

# **CITY OF OXFORD**

**2013**

**ANNUAL STORM WATER REPORT**

**FOR**

**ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT**

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# Phase II Annual Report – 2013

## 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 of 2014 and an annual report is due by March 31, 2014. The annual report is to show the programs and progress made during the year to address storm water in the city.

### 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. (epa.gov search 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 (6) Pollution Prevention/Good Housing.

The Annual Report will reflect on each MCM the action, results, and future plan actions.

## MCM 1. Public Education and Outreach

### Permit Requirements:

The Public Education and Outreach 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.

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

### Current Programs: (BMP)

- A. **Storm water coloring books** were distributed to the 3-elementary schools kindergarten through third grade to begin establishing an awareness with the younger children and build for future presentations at the schools.
- B. **A pamphlet (Take Action for Clean Water)** was mailed to 9500 residents and businesses with their Utility Bill.
- C. **Ran a half page color public notice in our local newspaper** with headlines "STORM WATER CONTROL IS A COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP". The notice was a NEMO pamphlet explaining "What is Nonpoint Polluted Runoff" and what water is effected by the runoff.
- D. **Educational Workshop:** Park board member (Jenifer Yates) presented two workshops (1) Water Shed Academy Jan. 16/17 (2) Rain Garden workshop April 10.
- E. **Additional Training** – Mike Roberts of the Building Department attended the Gadsden-Etowah MS4 2013 conference.
- F. **City Web Page** – Added an Environmental Outreach Page.

### Measurable Goals:

Oxford's SWMP Best Management Practices (BMP) was to make contact with the school System to begin educating the students concerning storm water, public service notices in the local newspaper, mail storm water pamphlets with the utility bill, begin some Workshops on storm water, acquire additional training for city officials, and develop an Environmental Outreach page on the City's Web Page.

**All these measurable goals were accomplished enough for the city to have a good Foundation for future programs.**

## **MCM 1 cont.**

### **Future Programs:**

During 2014 continue with the programs already in place. Begin having a presentation in the schools for different age groups. This will be determined with the school board involvement to help gain more participation.

The City in 2014 will run one public service notice in the newspaper quarterly to continue educating the public.

A pamphlet will be mailed with the utility bill twice in 2014.

A NEMO training will be setup for elected officials and the general public.

City web site will be expanded to include more links and information in 2014

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

### **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. Once approved, the SWMP will be available on the City's website.

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

### **Current Programs: (BMP)**

- A. SWMP link on the City's web site.
- B. Beautification Board will be on the planning of the events for the SWMP programs.
- C. Boy and Girl Scouts to participate in cleanups and water projects.
- D. Water Festival with the involvement of students and parents.
- E. Storm Water poster contest to involve more children and parents.

### **Measurable Goals:**

Oxford's BMP to involve more public participation was to offer prizes and contest for reducing storm water pollution. Involve the school, add link to City's web site for the public to gain more information and participation with storm water projects. City will involve more city boards and civic groups to help plan and participate in the storm water projects. Develop citizen's Advisory Committee.

The City achieved some of the measurable goal like school involvement, web site expansion, workshops and some boards and civic groups have been contacted but have not participated yet but should be participating in 2014.

## **MCM 3. Illicit Discharge Detection Elimination (IDDE)**

### **Permit Requirements:**

The City shall include an ongoing program to detect and eliminate illicit discharges into 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)**

- A. **Educating the Public** with pamphlets, newspaper articles.
- B. **Educating elected officials** and public through workshops.
- C. **Recycle bins** are being placed on 7<sup>th</sup> street with signs to encourage recycling.
- D. **Curbside recycling** cards mailed to residence to see if participation is enough to begin.
- E. **Sampling** at discharge locations to the creeks, etc.

### **Measurable Goals:**

The City has sent curb side recycling cards to all residence, and prepared a site for recycling bins with signage. Several workshops for elected officials and general public have been offered. Newspaper public notices have been run in the local paper. The City had Advanced Environmental Technology, LLC to sample 5 outfall locations and to analyze for pollutants.

The city has achieved some of the measurable goals such as setting up recycling and educating the public and official about illicit discharge. The city also had samples taken at 5 outfall locations, and the results will be posted on the city's web site for public information. We have a foundation to build on and should increase programs and participation during 2014.

**Future Programs:**

Continue in 2014 the programs that are already in place.

Have maps to show all outfall locations.

Be sure to have pamphlets that reflects how illicit discharge gets in the storm water;

Changing your auto's oil, fertilizing your lawn, tending your pets, disposing of chemicals.

Public Notices on proper disposing of all item for recycling....location and contacts.

Add information to web site on disposing of items with links to recyclers.

## **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)**

- A. **Educating the Public** with pamphlets, newspaper articles concerning construction sites.
- B. **Ordinance for construction site** – the city has an ordinance that requires fencing, trenching and ponding to control runoff from polluting the storm water.
- C. **Web site** – add the ordinance and rules for construction site preparation for the general public with links to other agencies.

## **MCM 4 cont.**

### **Measurable Goals:**

The city has in place a program for educating the public with newspaper articles, pamphlets, and web site. The web site will reflect the city ordinance that pertains to storm water runoff and pollutants.

**The City has accomplished putting most of the goals in motion and will continue to improve the web site and informing the general public for more participation.**

### **Future Programs:**

Continue in 2014 the programs that are already in place.

Review all ordinance and make sure they cover all construction sites with enforcement authority.

Set up a program to receive a list of all permits for construction and visit each site for verifying all runoff compliance.

Add construction sites to mapping for future pollutant information.

Add construction information link to the Environment Outreach page on the web site.

## **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.

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

### **Current Programs: (BMP)**

**Continue in 2014** the programs that are already in place.

**Review all ordinance** and make sure they cover all construction sites with enforcement authority.

**Setup a program** to for a review check list and a review list.

**Environmental Outreach** page on Web site link to construction review.

**The City has accomplished putting most of the goals in motion and will continue to improve the web site and informing the general public for more participation.**

## **MCM 5 cont.**

### **Future Programs:**

Continue in 2014 the programs that are already in place.

Review all ordinance and make sure they cover all construction sites with enforcement authority.

Set up a program to receive a list of all permits for construction and visit each site for verifying all runoff compliance for redevelopment.

Add construction sites to mapping for future pollutant information.

Add construction information link to the Environment Outreach page on the web site.

## **MCM 6. Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping for Municipal Operations**

### **Permit Requirements:**

The City must document the methodology for the development of a prevention/good housekeeping program for municipal operations. The rational 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.

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

## **MCM 6 cont.**

### **Rationale Statement:**

The city has a program that includes a "Litter Patrol" that goes out daily to retrieve litter along the right of ways and drain ditches. We also inspect all city operations to ensure that all areas are maintained with good housekeeping and all illicit products or other pollutants are maintained and disposed of properly. This program is directed and maintained by the street department supervisor.

### **Current Programs: (BMP)**

**Continue in 2014** the programs that are already in place that inform the public of the need to maintain good housekeeping to eliminate storm water pollution.

**The city has a litter patrol** that picks up trash before it pollutes the storm water.

**The city's web site** has an Environmental Outreach page that will have a comment section for the public to note where the litter crew is needed.

**Recycle Program-** the city has sent recycle cards to residences for curbside recycling and bins for others.

### **Measurable Goals:**

The city has in place a program for educating the public with newspaper articles, pamphlets, and web site. The web site will have a comment section for making comments concerning pollution and housekeeping. The city has a litter patrol that works every day removing litter from the city and has a recycling program.

**The City has accomplished good housekeeping by putting most of the goals in motion and having a "Litter Patrol" that picks up daily. The city will continue to improve the web site and inform the general public for more participation.**

**MCM 6 cont.**

**Future Programs:**

Continue in 2014 the programs that are already in place.

Involve the community more in clean up days by using civic groups and organizations. Review all comments on web site and react to any possible pollution reported. Improve our maps to reflect areas needing housekeeping.

**This report is prepared by:**

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