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Is Your Stormwater Management Program Working? Evaluating Your MS4 Program

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complex world

CLEAR SOLUTIONS"



Presentation Overview

- MS4 permit evaluation requirements
- EPA MS4 evaluations/audits
- California Stormwater Effectiveness Assessment Guide
- Example of an effectiveness strategy





Maryland Phase II MS4 permit (Dec. 2016 Tentative Permit)

- Part IV Evaluation, Assessment and Reporting
- "permittee must evaluate progress toward achieving compliance with all permit requirements, and the appropriateness of implemented BMPs"
- MS4 Progress Report (Appendix D, 19 pages) required each year:
 - "report to MDE that evaluates progress toward meeting the twenty percent impervious area restoration requirement"
 - Also asks questions to track implementation of the six minimum control measures.



Maryland Phase I MS4 permits

Required to submit an annual report database that includes:

- storm drain systems, urban best management practices,
- impervious surfaces, watershed restoration,
- monitoring site locations, chemical monitoring, pollutant load reductions, biological monitoring,
- illicit discharge detection, erosion and sediment control responsible personnel training, quarterly grading permit summaries, and fiscal analyses
- Also required to conduct detailed watershed assessments that includes current WQ conditions, WQ problems,
 prioritize projects and pollutant load reduction benchmarks



Stormwater Management is an Iterative Process





MS4 Evaluations/Audits

- Conducted by EPA or the State
- Focused on assessing compliance with MS4 permit requirements
- Paperwork violations
- Field/implementation violations







MS4s facing increasing pressure to demonstrate effectiveness



 Effectiveness is an integral part of a comprehensive stormwater planning process



California Stormwater Effectiveness

Assessment

- Developed by the California Stormwater Quality Association (CASQA)
- Defines "effectiveness assessment" as:
 - The methods and activities that managers use to evaluate how well their programs are working and to identify modifications necessary to improve results

https://www.casqa.org/effectiveness_assessment



Six Outcome Levels

- Measurable endpoints associated with programs, people, and physical systems
- Outcomes are interrelated





Sources and Impacts





Target Audiences





Stormwater Management Programs



- Facilitation activities
- Direct implementation of treatment control BMPs
- Administrative activities
- Data collection activities





Stormwater Strategic Plan

 Also called a Program Effectiveness Assessment and Improvement Plan (PEAIP) for Phase II MS4s

• Developed in Three Stages:

- Planning Preparation (Stage 1)
- Strategic Planning (Stage 2)
 - Addressed in next slide
- Strategic Plan Completion (Stage 3)





Core Steps in a Structured Planning Process





Step A: Characterizing Problems

1. Evaluate existing conditions

- What are priority receiving waters?
- How are conditions changing over time?
- Which MS4 facilities flow to priority receiving waters?

2. Define problem conditions

- What are priority problems for each priority receiving water?
- Is condition linked to a known higher outcome level problem?

3. Prioritize problem conditions

- Is priority influenced by regulatory requirements?
- Which portions of drainage areas that contribute pollutants are the highest priority?



Example Tool

- Maryland Integrated Report Water Quality Map
- http://www.mde.maryland.gov/programs/water/TMDL/Integrated303dReports/Pages/ImpairmentMaps.aspx
- View pollutant layers for all watersheds in the State





Step B: Targeting Outcomes

1. Identify end-state targets

- What changes will be targeted for the receiving water?
- Who is target audience responsible for each source contribution?
- What behavioral changes will be targeted?

2. Establish interim targets

- When and how will targeted changes be measured?
- What interim targets are needed to evaluate progress?

3. Identify data requirements

What metrics will be used?



Example Tool: EPA Region 1 Opti-Tool

- Facilitates stormwater engineers in developing Nutrient Management
 Plans for permit compliance
- Supports planning level analysis to identify the cost-effective stormwater controls that meet the load reduction requirements in permit
- Evaluates and estimates credits for the stormwater controls for tracking the progress toward interim goals
- Flexible to adopt for other regions







Step C: Documenting Knowledge and Data Gaps

- **1.** Compiling Step A Knowledge and Data Gaps
- **2.** Compiling Step B Knowledge and Data Gaps
- **3.** Consolidating the Knowledge and Data Gaps list

Stormwater Strategic Plan templates (called PEAIP's) are available on CASQA's website.





Receiving water conditions (Level 6)

- Evaluate and prioritize receiving water problems
 - Are waters impaired by sediment, and are they meeting TMDL targets for sediment?
 - 303(d) listed impairments nutrients/sediment
- Identify receiving water targets
 - TMDL targets % reduction
- Document data requirements

• MS4 Conditions (Level 5)

- Evaluate MS4 conditions and how they are changing over time
 - Is urban stormwater a significant source of sediment? Are there other sources?
 - Source: urban runoff



Source Contributions (Level 4)

• Sediment sources from urban stormwater include:

- Construction site erosion
- Road maintenance
- Commercial/industrial activities
- Storage yards
- Parking lots
- Road/lot maintenance





Target Audience Actions (Level 3)

- Construction site owners/operators
- Contractors
- Commercial/industrial entities
- Municipal staff

Barriers and Bridges to Actions (Level 2)

- Inspections
- Training
- Monitoring
- Surveys





- Stormwater Program Activities (Level 1)
- Focus on management questions, data assessment methods, and data collection methods
- For example, for Education/Outreach (Level 2):
 - Are construction site operators informed and trained on BMPs effective at controlling sediment?
 - Data assessment methods: # of trainings held, # of participants, % change in survey results
 - Data collection methods: Track trainings and number of trainees



Stormwater Program Activities (Level 1)

• Another example, for Target Audience Actions (Level 3):

- Are construction sites being managed so they are in compliance with local ordinances and preventing sediment from leaving the site?
- Data assessment methods: total # of sites, # inspections conducted, # and % of sites adequately implementing BMPs, # and % of sites that require follow-up inspection, # of illicit discharges involving sediment from construction sites
- Data collection methods: Track inspection results from all sites inspected, including follow-up inspections, track illicit discharge source investigation results



Additional Resources

- Feb. 2015 Strategic Approach to Planning for and Assessing the Effectiveness of Stormwater Programs:
 - Appendix B includes 4 "Sources and Activities Profile Sheets" (e.g., construction, industrial, municipal operations and planning/land development)
 - Appendix C includes 6 "Pollutant Profile Sheets" (e.g., bacteria, mercury, nutrients, pesticides, sediment, and trash)
- CASQA program effectiveness website also includes:



Questions?

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