

WARREN COUNTY MS4 PROGRAM

Warren County is non-traditional Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4), under Part IV.A. of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation General Permit for MS4 Stormwater Discharges (G-0-10-002). Under this mandate, Warren County must have a working Program Plan which outlines the county's activities to address stormwater education, outreach, and implementation under the state requirements. The MS4 area designated by the NYS DEC in Warren County which falls under the purview of this program is limited to the Town of Queensbury and the City of Glens Falls.

This Warren County Stormwater Management Program Plan (SWMPP) documents the proactive efforts planned by Warren County under this program. These requirements primarily correspond to the county infrastructure and properties (roads, bridges, drainage infrastructure and facilities), but also include public information and outreach on stormwater issues. The ultimate purpose of this plan is to maintain or improve water quality in the area designated as within the MS4 boundary in Warren County.

The SWMPP Plan is based on the Federal Stormwater Phase II rule, issued in 1999, which requires MS4 owners and operators, in U.S. Census-defined urbanized areas as well as in additionally designated areas, to develop a Stormwater Management Program. There are six program elements designed to reduce the discharge of pollutants to the maximum extent practicable. The program elements, titled Minimum Control Measures (MCMs), include:

1. Public Education and Outreach
2. Public Involvement / Participation
3. Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination
4. Construction Site Runoff Control
5. Post-Construction Stormwater Management
6. Pollution Prevention / Good Housekeeping for Municipal Operations.

This document describes each MCM and the Best Management Practices (BMPs) that have been implemented to maintain compliance with the NYSDEC GP-0-10-002. Responsibilities to achieve and sustain compliance are clearly defined for each BMP. As of March 10, 2003, these new regulations and requirements came into effect. From this time up until late 2010, the primary entity responsible for the Warren County MS4 program was the Warren County Department of Public Works.

Warren County is considered a "non-traditional MS4" in that it does not have permitting authority over development projects that municipalities have. As such, Minimum Measures 4 and 5 are largely non-applicable to Warren County. The relatively minimal roles that the county has in these two measures are identified within the plan.

In November of 2010, the Warren County Board of Supervisors officially appointed Dave Wick, CPESC as the Warren County Stormwater Management Officer (SMO). It is mandated that each MS4 have a Stormwater Management Officer, under the requirements of the NYS program. Dave Wick is the District Manager of the Warren County Soil and Water Conservation District, and much of the District's workload is in the stormwater management field.

It was agreed by all parties involved at the county level (Board of Supervisors, County Administrator, DPW Superintendent, SWCD Board) that Dave Wick and the Soil and Water Conservation District would undertake the primary role in the county's MS4 program, but it would be in cooperation with the Warren County Department of Public Works who had administered the program from 2003 until 2011. The SWCD and DPW will work together to implement the provisions of this plan, in partnership with the Lake Champlain Lake George Regional Planning Board and other interested parties.

This Plan will be updated as needed to address the latest technologies and information to maintain compliance with the NYSDEC GP-0-10-002, as well as to account for progress made.

Stormwater Hotline: (518) 824-8840

Under MCM2, Item 3, Warren County has established a Stormwater Hotline for use by the public. The telephone number above is a twenty four hour service whereby suspected illicit discharges to municipal drainage systems can be reported. Questions and comments regarding the County MS4 Program may also be addressed using this number.

MS4 Annual Reports

Warren County reports MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems) activities to New York State Department of Conservation annually as required. This report is presented for public review at the May meeting of the Warren County Board of Supervisor's DPW Committee prior to submission to DEC. Opportunity for comment is provided at that meeting.