

**LAKE COUNTY'S COUNTYWIDE APPROACH
TO STORMWATER MANAGEMENT
and the
LAKE COUNTY STORMWATER MANAGEMENT COMMISSION'S ROLE
AS A QUALIFYING LOCAL PROGRAM**

The Lake County Stormwater Management Commission (SMC) was established by the Lake County Board in 1991. It succeeded the Lake County Stormwater Management Planning Committee, which was established in 1988 following the passage of enabling legislation by the Illinois General Assembly (55 ILCS 5/5-1062) in 1987. SMC's mission is to provide desired community services toward the primary goals of flood damage reduction and surface water quality improvement. The specific objectives that SMC is working to meet in order to achieve its primary goals of flood damage reduction and surface water quality improvement include: mitigate existing flood damages and prevent the occurrence of new damages in the future; repair, restore, maintain, and preserve natural and constructed drainage features and facilities in the county; improve surface water quality; promote awareness and understanding of stormwater management issues; and, establish, maintain, and distribute stormwater management data and information.

In working toward meeting these objectives, SMC follows a set of stormwater management policies that were created to define its roles and responsibilities for stormwater management in Lake County. These policies include: work to coordinate actions with municipalities and local county agencies to ensure efficient implementation of stormwater management activities; work interactively with partners in stormwater management across the county; provide direct technical services to local governments, agencies, and other groups to most effectively address regional, watershed, and interjurisdictional problems; provide public information, education, and training opportunities regarding stormwater management and raise awareness and capabilities throughout the county; and, facilitate local community input into local, federal, and state sponsored stormwater management activities across the county. The implementation of these policies has created a comprehensive, countywide approach to stormwater management in Lake County.

Consistent with this comprehensive, countywide approach to stormwater management, SMC serves as a Qualifying Local Program (QLP) for Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4s) in Lake County. As a QLP, SMC has been working since the early 2000's, when the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) began the process of expanding its NPDES Stormwater Program to include small MS4s, to assist Lake County MS4s in developing and implementing efficient and effective stormwater management programs.

In 2002, SMC proactively formed the Municipal Advisory Committee (MAC) to provide a forum for representatives of local MS4s, which include municipalities, townships, and drainage districts, to discuss, among other topics, the implementation of IEPA's NPDES Stormwater Program. At that time, as a result of conversations held at MAC meetings, informational workshops, and roundtable discussions, it was agreed that each Lake County MS4 would be responsible for obtaining coverage under IEPA's General NPDES Permit No. ILR40, through the submittal of a "Notice of Intent" to be covered under the permit, and for developing its own local stormwater management program, but that each MS4 could and should take credit for the stormwater management activities conducted by SMC.

Although SMC is not itself an MS4, as it does not own or operate a separate storm sewer system, it does perform activities related to each of the six minimum control measures (MCMs) described in IEPA's General NPDES Permit No. ILR40. These activities include:

- 1. Public Education and Outreach:** SMC distributes throughout Lake County a variety of informational materials related to stormwater management via its "take away" rack and website; provides, upon request, informational materials directly to Lake County MS4s for local distribution; provides educational presentations related to IEPA's NPDES Stormwater Program at MAC meetings and, upon request, to local MS4s; includes announcements related to IEPA's NPDES Stormwater Program on its website, in its newsletter, and in its annual report; with the assistance of the Lake County Division of Transportation, posts watershed identification signage throughout the county; sponsors or co-sponsors numerous workshops and events on a variety of stormwater management-related topics; develops and compiles, upon request, stormwater materials for inclusion in stormwater education kits; provides, upon request, information on, materials for, and training on storm drain stenciling; and, maintains a webpage dedicated to IEPA's Stormwater Program with resource materials such as model ordinances, case studies, and web links.
- 2. Public Participation/Involvement:** SMC conducts a number of public meetings each year, including MAC meetings and watershed committee meetings, where IEPA's NPDES Stormwater Program and its stormwater management activities are discussed, providing public notice of such meetings on its website and through direct mailings and e-mailings.
- 3. Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination:** SMC provides model and example illicit discharge ordinances that prohibit all non-stormwater discharges to the storm sewer system; continues to administer and enforce the Lake County Watershed Development Ordinance (WDO), which includes provisions that prohibit illicit discharges to the storm sewer system during construction on development sites; and, sponsors or co-sponsors workshops on Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination or other topics related to IEPA's NPDES Stormwater Program.
- 4. Construction Site Runoff Control:** SMC continues to administer and enforce the Lake County Watershed Development Ordinance (WDO), which establishes the minimum stormwater management requirements for development in Lake County, including requirements for construction site runoff control; administers the Designated Erosion Control Inspector (DECI) program, which was designed to help ensure that the construction site runoff control requirements of the Lake County WDO are met; provides training for those involved in the administration and enforcement of the Lake County WDO to help ensure that the construction site runoff control requirements of the Lake County WDO are met; follows established procedures for the receipt and consideration of construction site runoff control-related information submitted by the public; and, conducts or coordinates inspections of development sites to help ensure that the construction site runoff control requirements of the Lake County WDO are met.
- 5. Post-Construction Runoff Control:** SMC continues to administer and enforce the Lake County Watershed Development Ordinance, which establishes the minimum stormwater management requirements for development in Lake County, including requirements for post-construction runoff control; provides training for those involved in the administration and enforcement of the Lake County WDO to help ensure that the post-construction runoff control requirements of the Lake County WDO are met; conducts or coordinates inspections of development sites to help ensure that the post construction site runoff control requirements of the Lake County WDO are met; and, through its Watershed Management Board (WMB), provides partial funding for post-

construction runoff control projects, including flood damage reduction and surface water quality improvement projects.

6. **Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping:** SMC maintains a list of known employee training resources and opportunities; makes available to Lake County MS4s a software-based employee training program; and, sponsors or co-sponsors training workshops related to pollution prevention/good housekeeping or other topics related to IEPA's NPDES Stormwater Program.

In addition to the stormwater management activities described above, SMC also provides, upon request, no-cost "consultant-level" technical assistance to Lake County MS4s in developing and implementing their stormwater management programs and provides them with a variety of resources to assist them in meeting the requirements of IEPA's General NPDES Permit No. ILR40. To date, these resources have included:

- Notice of Intent templates;
- Stormwater Management Program Plan templates;
- Annual Report templates;
- Annual "State of Lake County's Waters" reports;
- An Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination guidance manual;
- Model and example illicit discharge ordinances that prohibit all non-stormwater discharges, including illegal dumping, to the storm sewer system;
- GIS and mapping data, including a countywide receiving waters map; and
- The Lake County Watershed Development Ordinance, which establishes the minimum stormwater management requirements for development in Lake County, including requirements for construction site and post-construction runoff control.

As IEPA's Stormwater Program continues to evolve, SMC is committed to providing continued and ongoing support to Lake County MS4s as they continue to develop and implement their stormwater management programs.