

**Genesee County  
Phase II Municipalities**

**Annual Report  
Nov. 1, 2003 to Oct. 31, 2004**

Submitted to:

State of Michigan Department of Environmental Quality  
Surface Water Quality Division

Submitted by:

Genesee County Drain Commissioner  
October 2004

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## **Background Information**

To implement the permit requirements and perform watershed management planning, Genesee County has established a Storm Water System Service district for the entire County under the authority of the Michigan Public Act (PA) 342 of 1939. In addition, each of the communities in the County have executed a contract to use the County 342 Storm Water System Service District as the lead agency to provide Phase II permitting services, including watershed management planning.

Five major watersheds were delineated in the permit application, these include:

- Lower Flint River
- Middle Flint River
- Upper Flint River
- Upper 1 Shiawassee River
- Cass River

These watersheds were divided into a total of 30 sub watershed-planning areas. Because the magnitude of work involved to perform watershed planning for all of these areas within a two-year period is beyond the staff and financial resources available, areas were ranked and prioritized to focus on designated Phase II areas, highly developed and rapidly developing areas, and water quality concerns. The Middle Flint River Watershed is on a time schedule to have their watershed plan complete by March 1, 2005. The Lower Flint River Watershed Plan will be completed on September 1, 2005. The Upper-1 Shiawassee River Watershed Plan will be completed on March 1, 2006. The Upper Flint Watershed Plan is due March 1, 2006. The Cass River Watershed Plan is due September 1, 2006.

### Genesee County Stormwater Advisory Committee

This committee is made up of all the Communities in Genesee County except the City of Flint, which is a Phase I community, and Genesee County, including all agencies and departments. All the Communities in Genesee County have elected to participate, although not all are Phase II Communities. This committee will guide the implementation of the entire Phase II Program and has three main sub-committees set up to address specific issues. Each Community serves on at least one sub-committee. A brief explanation of the duties of these sub-committees follows.

#### Public Education and Participation Sub-Committee

The Public Education and Participation Sub-Committee guides the overall Public Education and Participation Process for the Watershed Management Planning effort.

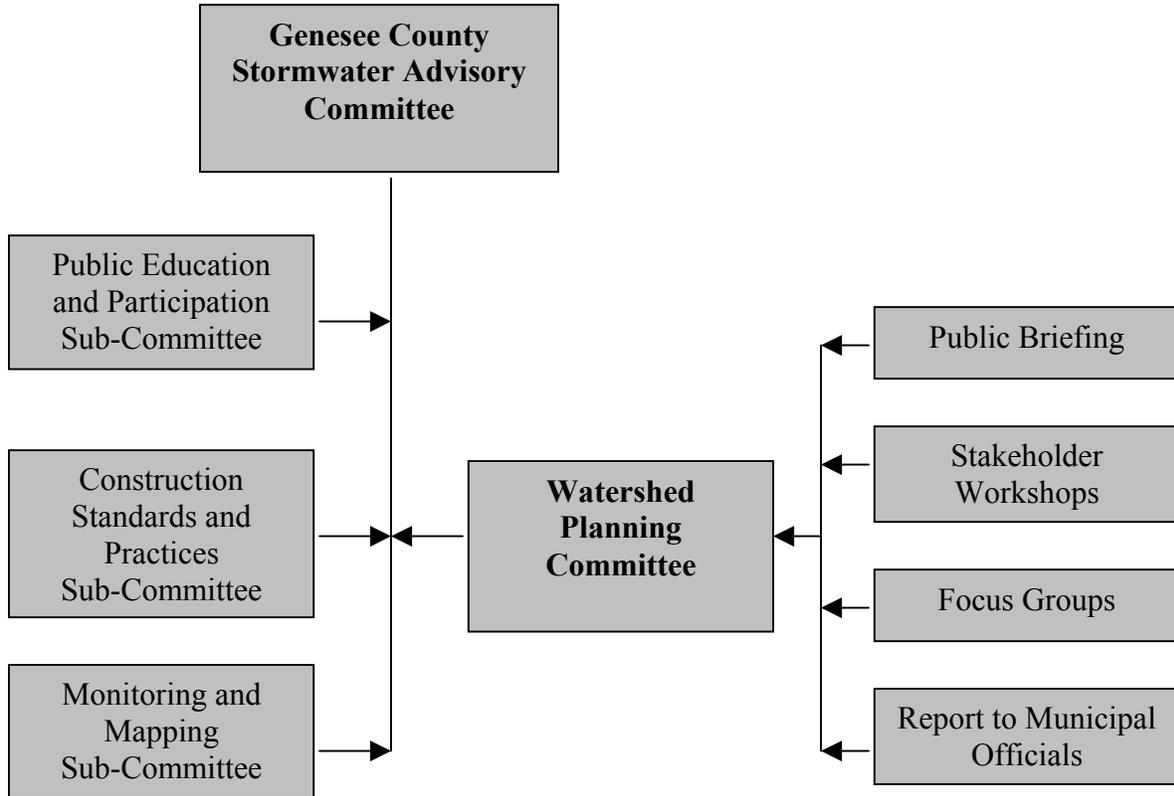
#### Construction Standards and Practices Sub-Committee

The Construction Standards and Practices Sub-Committee examines new construction standards and post construction practices for Genesee County. They will work to update existing ordinances to make sure that consistency and EPA elements are met.

#### Monitoring and Mapping Sub-Committee

The Monitoring and Mapping Sub-Committee guides organization and implementation of the illicit discharge elimination program (IDEP), mapping guidelines, field-sampling protocols, and how the watershed will be monitored for progress.

**Figure 1.0 Decision Making Flowchart**



Local government leaders share their insights and views of the watershed throughout the project at workshops and meetings, as well as at other formal and informal exchanges. The value of such insights should not be underestimated and are invaluable to a plan development process led at the local level.

Work being conducted by these Sub-Committees is being used in the development of the Middle and Lower Flint watershed management plans.

## Genesee County Watershed Planning Communities

Argentine Township	Village of Goodrich
Atlas Township	City of Grand Blanc
City of Burton	Grand Blanc Township
Clayton Township	Village of Lennon
City of Clio	City of Linden
City of Davison	City of Montrose
Davison Township	Montrose Township
City of Fenton	City of Mount Morris
Fenton Township	Mount Morris Township
Flint Township	Mundy Township
City of Flushing	Village of Otisville
Flushing Township	Richfield Township
Forest Township	City of Swartz Creek
Gaines Township	Thetford Township
Village of Gaines	Vienna Township
Genesee Township	Genesee County

### IDEP (Illicit Discharge Elimination Plan)

*The permittee shall provide documentation of the actions taken to eliminate illicit discharges and evaluate the effectiveness of the program. For significant illicit discharges, the permittee shall list the pollutant(s) of concern, the estimated volume and load discharged, and the locations of the discharge into both the permittee's separate storm water sewer system and the receiving water. The permittee shall include certification of any changes made to the IDEP as requested by the Department in Part I.A.3.*

The Genesee County Drain Commissioner held a one-day IDEP investigation training on May 26, 2004 for County staff and other interested municipal staff. This training described the purpose as well as the methodology for conducting investigations, in accordance with the approved IDEP. A total of seven individuals attended the training, including project management and field staff.

Fieldwork has not begun yet in Genesee County. The Genesee County Drain Commissioner was just awarded a Clean Michigan Initiative (CMI) grant to conduct investigations along the Gibson Creek Drain. The Gibson Creek Drain was selected because it represents a good cross section of urban and rural land use and open versus closed drainage system. It is expected to be a good location to work out the investigation details. A consultant has been hired to conduct the IDEP investigation along the Gibson Creek Drain. Once the investigation along this drain is well-established, fieldwork in other areas of the County will be initiated by Drain Commissioner staff. The consultant will provide County staff with additional training as needed.

Actual field work is anticipated to begin in late fall of 2004 once MDEQ has approved a Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP).

*The permittee shall summarize the status of the program to minimize seepage from sanitary sewers and on-site sewage disposal systems into the permittee's separate storm water drainage system.*

Leaky sewer systems should not be a problem, since the municipality follows design standards outlined in the document "*Recommended Standards for Waste Water Facilities.*"

*The permittee shall provide schedules for elimination of illicit connections that have been identified but have yet to be eliminated*

To date no field investigations have been conducted, therefore no illicit connections have been identified.

### **PEP (Public Education Plan)**

*The permittee shall provide documentation of the public education effort and a summary of the evaluation of its effectiveness. The permittee shall include certification of any changes made to the PEP as requested by the Department in Part I.A.3.*

The Public Education Plan (PEP) follows the format recommended by the MDEQ and includes the seven major sections required in the Permit. The requirements as defined in the permit are as follows:

1. Encourage public reporting of the presence of illicit discharges or improper disposal of materials into applicant's separate storm water drainage system
2. Education of the public on the availability, location, and requirements of facilities for disposal or drop-off of household hazardous wastes, travel trailer sanitary wastes, chemicals, grass clippings, leaf litter, animal wastes, and motor vehicle fluids.
3. Education of the public regarding acceptable application and disposal of pesticides and fertilizers.
4. Education of the public concerning preferred cleaning materials and procedures for residential car washing.
5. Education of the public concerning the ultimate discharge point and potential impacts from the separate storm water drainage system serving their place of residence.
6. Education of the public about their responsibility and stewardship in their watershed.
7. Education of the public concerning management of riparian lands to protect water quality.

### **Activities by PEP Category**

The following public education activities were undertaken during the reporting period from October 22, 2003 to October 1, 2004, in compliance with the Certificate of Coverage under the MDEQ General Storm Water Discharge Permit MIG619000.

The Public Education Sub-Committee has met a number of times over the past year in conjunction with University of Michigan's Center for Applied Environmental Research (CAER). CAER is conducting a survey of Genesee County Residents to determine their baseline level of environmental education and existing behaviors as it relates to the above 7 areas of focus. The survey is being administered by phone and we have received 97 responses to date. It is expected to have the survey done by November 15, 2004. A written version of the survey will be distributed in December to focus groups such as Planning Commissions, Educators, Etc.

Concurrently the Public Education Sub-Committee is compiling a list of existing educational activities. Activities are sorted under the 7 educational requirements they satisfy. This matrix provides the Public Education Sub-Committee a starting point to measure existing efforts and identify where no efforts are being made.

Once the survey is back the Public Education Sub-Committee will prepare an updated detailed plan that will include target audiences, goals, schedules and the associated costs. See attached Survey and Matrix.

### **General PEP/PPP Activities by Watershed**

Public Participation Plans (PPP) has been developed, finalized and submitted to MDEQ for the Shiawassee Watershed, the Middle Flint Watershed, and the Lower Flint Watershed. Excerpts from the PPPs are shown below as the activities in which Genesee County is participating in.

Michigan State University Extension (MSUE) in Genesee County provides information on their website on several subjects including recycling and solid waste, composting, controlling pests, and household hazardous waste. MSUE partners with several other organizations to host a bi-annual household hazardous waste collection.

#### Shiawassee River Watershed

Many educational efforts are already underway in the Shiawassee River Watershed. This section highlights these efforts.

In addition, MSUE conducted a Shiawassee River Short Course which covers watershed management specifically about Shiawassee Headwaters Area, water quality parameters and analysis, groundwater and wellhead protection, lake management, habitat conservation, how to impact land use planning, benthic monitoring, and volunteer opportunities. The course is designed for local officials, educators, or anyone concerned with water quality and land use issues in the Shiawassee River Headwaters Area.

The below listing identifies additional efforts that are currently underway:

- Friends of the Shiawassee River watershed activities
- City of Fenton River clean-up
- Various lake and homeowners association watershed activities
- Clean-up on Linden Mill Pond – homeowners association

Since 2002, an annual Riverfest is celebrated within the watershed. Its purpose is to engage the public and provide educational opportunities to teach them about various aspects of their watershed. Quarterly seminars are conducted about water quality and ecosystem protection. The annual river cleanup is possible due to volunteers who live in the watershed and demonstrate stewardship by removing trash from various sites along the Flint River.

#### Middle Flint Watershed

Genesee County currently has two 319-grant projects underway. These include the Kearsley Creek Watershed Project, and the Swartz Creek Watershed Project. The University of Michigan (U of M) Center for Applied Environmental Research (CAER) with the FRWC received a MDEQ 319 grant to prepare a watershed plan for the Swartz Creek. The Genesee County Drain Commissioner's office has also received a 319 grant to prepare a watershed plan for Kearsley Creek. Both watershed management plans are being developed to control nonpoint sources of pollution. Projects may include implementing structural Best Management Practices (BMPs), non-physical BMPs, and information and education activities to eliminate nonpoint source pollution.

The Friends of the Kearsley Creek host an annual Riverfest (not affiliated with the aforementioned festival of the same name) within the Kearsley Creek watershed. Its purpose is to engage the public and provide educational opportunities to teach them about various aspects of their watershed. They have also started an annual Kearsley Creek cleanup.

The City of Davison is conducting a wellhead protection program. It is currently working to develop a public education program. The City has begun holding meetings with their consultant and the stakeholders. Stakeholders include participants from the City of Davison, Davison Township, Richfield Township, Davison Area Community Schools, and the general public.

Since 1999, the Flint River Watershed Coalition (FRWC) has executed a bi-annual Benthic-monitoring program that has been performed to meet the MDEQ requirements. This program has expanded from 18 sites to 30 since its inception. This program is possible due to volunteers who live in the watershed who give up 2 days twice a year to be trained to collect and log samples.

#### Lower Flint River Watershed

Many efforts are already underway in the Lower Flint Watershed. This section summarizes these efforts and provides a brief description of current activities.

Since 1999, the Flint River Watershed Coalition (FRWC) has executed a bi-annual benthic-monitoring program that has been performed to meet the MDEQ requirements. This program has expanded from 18 sites to 30 since its inception. This program is possible due to volunteers who live in the watershed who give up 2 days twice a year to be trained to collect and log samples. Since 2002, an annual Riverfest is celebrated within the watershed. Its purpose is to engage the public and provide educational opportunities to teach them about various aspects of their watershed. Quarterly seminars are conducted about water quality and ecosystem protection.

The annual river cleanup is possible due to volunteers who live in the watershed and demonstrate stewardship by removing trash from various sites along the Flint River.

The City of Clio has sponsored a bi-annual river cleanup for the Flint River as it flows through the City of Clio from Jennings Rd. to Neff Rd for the past 10 years. The cleanup typically has 75-100 volunteers. It is advertised in the Mount Morris/Clio Herald and the Flint Journal, and also township and city public meetings.

### **Middle and Lower Flint Watershed Citizen Survey**

A citizen survey was developed based on a survey done in the Anchor Bay Watershed was mailed to 600 residents in both the Middle and the Lower Flint River Watersheds. Copies of both surveys are attached to this annual report. Results for the Middle Flint Watershed have been finalized. The following is a summary of the results:

The results of the **Public's** ranking of **Goals** in the Middle Flint watershed are:

1. Remove sources of human waste
2. Protect drinking water
3. Remove trash and debris from river
4. Better fertilizer control
5. Minimize excessive flows
6. Improve habitat conditions
7. Increase community planning
8. Expand public education
9. Better soil erosion control
10. Encourage investments for recreation/wildlife protection

### **PPP Meeting Dates Schedule**

This list summarizes the agreed upon meeting dates for the Middle Flint and Lower Flint River watersheds:

#### Middle Flint Watershed Project Team Meetings (all on last Wednesday of month at 9:00 A.M.)

June 30, 2004	November 24, 2004
July 28, 2004	January 26, 2005
August 25, 2004	February 23, 2005
September 29, 2004	March 30, 2005
October 27, 2004	

#### Middle Flint Watershed Public Hearings (all at 7:00 P.M.)

September 21, 2004

February 1, 2005

Middle Flint Watershed Stakeholder Meetings (all on Monday mornings at 10:00 A.M.)

September 20, 2004

December 6, 2004

January 24, 2005

Lower Flint Watershed Project Team Meetings (all on last Wednesday of month at 10:30 A.M.)

September 29, 2004

May 25, 2005

October 27, 2004

June 29, 2005

November 24, 2004

July 27, 2005

January 26, 2005

August 31, 2005

February 23, 2005

March 30, 2005

April 27, 2005

Lower Flint Watershed Public Hearings (at 7:00 P.M.)

August 9, 2005

Lower Flint Watershed Stakeholder Meetings (times as indicated)

January 24, 2005 – 1:30 P.M.

April 25, 2005 – 10:30 A.M.

July 25, 2005 – 10:30 A.M.

**New Point Source Discharges of Storm Water**

*The permittee shall provide the information requested in Part I.A.4. of this permit on the discovery of new storm water point sources to the separate storm water drainage system.*

No new point source discharges of storm water were identified during this period. It is expected that new point source discharges will be identified once IDEP investigations begin.

**SWPPI (Storm Water Pollution Prevention Initiative)**

*The permittee shall describe the compliance status of the permittee-specific SWPPI actions and implementation schedules for the permittee's regulated areas. **This review shall cover all of the permittee's commitments from the WMP, and the SWPPI's conditions for pollution prevention/good housekeeping and post-construction BMPs.***

A Watershed Management Plan is in the process of being developed for Middle and Lower Flint River Watersheds, therefore a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Initiative (SWPPI) has not been developed. Watershed Planning for the Shiawassee River Watershed is scheduled to begin in October 2004. The Upper Flint will begin in January 2005 and the Cass River will Begin in October of 2005.

## **Other Actions**

*The permittee shall submit any information for any other actions taken to reduce the discharge of pollutants in storm water.*

No current actions.

## **Nested Drainage System Agreements**

*Permittees which are primary jurisdictions shall update the list of each nested jurisdictional area or drainage system that should have its own separate storm water drainage system permit, originally submitted as part of the application requirements in Part I.A.2.*

The Drain Commissioner's Office has met with all the school districts and all the Supervisors have indicated that they are interested in working together under a nested jurisdiction. At this time most of those school districts that have signed a contract for nested jurisdiction. Once all the interested schools have signed contracts the Drain Commissioner's Office will assist those schools in acquiring their Certificate of Coverage.

## **Special Reporting Requirements**

*The University of Michigan (Ann Arbor Campus), the Michigan Department of Transportation, and the Cities of Ann Arbor, Flint, Grand Rapids, Livonia, Sterling Heights, and Warren shall submit additional information.*

This section is not applicable.

## **Attachments**

Public Education Sub-Committee Survey  
Public Education Sub-Committee Activity Matrix  
Middle Flint Watershed Survey  
Lower Flint Watershed Survey  
Meeting Flyer for Public Meeting  
Meeting Press Release