

PUBLIC MEETING

MONDAY, JULY 11, 2016

6:45 P.M.

- Roll Call** Dave Buchewicz presiding. Board member Walt Sackinsky was present. Also in attendance were: Karen Fosbaugh, Township Manager; and Paul J. Gitnik, Esq., Township Solicitor. Absent: Board Member Ed Snee and Chief Dennis McDonough
- Purpose of the Meeting** The purpose of the meeting is to provide the public with a general overview of the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4).
- Introduction** **Mrs. Fosbaugh** – Mrs. Fosbaugh explained that MS4 is an acronym for Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System. The MS4 process was initiated by DEP and came into effect in 2003. The purpose of MS4 is to efficiently manage stormwater runoff. Since 2003, the guidelines and each permit process has become more stringent with regard to stormwater management. Because of excessive paving, such as driveways, parking lots and playgrounds, the water runs off more rapidly into the storm sewer system. This causes more flooding, damage to property and harm to individuals. Pollution is another problem. As stormwater is running over both impervious surfaces and lawns, it picks up pollutants, such as oil from parking lots, fertilizers and pesticides from lawns, trash and animal waste. These pollutants eventually reach our creeks and streams via the stormwater. Stream bank erosion occurs when water flows at unnaturally high volumes and speed and essentially eats away at the banks of the streams. The additional stream pollution and unstable bank conditions result in damage to natural habitats for fish and other aquatic life. The issue of most concern is the threat to human health. Stormwater can carry many pollutants which can contaminate drinking water supplies, hamper recreation activities, and threaten wildlife.
- What Can I Do to Help?** **Mrs. Fosbaugh** - Mrs. Fosbaugh explained that there are a number of ways that homeowners can assist in effectively managing stormwater. By reducing impervious surfaces, the rain can soak into the ground. Planting native trees and other plants can help with absorption, and increase evaporation. Removing large area of trees allows the volume of stormwater runoff to increase because there is no longer anything to hold it back. Pesticides and fertilizers add pollutants to the stormwater. Choose products that have fewer chemical components and do not over-use these types of products. Dog and cat feces which remain unattended are washed into the storm sewers and eventually into

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creeks and streams. Do not place feces in the yard waste collection bags. Never dispose of used oil, cleaning supplies, paint or any household hazardous waste by pouring them down any part of the storm sewer system. They eventually end up being washed down into the streams and creeks. Sweeping yard waste or debris into a storm drain or catch basin hinders the stormwater from reaching its intended goal. During times of dry weather, report discharges from any storm water outfalls, which are pipes that can be seen along the creeks. Wash your car in your yard or at a car wash rather than in the driveway. Car washes utilize systems that collect polluted water.

Assessing Stormwater on Your Property

Mrs. Fosbaugh – Mrs. Fosbaugh informed the audience that there are two (2) booklets being provided; one is the “Homeowner’s Guide to Stormwater,” to help homeowner’s assess stormwater on their property; and the other handout is entitled, “When It Rains, It Drains.”

Mrs. Fosbaugh added that as time progresses, MS4 will become more stringent and costly to the Township. In the future, this will become a major cost factor to the Township in correcting and mapping all of the issues.

Township’s Efforts

Mr. Beaver – Mr. Beaver explained that when residents drain their swimming pools into the line that drains into the storm sewer, the chlorine will eventually drain into the streams, killing the fish. When the water is treated at the sewer treatment plant, it is de-chlorinated before it returns back into the stream. Therefore, you should drain the water into the sanitary sewer system where it will be treated and de-chlorinated. Mr. Beaver explained the various tasks undertaken by the Public Works Department to adhere to MS4 requirements. He explained that when they test the water, they look at the color of the water at all the outfalls that have water flowing from them in the dryer weather. Most of the water from the outfalls is from natural springs. They check for color, odor, chlorine and the Ph of the water which determines whether it is a domestic water supply leaking into the pipes or if it is a natural spring. They also test for copper, phenol, detergents, and the runoffs from the streets. They also measure the flow and send the bacteria to a laboratory for analysis. They make sure when they clean the Township trucks that the water drains into the sanitary sewer system so that it can be treated. Mr. Beaver stated that the Township has 1,000 storm water inlets in the Township that have to be inspected every year for their structural integrity and to make sure they are draining properly. The Township has approximately 80 miles of stormwater sewers, and 100 stormwater outfalls. The Township has approximately 30 detention basins and storage tanks. All of the inlets, sewers and basins have to be inspected to make sure they are working properly. It takes a tremendous effort,

and all municipalities are required to perform the inspections. Mr. Beaver explained that if the residents are not conscientious as to what they allow to enter into the storm drain, they will start paying similarly to the way we pay for our sanitary sewer waste disposal. Mr. Beaver mentioned that the Township has attended meetings and workshops relating to MS4. Mr. Wargo works on MS4 with building inspection and permits for construction and with the Conservation District. The National Pollution Elimination Discharge Permit is mandated by the Federal Government, and it is a nationwide program to basically help clean up the waterways.

Public Comments There were no comments from the public audience.

Mrs. Fosbaugh commented that this is only the beginning of the Township's public education process. Public meetings are something the Township is required to do on an annual basis. In addition, the Township is required to have a display in a public location with MS4 materials available to the public. Mrs. Fosbaugh thanked everyone for attending and reminded the audience to take the handouts provided for their review.

Adjournment Motion by Mr. Sackinsky, seconded by Mr. Buchewicz to adjourn the meeting. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

Time: 7:02 p.m.