

MS4 Activities and Priority Projects

OEPA MS4 Stormwater Permit Minimum Control

Measures Activities include:

- MCM 1 - Public Education and Outreach
- MCM 2 - Public Participation and Involvement
- MCM 3 - Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination, known as **IDDE**
- MCM 4 - Construction Site Runoff Control
- MCM 5 - Post-development Runoff Control
- MCM 6 - Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping for Municipal Operations

SWMD Projects will include:

- Preparation of regional watershed studies, to determine effective improvements to improve surface water quality and mitigate flooding.
- Update and improve the stormwater mapping of MS4 facilities (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems), adding MS4s to the Summit County GIS Map, for IDDE enforcement.
- Numerous projects to study and construct improvements to drainage ways with addition of stormwater best management practices, including:
 - Wye Road Flood Mitigation Drainage Improvements, Bath Township.
 - Idle Brook Bankfull Wetlands, Bath.
 - Copley Ditch and Black Pond Outlet.
 - Dorwick/Marwyck Area, Northfield Center Township
 - Springfield Lake Outlet channel.
 - Springfield Lake Watershed Upland stormwater management.
 - Penguin Area, Coventry Township.
 - Stubbins Drive Outlet, Richfield Twp.
 - Copley Meadows Area, Copley Twp.
 - Everett/Oakhill, Richfield & Boston Townships.

Rules and Regulations

- Streams, waterways and ditches shall remain open and free-flowing, shall not be altered without a permit, and shall not be polluted.
- Filling and grading operations and construction of ponds, bridges, culverts, and storm sewers must meet standards, and are subject to plan review and permit requirements.
- Existing bridges, culverts, and storm sewers must be properly sized and properly maintained, or may be ordered removed.
- Illicit Discharges are prohibited.
- Enforcement, appeal, and penalty provisions are in place.

Summit County Surface Water Management District

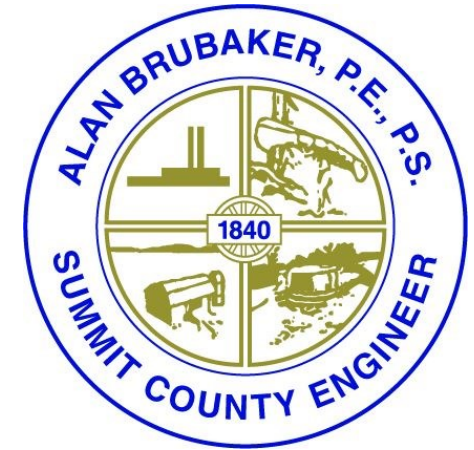
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A Guide to the Summit County Surface Water Management District

05/2024

Introduction

- Road and Bridge funds can not be used to work outside the road right of way, where many drainage problems occur.
- With no revenue, we were left to use the *ditch petition* process as the only way to address most stormwater problems. For this, citizens or a township can petition the county to do a surface water project and then the benefitting landowners pay assessments to pay for construction and maintenance of the improvements.
- However, the ditch petition projects initiated by landowners have been objected to by others that would be assessed, resulting in the measures stalled at council.
- We spent many years devising and evaluating various solutions to off-road stormwater issues in Summit County.
- Summit County established the **Surface Water Management District** to function as a utility & charge landowners a small monthly fee.
- The **SWMD** revenue can be used for studies, design, construction and maintenance costs, as funds are available.
- The ditch petition process may be used to generate revenue as needed for the balance of construction and maintenance.
- SWMD revenue will be used to cover the cost of Best Management Practices mandated by the Ohio EPA in their MS4 stormwater regulations.
- MS4 regulations must be met by all communities which include urbanized areas, as defined by the US Census Bureau.

County Ditch History

- Many ditches and streams are not formally established county ditches.
- Many drainage systems were installed independently by farmers. In some cases involving large land area and many property owners, they would petition the County to manage the construction of the ditch.
- Property owners who benefit from the county ditch pay for its installation.
- Many county ditches were improved by widening and straightening, between 1935 and 1943 as federal Work Project Administration projects.
- Prior to August 23, 1957, the completed project was turned over to the property owners for maintenance and upkeep. The County owns an easement for the County Ditch but no maintenance responsibility.
- After August 23, 1957, new or improved county ditches are put under permanent maintenance special assessment on the property tax bill of all benefited property owners to pay for repairs and maintenance to that particular ditch.
- In Summit County, there are no county ditches with this maintenance assessment in place. However there are maintenance assessments in place for most subdivisions built since the 1980s in the townships, with the revenue covering the cost of maintenance of the stormwater management facilities outside the road rights-of-way.

Program Summary

- The SWMD functions as a local stormwater utility to improve surface water quality and to mitigate flooding.
- The SWMD is charged with meeting the requirements of the Ohio EPA MS4 Stormwater Permit held by Summit County on behalf of all townships.
- The SWMD also established & enforces rules and regulations relative to illicit discharges, grading and drainage.
- Participation is mandatory for properties within the townships, and is also available to all Summit County cities and villages to join by legislative action.
- The SWMD fees will be collected semi-annually with the property taxes, starting January 2025.
- The new SWMD fees will be calculated based on the parcel area and the assessed value of improvements on the parcel. Minimum and maximum rates are set for each classification of parcel. The rates are defined in S.C.O 942.05.
- SWMD Fees will be collected from the flowing Parcels:
 - Agricultural
 - Commercial
 - Exempt Charitable
 - Exempt Government
 - Industrial
 - Residential