPA website at www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater