



**Request for City Council Committee Action  
From the Department of Public Works**

**Date:** September 13, 2011  
**To:** Honorable Sandra Colvin Roy, Chair Transportation & Public Works Committee  
**Subject:** **National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Stormwater Management Program**

**Recommendation:**

Authorize staff to submit The Minneapolis Stormwater Management Program to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA)

**Previous Directives:**

April 19, 2011 – T&PW Committee receive and file update on reissued NPDES MS4 Permit.

**Prepared by:** Lois Eberhart, Water Resources Administrator, Surface Water & Sewers 673-3260  
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**Approved by:**

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Steven A. Kotke, P. E., City Engineer, Director of Public Works

**Presenters:** Lisa Cerney, Director of Surface Water & Sewers

**Reviews**

Permanent Review Committee (PRC):	Not applicable
Civil Rights Affirmative Action Plan	Not applicable
Policy Review Group (PRG):	Not applicable

**Financial Impact**

Action is within current department budget

**Community Impact**

Neighborhood Notification: Minneapolis annually sends notices to neighborhood organizations and other interested parties to inform them about accessing the Draft Annual Report, and advising them of the opportunity to provide comments at the public hearing or in writing.

City Goals: A Safe Place To Call Home -- quality of life; a healthy environment; the city's infrastructure will be well-maintained. Enriched Environment -- plentiful

green spaces; lakes, rivers and the soil and air will be clean. A Premier Destination -- the country will see Minneapolis as a national treasure.  
Comprehensive Plan: Consistent  
Zoning Code: Not Applicable

**Background/Supporting Information:**

The MS4 Permit regulates stormwater runoff discharges from the storm drain system. The City and the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) are co-permittees. The MS4 Permit is one of two distinct permits under the NPDES program, created in 1990 by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under the Clean Water Act to protect water quality through the regulating of discharges of pollutants to lakes, streams, wetlands and other surface waters. Under this program, specific permits are issued in an effort to regulate municipal, industrial and construction activities. In Minnesota, these permits are issued by the MPCA under a delegation agreement with the EPA.

The system subject to the MS4 Permit consists of infrastructure for the collection, conveyance, treatment, storage and discharge of stormwater in the City of Minneapolis, at a rate dependent upon precipitation and snow melt. Minneapolis is permitted under Federal requirements as a Phase 1 MS4 community, as a municipality with a population greater than 100,000. The new MS4 Permit was issued to the City and the MPRB on January 21, 2011. It supersedes the previous permit which was issued on December 1, 2000. The MS4 Permit can be viewed at the following web site:

[http://www.minneapolismn.gov/stormwater/docs/NPDES\\_Phase\\_I\\_Permit.pdf](http://www.minneapolismn.gov/stormwater/docs/NPDES_Phase_I_Permit.pdf)

The MS4 Permit requires the implementation of stormwater management activities that are designed to mitigate the pollution effects of urban stormwater runoff. A general summary of changes is that the new permit includes (1) new requirements for addressing non-degradation of water quality and impaired waters, (2) revised requirements for monitoring and illicit discharge detection and elimination, (3) re-organized and more specific and extensive requirements for existing categories such as construction site runoff control, stormwater management in new development and redevelopment, municipal operations and public education and outreach, and (4) preparing an updated Stormwater Management Program (SWMP) to describe, guide, document and assess our permit related activities. The City and the MPRB must submit the SWMP to the MPCA by September 28, 2011. The MPCA will hold a public comment period on the SWMP, prior to processing it for approval. Thereafter (and as in the past) the City and the MPRB will report annually on SWMP activities and may periodically modify the SWMP with input from a variety of sources.

Public Works has worked with MPRB and other City Departments with roles and responsibilities related to the stormwater program, including Regulatory Services, CPED, Finance, and offices of the City Coordinator and the City Attorney. The revised SWMP is broken into two primary sections; the first section is the executive summary, history, legal authority and budget while the second part describes the permit related activities in more detail. The activities are divided into ten categories based on the permit. Each category and goals of the workplan are described below.

**Public Education and Outreach on Stormwater Impacts.** The goal of the activities related to public education and outreach is to inform individuals on actions they can take to improve water quality.

**Public Participation, Public Involvement.** City and MPRB activities related in this category are seek input and involve individuals in activities related to water quality.

**Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination.** The goal in this category is to regulate the discharge of pollutants to the stormwater system through implementation of programs and enforcement.

**Construction Related Erosion and Sediment Control.** Preventing and minimizing the discharge of sediment or construction activities to the stormwater system is the goal of this category.

**Post Construction Stormwater Management for Public and Private Projects.** City and MPRB activities in this category look to reduce stormwater runoff from developments which may prevent or reduce water quality impacts.

**Pollution Prevention and Good Housekeeping for Municipal Operations.** The goals of activities listed in this category are to implement proper operation and maintenance of the public streets and alleys, municipal properties and parking lots.

**Stormwater Discharge Monitoring and Analysis.** Monitoring and analysis activities provide the ability to quantify stormwater volumes and pollutant loading to be used in determining the effectiveness of other activities within the Stormwater Management Program.

**Progress Toward Waste Load Allocation for Approved Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs).** The goal of this workplan is to reduce targeted pollutants that are discharged to an impaired water body.

**Coordination and Cooperation with Other Entities.** The City and MPRB goal is to continue to interact with numerous organizations that have involvement in the surface water system or stormwater management.

**Stormwater Management Program Annual Assessment, Modification and Annual Reporting.** The City and MPRB workplan is to annually assess the Stormwater Management Program, modify as necessary and then report the results annually to the MPCA.

Staff is requesting authorization to submit the Minneapolis Stormwater Management Program to the MPCA.