

PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETING

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2024

6:15 P.M.

Introduction

Mrs. Fosbaugh explained that MS4 is an acronym for Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System, which means the storm and sanitary sewer systems are separate and distinct and are not combined. The purpose of the MS4 mandate is to assist in protecting the integrity of the freshwater system, which includes streams, rivers, lakes, etc. MS4 was established in 2008 by DEP and has become increasingly more expensive and restrictive to all municipalities. The DEP also encourages the public and developers to assist in protecting the freshwater supply.

Mrs. Fosbaugh explained that a monthly MS4 report is given at each Board of Supervisors meeting. One of the requirements of the MS4 mandate is public education. There is an MS4 display in the Administration Building Lobby that provides information to the public.

Routine Activities

- A part-time employee collects litter to prevent trash from impacting the functionality of the inlets, which prevents stormwater from properly draining into the system.
- The Public Works Department continually rebuilds inlets. The 1,100 inlets are inspected and rated each year to determine whether the inlets need repaired or rebuilt. The rating is entered into the GIS System.
- The South Hills Area Council of Governments (SHACOG) is a consortium of 22 communities. The Township participates in the use of the flusher truck and the camera truck several times per season in order to flush out problematic areas. The sanitary sewer system functioning properly helps keep the integrity of the freshwater system.
- The Township submits grant applications for Community Development (CD) funding, for both storm and sanitary sewers. The projects are specifically dedicated to low-income areas. The Township has secured hundreds of thousands of dollars in funding to help rebuild our sanitary and storm sewer systems. In addition to the CD projects, the Township-Wide Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation program is done on an annual basis, where the

Township invests approximately \$300,000 per year. The Township also participates in the Community Development Block Grant Program. The Township was awarded a CDBG Grant in 2024 for approximately \$50,000, which involved the replacement of a 48” storm sewer line on Cardox Road. A grant application was also submitted for a drainage issue on Grove Road. We are awaiting a determination.

Township/Developer Projects

- The Township has mandates for new development. There are all types of storm and sanitary sewer line requirements which are within the Township Code and are reviewed by the Township Engineer. Developers must comply with the requirements.

- The Township has initiated an ESRI system, which is an engineering product that maps the Township’s storm and sanitary sewer lines with the GIS system software.

- The Public Works Department routinely inspects the stormwater retention ponds owned by the Township. The purpose of the ponds is to control and regulate stormwater during heavy rains. After 2000, all retention ponds are owned and maintained by the various Homeowner’s Association (HOA) relative to each new development. This is a component of the MS4 mandate that the Township will be focusing on in the future, making sure that the private ponds, including the ponds that are the responsibility of the Homeowner’s Associations.

What you can do:

Mrs. Fosbaugh explained that there are a number of ways that homeowners can assist in effectively managing stormwater, such as:

- A new Stormwater Management ordinance was enacted by Pennsylvania which the Township adopted. If you are adding an addition to your home, or something of that nature, you must comply with increasingly more stringent stormwater management procedures to help prevent water from entering into the storm sewer system.

- Clean up after your pets to prevent animal waste from draining into the fresh water supply.

- Limit the application of chemicals on your lawn or use earth friendly applications.

- Wash vehicles in the grass to prevent soap and other chemicals from reaching the fresh water supply.

- Implement a rain barrel to collect rainwater for flower and vegetable gardens, and other outdoor activities.
- Avoid cutting down trees and shrubs.
- Direct stormwater runoff to grass areas, such as a mulch bed or rain garden.

Mrs. Fosbaugh informed the audience that in addition to the MS4 display in the Lobby, the Township also has MS4 informational packets in the rear of the Board Room for any attendees this evening.

Public Comments

Township Resident, Dave Brodnos, 3106 Jackpine Drive – Mr. Brodnos questioned if the Township would be imposing fees on private homeowners based upon the amount of impervious surface on their properties. This is being enacted in other communities. Mrs. Fosbaugh responded this is not being given any consideration.

Adjournment

Motion by Mr. Lucot, seconded by Mr. Vogel to adjourn the meeting. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

Time: 6:23 p.m.