BLAIR COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT AND THE “BLAIR COUNTY MS4 WORKGROUP”

SUCCESS THROUGH COLLABORATION
WHERE IS BLAIR COUNTY?

BLAIR COUNTY IS SITUATED IN CENTRAL PA WITH A LAND MASS OF 340,000 ACRES AND A POPULATION OF 126,000. WE ARE COMPRISED OF 15 TOWNSHIPS, 8 BOROUGHS AND ONE CITY, EACH WITH THEIR OWN SET OF RULES AND ORDINANCES.
STORMWATER REGULATIONS AND THE MS4 PROGRAM IN PA

- Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) program was launched in 1990 with Phase II following in 1999 whereby smaller urbanized areas are required to attain a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit.
- MS4 areas are based on Census data and categorized as “urbanized areas”.
- The first NPDES permit cycle for Phase II was issued by the PA, Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) beginning on March 10, 2003.
MINIMUM CONTROL MEASURES (MCM) ARE PART OF EACH PERMIT

- MCM#1 – PUBLIC EDUCATION AND OUTREACH
- MCM#2 – PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND INVOLVEMENT
- MCM#3 – ILLICIT DISCHARGE DETECTION AND ELIMINATION
- MCM#4 – CONSTRUCTION SITE RUNOFF CONTROL
- MCM#5 – POST-CONSTRUCTION RUNOFF CONTROL
- MCM#6 – POLLUTION PREVENTION AND GOOD HOUSEKEEPING
BLAIR COUNTY MS4 AREA

PORTIONS OF

7 TOWNSHIPS

4 BOROUGHS

1 CITY AND THE

COUNTY OF BLAIR
THE BLAIR COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT BEGAN ASSISTING MUNICIPALITIES SHORTLY AFTER THE FIRST PERMIT CYCLE BEGAN BY MAPPING AND PROVIDING GIS DATA FOR EACH IDENTIFIED OUTFALL OWNED BY THE MUNICIPALITY WITHIN THE MS4 AREA
EARLY DUTIES UNDERTAKEN BY THE DISTRICT

BEGAN COMPILING ANNUAL REPORTS OF DISTRICT ACTIVITIES THAT COULD COUNTED BY MUNICIPALITIES TOWARD THEIR PUBLIC OUTREACH AND EDUCATION GOALS UNDER MINIMUM CONTROL MEASURES (MCM) #1 AND #2
EARLY DUTIES UNDERTAKEN BY THE DISTRICT

DEMONSTRATION PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

• 16,300 SQ FT PERVERIOUS PARKING LOT INSTALLATION WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS

• HOLLIDAYSBURG BOROUGH, KELLER ENGINEERS, INC AND ACF ENVIRONMENTAL

• MCM #1 AND #2
EARLY DUTIES UNDERTAKEN BY THE DISTRICT

EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL AND POST-CONSTRUCTION STORMWATER

• THE DISTRICT IS DELEGATED BY PA DEP TO ADMINISTER THE NPDES PERMITS FOR STORMWATER DISCHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES

• ALL PERMIT CORRESPONDENCE AND INSPECTIONS REPORTS ARE COPIED TO THE MUNICIPALITY

• MCM #4 AND #5
FORMATION OF THE BLAIR COUNTY MS4 WORKGROUP

• IN APRIL OF 2010 – THE EPA PERFORMED FILE REVIEWS FOR MOST OF THE MS4’S IN PA DEP’S SOUTHCENTRAL REGION (TO INCLUDE BLAIR COUNTY) AND ISSUED NUMEROUS DEFICIENCY ORDERS

• STARTING IN MARCH OF 2012 THE FIRST MEETING OF THE BLAIR COUNTY MS4 WORKGROUP WAS HELD TO SHARE MUNICIPAL RESOURCES AS PART OF THEIR PERMIT RENEWAL APPLICATION THAT WAS DUE IN SEPTEMBER 2012

• EACH MUNICIPALITY WITHIN BLAIR COUNTY CHOSE TO SUBMIT AND MAINTAIN THEIR OWN NPDES PERMIT
WHAT WILL BE SHARED

• TASKS RELATED TO PUBLIC EDUCATION AND OUTREACH (MCM#1); PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND INVOLVEMENT (MCM#2) WILL BE COORDINATED AND SHARED

• TASKS RELATED TO CONSERVATION DISTRICT ACTIVITIES REGARDING EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL AND POST CONSTRUCTION STORMWATER WILL BE TRACKED AND REPORTED (MCM# 4 AND #5)

• DEVELOP MULTI-MUNICIPAL TRAININGS RELATED TO POLLUTION PREVENTION AND GOOD HOUSEKEEPING AT MUNICIPAL FACILITIES (MCM#6)
THE DISTRICT DEVELOPED A STANDARDIZED MOU WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE MS4 WORKGROUP AND MUNICIPAL SOLICITORS TO CLEARLY COMMUNICATE AND COMMIT TO DUTIES BY AND BETWEEN ALL PARTIES.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Between the

Blair County Conservation District
(hereinafter sometimes referred to as “District”)
And

(hereinafter sometimes referred to as “Municipality”)

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

This Memorandum made and executed this ______ day of ________, 2014, has been prepared jointly and agreed upon by each party, the same parties intending to be legally bound hereby, for the following purposes to the extent applicable:

To serve as a joint commitment by the signatory parties to control accelerated erosion and to minimize sediment pollution to the waters of the Commonwealth which may result from the conduct of earthmoving activities in _______ (name of municipality).

To serve as a basis for stating the role of each party in administering the provisions of (name of municipality)’s Erosion and Sediment Control Ordinance or Ordinance which contains Erosion and Sediment Control Provisions: Ordinance Name _______ and Ordinance # _______, as amended from time to time.

I. In carrying out the intent of this memorandum, the Blair County Conservation
MOU DEVELOPED

THE DISTRICT WILL:

- COMMIT STAFF TIME
- CALLS OUT THE MINIMUM CONTROL MEASURES THAT WILL BE ADDRESSED BY THE DISTRICT

F. Commit the necessary staff time, and provide all information necessary to assist the municipality in conducting enforcement proceedings as specified in Ordinance # ________.

G. As part of and as stated in a Delegation Agreement with the DEP, the District shall administer and implement the Commonwealth’s Erosion, Sediment, and Stormwater Control Program and through the Delegation with DEP and this MOU shall assist (name of municipality) in maintaining compliance with Minimum Control Measures (MCM) #4; #5 (BMP #1, #2 and #3) of (name of municipality)’s NPDES Municipal Separate Stormwater System (MS4) permit;

H. Assist, as staffing allows, (name of municipality) in maintaining compliance with Minimum Control Measures (MCM) #1, #2 and #6 of the municipalities MS4 Permit.

I. Annually, prepare and send to the municipality a summary of District activities related to MS4 MCM’s.
THE MUNICIPALITY WILL:

- NOTIFY THE DISTRICT OF PROJECTS OF 1 AC OR MORE
- NOT ISSUE BUILDING PERMITS WITHOUT NPDES PERMIT ISSUANCE
- UTILIZE DISTRICT AS A RESOURCE

II. In carrying out the intent of this Memorandum, (name of municipality) shall:

A. Notify the District within 5 days of receipt of an application for any permit or approval that could involve earth disturbance activities consisting of 1 acre or more, pursuant to Chapter 102.42.

B. Pursuant to Chapter 102.43, (name of municipality) shall not issue building or other permit or approval to those proposing or conducting earth disturbance activities requiring a Department permit until the Department or District has issued the E&S or individual NPDES Permit or approved coverage under a general NPDES Permit for Stormwater Discharges Associated with Construction Activities under Chapter 102.5.

C. Shall provide instructions to have the E&S Plans submitted to the District and forward all questions pertaining to the preparation of E&S Plans and Applications and tracking forms to the District.

D. Forward all third party complaints about ongoing earth disturbance projects to the District for their inspection.

E. Upon notification by the District, withhold any building, grading, or other permits that apply as specified in the ordinance or Chapter 102.43, when and where it has been determined that an applicant has failed to secure E&S Plan approval from the District.

F. Contact the District seeking services of the Ombudsman to assist with ordinance review and/or potential conflict resolution resulting from the interface of production agriculture and urban constituents.
BENEFITS TO A COLLABORATIVE APPROACH

SHARE ........ DISTRICT WEBSITE; PUBLIC OUTREACH, MUNICIPAL TRAINING

www.blairconservationdistrict.org
BENEFITS TO A COLLABORATIVE APPROACH

GRANT FUNDING…..

• COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION ON BEHALF OF THE MS4 WORKGROUP RECEIVED FUNDING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE THROUGH THE CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION AND THE CENTER FOR WATERSHED PROTECTION FOR THE PREPARATION OF THE TMDL AND CHESAPEAKE BAY POLLUTION REDUCTION PLAN AS REQUIRED BY THE MS4 PERMIT

• LESSEned THE BURDEN ON EACH MUNICIPALITY FOR THE COMPLETION OF THE REPORT
BENEFITS TO A COLLABORATIVE APPROACH

GRANT FUNDING…..

• THE DISTRICT APPLIED FOR AND RECEIVED A GRANT FROM THE NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE FOUNDATION TO:
  ➢ DEVELOP A LOCAL WATER SPECIFIC WEBSITE
  ➢ IMPLEMENT GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE BMP’S AS DEMONSTRATION AREAS
  ➢ ENHANCE THE DISTRICT’S EXISTING WATER QUALITY MONITORING PROGRAM BY ADDING AUTOMATED SAMPLING TO DEVELOP BASELINE DATA
BENEFITS TO A COLLABORATIVE APPROACH

www. cleanblairwater.org

WATER SPECIFIC WEBSITE

• INTERACTIVE MAP
• MUNICIPAL AND WATERSHED INFORMATION
• ROLES
• OPPORTUNITIES
• HOSTED BY THE DISTRICT
BENEFITS TO A COLLABORATIVE APPROACH

IMPLEMENTATION PROJECTS

• FOUR AREAS PLANNED FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF GREEN PRACTICES TO CONTROL STORMWATER

• DESIGNED LOCALLY

• EARTHWORK BY THE BOROUGH

• PLANTED BY SCHOOL STUDENTS
BENEFITS TO A COLLABORATIVE APPROACH

PROFESSIONALLY DEVELOPED SIGNAGE FOR THE HOLLIDAYSBURG YMCA SITE
BENEFITS TO A COLLABORATIVE APPROACH

WATER QUALITY MONITORING WITH AUTOMATED SAMPLING WILL CREATE CREDIBLE BASELINE DATA AND EVENTUALLY SHOW WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENTS WITH BMP IMPLEMENTATION!
BENEFITS TO A COLLABORATIVE APPROACH

GRANT FUNDING…..

• THE ALLIANCE FOR THE CHESAPEAKE BAY APPLIED FOR AND RECEIVED A GRANT FROM THE NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE FOUNDATION TO DEVELOP A STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE BLAIR COUNTY MS4 AREA

• BUILT UPON THE BAY POLLUTION REDUCTION PLAN AND IDENTIFIED ISSUES, NEEDS, STRATEGIES AND OPPORTUNITIES

• FUNDED THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, ENVIRONMENTAL FINANCE CENTER TO DEVELOP A COST ANALYSIS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CHESAPEAKE BAY POLLUTION REDUCTION PLAN
NEXT STEPS

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS PROVIDED A STARTING POINT FOR BOTH MUNICIPAL INVOLVEMENT AND BUDGETING

- PROVIDED SCENARIOS FOR A COST TO PARTICIPATE FOR EACH MUNICPALLY
- IDENTIFIED A DESIRE TO HAVE A SHARED STORMWATER COORDINATOR
NEXT STEPS – LOCAL BUY IN

- Allegheny Township
- Antis Township
- Blair Township
- Frankstown Township
- Juniata Township
- Logan Township
- Freedom Township
- City of Altoona
- County of Blair
- Duncansville Borough
- Bellwood Borough
- Hollidaysburg Borough
- Newry Borough
- City of Altoona
NEXT STEPS – SHARED COORDINATOR

The Blair County Conservation District was identified as the potential preferred option by our municipalities as the lead agency to host the shared coordinator.

Hire Coordinator ➔ Formalize Municipal Partnerships ➔ Obtain Implementation Funding ➔ Regional Facilitation of MS4 Program
IN SUMMARY.....
WAS COLLABORATION A SUCCESS?

YES - FOR THE BLAIR COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

- ENHANCED OUR WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH OUR MUNICIPALITIES
- ELEVATED OUR WATER QUALITY MONITORING PROGRAM
- DIVERSIFIED OUR PUBLIC OUTREACH AND EDUCATION EFFORTS
- INCREASED AND FUNDED OUR EFFORTS TO INSTALL GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS
- POTENTIALLY WILL AUGMENT DISTRICT STAFFING
THANKS TO OUR MANY PARTNERS

First and foremost the local MS4 Workgroup including our local Municipalities, local Engineering Firms & Planning Commission and the following for financial, planning and project resources....
SPECIAL THANKS TO MY VERY RESOURCEFUL STAFF!

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