

# Ulster County Department of the Environment

## Summary of 2013 Stormwater Annual Report

(Reporting Year: March 10, 2012- March 9, 2013)

Under the federal regulations commonly known as Stormwater Phase II, Ulster County is regulated as a traditional, non-land use control Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4). The Departments of the Environment, Public Works, Information Services, and Planning worked together to achieve this year's stormwater program objectives. Ulster County Soil and Water Conservation (UCSWCD), Ulster County Cornell Cooperative Extension-Ulster County (CCE-UC), and Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency (UCRRA) significantly contributed to meeting the County's stormwater goals particularly in the areas of Public Education and Outreach (MCM1) and Public Involvement/Participation (MCM2).

The County's MS4 Annual Report is prepared to comply with MS4 regulations and is submitted to the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation. The full annual report is available for review at <http://www.ulstercountyny.gov/stormwater.html>, and any comments may be submitted via email to [stormwater@co.ulster.ny.us](mailto:stormwater@co.ulster.ny.us) or in writing to the **UC Department of the Environment, PO Box 1800, Kingston NY 12402.**

Although not reflected in the report submitted to the DEC, much effort was focused on revising our Stormwater Management Program plan (SWMP) which was last revised in 2009. This SWMP plan is also available for review at <http://www.ulstercountyny.gov/stormwater.html>.

The MS4 program mandates are divided into six minimum control measures (MCM): public education and outreach, public involvement/participation, illicit discharge detection and elimination (IDDE), construction site runoff control, post-construction stormwater management, and pollution prevention/good housekeeping. The County's activities in each of these areas are detailed below.

### **MCM 1: Public Education and Outreach**

The County's education efforts focus on internal staff development, educating the public on pollution prevention, providing educational opportunities for municipal stormwater and code enforcement officers, as well as local contractors. This permit year the County co-sponsored, with the UC Soil and Water Conservation District, the "NYS DEC Endorsed: 4 Hour Contractors Training in Erosion and Sediment Control." All SPDES permitted construction sites must have someone onsite who has received this training.

The County is very committed to providing technical, mapping, and GIS support of our municipal MS4 communities (thirteen municipalities within Ulster County are independently regulated under the MS4 Stormwater program). In addition to the Contractor training, this permit year the County offered a workshop on developing a Stormwater Management Program plan for stormwater municipal officers. The County conducted training for staff in four MS4 municipalities. The County assisted MS4 towns with mapping their newly expanded Urbanized Area (MS4 regulated boundaries). The County also continues to offer a lending library of water testing and training materials in support of watershed groups and municipalities.

Stormwater information brochures are available to the public in the tourism kiosk in the County Office Building's lobby. This year, the Department of the Environment also provided literature for the County table at the Ulster County Fair. Over 900 pieces of stormwater related literature were distributed this year.

This year, Ulster County was awarded a grant from the Hudson River Estuary program for the construction of green infrastructure (GI) retrofit practices to be installed at the main County Office Building parking lot in the City of Kingston. Along with the Rain Garden installed last year, this site will serve as a demonstration of GI practices for handling stormwater volume and pollutants.

## **MCM 2: Public Involvement/Participation**

As a traditional non-land use MS4 under the regulations, the County is not required to provide participation opportunities to the general public. However, our County agencies have continued to involve the public and reduce potential pollutants through various efforts. These efforts not only strengthen the County's stormwater program but help the local MS4 municipalities which do have an explicit requirement to involve and educate the general public.

Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency (RRA) continues to offer household hazardous waste (HHW) collection events. At the April, June, and October 2012 collection events, 1239 Ulster County households disposed of over 10,000 gallons and over 12,000 lbs of solid HHW as well as almost 82,000 pounds (over 40 tons) of electronic waste, and 940 lbs of pharmaceutical waste. These events provide for the safe removal and disposal of potential pollutants.

## **MCM 3: Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination**

In 2012, 12% of the 345 County road MS4 outfalls and 100% of the 29 County building outfalls were inspected for dry weather discharges. All of our outfalls have been inspected at least once in the last five years. The purpose of these inspections is to detect and eliminate any illicit connections or discharges to our County storm drainage system. The County also maintains a stormwater hotline for the public to report suspected illicit discharges or other stormwater concerns. No calls were received this year; however, one inquiry came to our stormwater e-mail. This situation was corrected.

## **MCM 4: Construction Site Runoff Control**

The County's Stormwater Management Specialist (SWMS) reviewed one Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) for projects that discharge stormwater into the county drainage system. The County had no active construction sites during this permit year.

## **MCM 5: Post-construction Stormwater Management Practices**

Ulster County's post construction stormwater management practices include a dry pond at Golden Hill, a retention pond at the Ulster County Law Enforcement Center, a Vortechs unit at the DPW main yard, a pond at the county highway substation in New Paltz, and our new rain garden at the Department of the Environment. These practices were inventoried, inspected, and cleaned as needed during this reporting period.

## **MCM 6: Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping**

In 2009, the Ulster County Legislature enacted Local Law No.4 adopting a non-toxic pest management (NPM) policy on all land owned or leased by the County. This policy mandates the use of natural, non-toxic, or, as a last resort with advisory committee approval, least toxic cultural practices that promote healthy soil and plant life as a preventative measure against the onset of turf and landscape pest problems. This will ensure that the safest and most sound (in terms of human health and the environment) methods will be used in County landscape management practices. The advisory committee did not meet this year.

In the field, drainage inspections and maintenance at all 21 county owned properties (19 in the MS4 urbanized area) contributed to pollution prevention. In this reporting period, 232 catch basins were inspected and cleaned as needed. All County parking lots were swept.

Six new salt storage sheds were constructed at County highway garages. Ulster County continues to try to minimize salt usage and its negative environmental impact without sacrificing safe winter travel on our roads. Ulster County DPW uses Bio-Circle parts washers instead of harsh chemical washers.

All relevant County departments conduct an annual inventory and inspection of chemical storage.