

From Your Stormwater Manager:

As we have worked in the last year and a half to respond to stormwater issues (both drainage and water quality) several themes have remained constant. 1) Many property owners have been dealing with these issues, both big and small, for many years; 2) Most citizens share stories of frustration of wading through many local, state and sometimes federal agencies trying to remedy their situations, and 3) Most of those efforts ended when citizens gave up.

These stories are not unique as they parallel the experiences found in 400 plus other communities that now have stormwater utilities. Far too long, stormsewers were considered the red-headed stepchild that no one wanted to claim ownership of and responsibility for. In our MS4, like many others, this has resulted in a backlog of environmental problems and maintenance issues that will take years to get a handle on. We are working day in and day out to prioritize these problems and fix them. While in no way have we been perfect or able to immediately fix every issue, (we have a list of about 40 work orders pending) we have completed our work to a high standard and are improving the MS4, one project at a time. Like other stormwater utilities, our MS4 will meet its environmental obligations and improve quality of life in our community.



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HYDROLOGIC

CITIZENS GUIDE TO STORMWATER POLLUTION PREVENTION

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Development of Stormwater Credit Program Continues

Beckley Sanitary Board continues to develop its stormwater credit program, which will allow qualifying properties to apply for credits to its stormwater fees for utilizing onsite practices to manage stormwater runoff. BSB recently had the Stormwater Advisory Committee (SWAC) review and provide comment to a working draft of a credit policy. That draft now moves to legal review. The proposed credit program will then be taken up for consideration by the Beckley Sanitary Board and City of Beckley Common Council. In summary the credit program currently is considering:

- ◆ Economic incentives through stormwater fee credits to those new and existing properties, which have onsite stormwater management facilities
- ◆ Categories of credits for both water quantity and water quality management practices
- ◆ Water quality credits under consideration include structural practices such as treatment structures/devices, but also credit to properties holding NPDES industrial stormwater permits, stormwater pollution prevention education credits; stormwater pollution prevention best management practices credits; and credits for public participation in community stormwater management projects (such as retrofits, community stormdrain marking, and stream cleanups).
- ◆ Criteria for submittal, approval and recertification of stormwater credits

BSB intends to approve and institute the credit program in 2009.

BSB's Community Partner receives state award

Since 2005, the Piney Creek Watershed Association has been a partner of BSB devoting hundreds of hours of volunteer time working on community projects to improve local water quality. In November 2008, PCWA was recognized by the West Virginia Watershed Network receiving its, "Urban Work Award." This award recognized PCWA's commitment to urban water quality as shown by its stormdrain marking program, rain barrel and rain garden projects, and youth education. To become involved in this great organization, contact PCWA at (304) 228-1680.

Report Stormwater Pollution

To report suspected stormwater pollution, please call BSB at 304-256-1760.

STORMWATER DOLLARS AT WORK

- ◆ Completed 51 work orders
- ◆ Cleaned 483 Drop Inlets
- ◆ Flushed and Cleaned over 1,060 feet of storm sewer
- ◆ Inspected and cleaned 52 storm sewer inlets
- ◆ Repaired/Replaced 6 storm sewer drop inlets
- ◆ Cleaned 250 feet of ditch line

Winter Deicing Operation: How to lessen your stormwater impact?



Photo of poorly managed salt storage pile at Beckley retail establishment. Uncovered and uncontained pile contributes pollutants to stormwater runoff which flows into the MS4 and local streams.

Perhaps in an ideal watershed, it would not snow in the winter or snow and ice would miraculously immediately melt from paved surfaces. Since that is not reality, property owners are forced to find methods to keep their properties safe by removing snow and ice. Deicing agents like rock salt and urea fertilizers, can increase chloride and nutrient levels in area waterways. During snowmelt, chloride levels in runoff can be as high as 2,000 to 4,000 parts per million. Chloride-laden runoff can adversely effect pets, turf, landscaping, wildlife and aquatic life. The State MS4 permit requires both the City and WV DOH to evaluate their winter roadway treatment program's stormwater impact. On an individual level, there seems to be no substitute for muscle and elbow grease to remove snow and ice. However if deicers are utilized homeowners should make informed choices when purchasing chemicals and put their sidewalks and driveways on a low salt diet. In general, calcium chloride is environmentally preferred to sodium chloride (rock salt), and both are superior to urea, kitty litter and ashes.

Witherspoon St- Circle St- Tanglewood Dr Capital Project Moving Forward

BSB recently completed design of the next community capital improvement project. In December, BSB staff met with affected property owners to provide an overview of the project and answer questions. The project will replace approximately 1,000 feet of storm sewer, reduce incidences of homes flooding, address public safety concerns of exposed storm sewers pipes and inlets and driveway failures, and eliminate inflow/infiltration of this stormwater into sanitary sewers which contributes to sewer overflows. Once all necessary easements are obtained, construction will commence.

Projects Move to Design Stage

Early in 2009, BSB will initiate design of several other stormwater projects with the goal to improve/repair existing facilities and improve water quality. Projects include Sisson St. Stormsewer repair/replacement, City Avenue illicit discharge elimination, Front Street repair/replacement, Morgan Hills bank repair/stabilization.

BSB to offer construction stormwater course taught by national expert.

Based on the success of last year's training on construction stormwater issues, BSB is planning to offer a more detailed course on "How to Write and Implement Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) to Meet NPDES requirements?" The one day course will prepare individuals to prepare and implement mandated plans to address sediment and other common sources of pollution from construction sites. "Our intent is this course will provide development professionals with the knowledge to submit approvable plans and improve the implementation of such plans in the field. This course information can help a developer reduce their potential environmental liabilities, while improving our local waterways through education, the best BMP." states Jeremiah Johnson of BSB. The course will cover plan development from the conceptual stage to permitting, implementation, inspection and documentation. The course was developed by the International Erosion Control Association (www.ieca.org). Jennifer Hildebrand, a leading professional in the field from Weis Builders, will be the course instructor. Ms. Hildebrand is regularly featured on Erosion and Sediment Control Network TV's Tip of the Week (www.escn.tv)

The course will take place on March 17, 2009. Developers, engineers/consultants, and contractors are encouraged to attend. Continuing Education/Professional Development Hours will be offered. Preregistration is required and a course fee of \$60 will be charged to cover workbook cost and lunch. For more information or to register contact, Mandy Kneeland at (304)-256-1760

BSB recently completed the 2008 MS4 Annual Report to WV DEP. A copy of this report is available online or at the BSB office.