

CITY OF OXFORD

PHASE II 2014 ANNUAL STORM WATER REPORT

FOR

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Submitted By:

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CERTIFICATION
CITY OF OXFORD, ALABAMA

I certify under penalty of law that this document and all attachments were prepared under my direction or supervision in accordance with a system designed to assure that qualified personnel properly gather and evaluate the information submitted. Based on my inquiry of the person or persons who manage the system or those persons directly responsible for gathering the information, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the information submitted is true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine imprisonment for knowing violations.

Mike Roberts, Building/Zoning Official

City of Oxford, Alabama

ATTEST:



3-18-15

Leon Smith, Mayor

City of Oxford, Alabama

ATTEST:



Introduction

The City of Oxford is referred to as an urbanized area. The urbanized area was designated by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) as a phase II municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4). The City of Oxford received a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Phase II General Permit for storm water discharge from ADEM (Permit ALR040004) Calhoun County (015). The permit covers Calhoun County, however, the City of Oxford was required to issue a Storm Water Management Plan (SWMP) separate from the county. The SWMP for Oxford was prepared in February 2014 and the Annual Report is due by March 31st of each year. The Annual Report describes the programs and progress made during the year to address storm water in the City. The City of Oxford has recently hired a City Engineer who will be assisting with the continuation of the current programs and implementation of future plans.

What is the MS4 Program?

Untreated or uncontrolled storm water runoff is the number one cause of impairment in our waterways. Polluted runoff is often transported through municipal drainage system until it eventually discharges into streams, lakes, and rivers untreated. An MS4, or Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System, is comprised of drainage systems, including streets, catch basins, curbs, gutters, ditches, man-made channels, and storm pipes, owned by a state, county, city, township, or other public entity. The NPDES Storm Water Phase II regulation require permit coverage for storm water discharges from MS4s, mainly those located in urbanized areas.

MS4 Programs are intended to improve our nation's surface waters by reducing the quantities of pollutants that are picked up by runoff and transported into the storm water system during rainfall events. As part of the MS4 Program, municipalities hold and maintain a storm water management program that (1) reduces the discharge of pollutants to the maximum extent possible; (2) protects water quality; and (3) satisfies the water quality requirements of the federal Clean Water Act.

The MS4 program has six elements termed "minimum control measures" (MCM) that when implemented should result in significant reduction in pollutants discharged into receiving waters. The six minimum control measures are (1) Public Education and Outreach, (2) Public Participation/Involvement, (3) Illicit Discharge and Elimination, (4) Construction Site Runoff Control, (5) Post Construction Runoff Control, and (6) Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping.

The 2015 Annual Report will describe the action, results, and future plans for each MCM.

MCM 1 – PUBLIC EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Permit Requirements:

The Public Education and Outreach program requires the City to implement and evaluate a program that distributes educational material to the community or conducts equivalent outreach activities about the impact of polluted discharges on water bodies and the steps that the public can take to reduce pollutants in storm water runoff to the maximum extent possible.

Targeted Audience: General public, schools, elected officials, developers, contractors, professional groups, and civic clubs.

Current Programs (BMP):

1. Earth Day was celebrated in the elementary schools. Storm water education was completed by using crushed oreos as mud and gummy worms for show. How erosion occurs was demonstrated and how runoff enters the storm water system. The children were excited to learn about this process and to eat their “mud and worms”.
2. Informational literature was printed on the back of the water bill and mailed to approximately 9,500 residents and businesses. The backer was titled “Why Should I Care About Storm Water Pollution?” Each backer will run for 4 months and will be replaced with a new backer.
3. Fifty-four Storm Water commercials on the local TV24 channel and twenty-one Storm Water commercials on the local radio station WTDR AM-FM were run.
4. Wayne Livingston and Jeremy Cruse (Oxford Water Works employees) attended the NPDES training conference in Atlanta, Georgia.
5. Wayne Livingston completed training to be a “MS4 Compliance and Enforcement Certified Inspector”. The certification is effective through 12/10/2017.
6. The City’s web page “Environmental Outreach” has been expanded to include the Storm Water Plan and the Annual Reports. The web page also now includes more information for residents.

Measurable Goals:

Oxford’s SWMP Best Management Practices (BMP) was to begin educating students concerning storm water, establish a more permanent public service notice which includes a notice on the monthly water bills, quarterly TV and radio commercials, employee training for better management of the Storm Water Plan, and continue to improve and increase information on Oxford’s web page “Environmental Outreach” where all residents have access.

All of these measurable goals were accomplished to have a good foundation for future programs.

Future Programs:

During 2015, Oxford will continue with the programs already in place and begin to establish new programs as follows:

1. Begin to establish the slogan "Only Rain in the Drain".
2. Add additional TV and radio commercials promoting the new slogan "Only Rain in the Drain".
3. Begin to paint the slogan on the curbs at every storm drain.
4. Have a Storm Water poster contest for school students.
5. Purchase a Watershed/Nonpoint Source Model from EnviroScape for training.
6. Involve the community more in clean-up days by using civic groups and organizations.

MCM 2 – PUBLIC PARTICIPATION/INVOLVEMENT

Permit Requirements:

The Public Participation/Involvement requires the City to implement and evaluate a program centered on the SWMP and the Annual Report. The development of this program will be documented throughout the process. The ongoing activities for public involvement may include advisory councils, watershed associations, committees, stewardship, programs, and other environmental related activities. The SWMP is available on the City of Oxford's website.

Targeted Audience: General public, schools, elected officials, developers, contractors, professional groups, and civic clubs.

Current Programs (BMP):

1. Environmental Outreach Page on City's website has additional links for public information.
2. Beautification Board has gotten involved with the program of painting the curbs with the slogan "Only Rain in the Drain".
3. Began communication with the Alabama Land Trust "Choccolocco Creek Watershed Alliance" concerning Oxford's role in supporting their efforts through financial support and involvement.
4. The City now has two locations with recycling bins and good participation in the recycling program.

Measurable Goals:

Oxford's BMP to involve more public participation has moved slowly but as we expose the public to more information on storm water, the public involvement should increase. We are still working on an advisory committee to help with planning and getting civic group involvement. The City's recycle bin program has had very good participation.

The City of Oxford achieved some of the measurable goals with the expansion of the City's web page "Environmental Outreach" and adding two recycling bin locations. We will have some workshops on storm water for city officials and other interested citizens in 2015.

Future Programs:

During 2015, the City of Oxford will continue with the programs in place and begin to establish new programs as follows:

1. Continue the expansion of the City's website to include more information for the public.
2. Develop a storm water workshop for City officials and concerned citizens.
3. Develop an advisory committee to help with the planning and public involvement.
4. Involve the community more in clean-up days by using civic groups and organizations.

MCM 3 – ILLICIT DISCHARGE DETECTION ELIMINATION (IDDE)

Permit Requirements:

The City shall include an ongoing program to detect and eliminate illicit discharges into the City's small MS4, and proper disposal, including spills under the purview of another responding authority, into the MS4 owned or operated by the City to the maximum extent possible.

Targeted Audience: General public, schools, elected officials, developers, contractors, professional groups, and civic clubs.

Current Programs (BMP):

1. Educating the Public with informational brochure on the back of the monthly water bills.
2. Locating the major areas with discharge to the creek for sampling.

Measurable Goals:

As Oxford continues to educate the public through TV, radio and brochures on the importance of storm water prevention should increase the public awareness. Also, the City has five outfall points of discharge that are monitored for pollution.

The City has achieved some of the measurable goals such as educating the public and elected officials about illicit discharges. The City also had samples taken at five outfall locations, and the results will be posted to the City's website for public information. Oxford has a foundation to build on and should increase programs and participation during 2015.

Future Programs:

1. Distribute illicit discharge informational backers on the monthly water bills.
2. Post the outfall sampling locations and results on the City's website.
3. Public Notices on proper disposal of all items (location and contacts).
4. Designate a household hazardous waste disposal day where citizens can bring their household chemicals, paints, etc. for safe disposal.

MCM 4 – CONSTRUCTION SITE STORM WATER RUNOFF CONTROL

Permit Requirements:

The City must develop, implement, and enforce a program to reduce, to the MEP, pollutants in any storm water runoff to the regulated MS4 from construction activities that result in a total land disturbance of greater than or equal to one acre and activities that disturb less than one acre but are larger common plan of development or sale that would disturb one acre or more.

Targeted Audience: General public, schools, elected officials, developers, contractors, professional groups, and civic clubs.

Current Programs (BMP):

1. Educating the public with pamphlets, newspaper articles concerning construction sites.
2. Ordinance for construction site – the City has an ordinance that requires fencing, trenching, and ponding to control runoff from polluting the storm water.
3. Website – add ordinance and rules for construction site preparation for the general public with links to other agencies.

Measurable Goals:

The City has in place a program for educating the public with newspaper articles, pamphlets, and their website. The website will include the City Ordinance that pertains the storm water runoff and pollutants.

The City will continue to improve the website and informing contractors and the general public for more participation.

Future Programs:

1. Continue in 2015 the programs that are already in place.
2. Set up a program to receive a list of all permits for construction and visit each site to verify storm water runoff compliance. The Building Department currently inspects all construction sites but the Water Department will review the inspections and attend the site visits with the Building Department to gain experience.
3. Distribute construction site storm water runoff control informational pamphlets with each building permit issued through the City.
4. Add construction sites to mapping for future pollutant information.
5. Add construction information link to the Environment Outreach page on the website.

MCM 5 – POST-CONSTRUCTION STORM WATER MANAGEMENT IN NEW DEVELOPMENT AND REDEVELOPMENT

Permit Requirements:

The City must develop and implement project review, approval, and enforcement procedures for new development and redevelopment projects that disturb greater than one acre, and projects less than one acre that are part of a larger common plan of development or sale. Develop procedures for the following: site plan review and approval process; reapprove process when changes to post-construction controls are required; process to demonstrate and document post-construction storm water measures have been installed properly to include enforceable procedures for noncompliant projects.

Target Audience: General public, schools, elected officials, developers, contractors, professional groups, and civic clubs.

Current Programs (BMP):

- A. Review all ordinance and make sure they cover all construction sites with enforcement authority.
- B. Set up a program to receive a list of all permits for construction and visit each site for verifying all runoff compliance for redevelopment.
- C. Add construction sites to mapping for future pollutant information.
- D. Add construction information link to the Environmental Outreach page on the website.

Measurable Goals:

The City has in place a program for educating the public with newspaper articles, pamphlets, and websites. The website will have a comment section for the public to make comments concerning pollution and housekeeping.

The City will continue to improve the website an informing the general public for more participation and perform more site visits to the post-construction areas to ensure compliance.

Future Programs:

- A. Continue in 2015 the programs that are already in place.
- B. Review all comments on the City website and react to any possible pollution reported.
- C. Improve the City maps to reflect areas needing housekeeping.
- D. Improve the permit review process and follow-up post-construction site visits to ensure compliance

MCM 6 – POLLUTION PREVENTION/GOOD HOUSEKEEPING FOR MUNICIPAL OPERATIONS

Permit Requirements:

The City must document the methodology for the development of a pollution prevention/good housekeeping program for municipal operations. The rationale statement must address the overall prevention/good housekeeping program and the individual BMPs, measurable goals and responsible person(s) for the program. The rationale statement shall include the following information at a minimum:

Target Audience: General public, schools, elected officials, developers, contractors, professional groups, and civic clubs.

Current Programs (BMP):

- A. Continue to inform the public of the need to maintain good housekeeping to eliminate storm water pollution.
- B. The City has a litter patrol that picks up trash along the right of ways and drainage ditches.
- C. The City inspects all city operations to ensure that all areas are maintained and disposed of properly.
- D. The City's website has an Environmental Outreach page that has a comment section for the public to note where the litter crew is needed.
- E. The City has sent recycle cards to residents for curbside recycling and set up bins at two locations for others.

Measurable Goals:

The City has in place a program for educating the public with newspaper articles, pamphlets, and websites concerning pollution prevention. The City has a litter patrol that works daily removing litter from the City and has developed a recycling program.

The City has accomplished good housekeeping by implementing most of the goals and having a "Litter Patrol" that picks up daily. The City will continue to improve the website an informing the general public for more participation.

Future Programs:

- A. Continue the current pollution prevention program.
- B. Involve the community more in clean-up days by using civic groups and organizations.
- C. Review all comments on the City website and react to any possible pollution reported.
- D. Improve the City maps to reflect areas needing housekeeping.

This report was prepared by:
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