

# Londonderry Township

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## *MCM #2: Public Involvement/Participation*

- **Objective1:** Develop, implement and maintain a written Public Involvement/Participation Program (PIPP)
- **Objective2:** Advertise and solicit public new Stormwater Management Ordinances, Standard Operating Procedures, and Pollutant Reduction Plans (PRPs).
- **Objective3:** Regularly solicit Public Involvement and Participating via stormwater awareness meetings at the BOS meetings, hosting hands-on workshops on a variety of stormwater topics and host community action projects/volunteer opportunities marketed to target audience, monitor public participation (including IDDE Reporting) to gauge successfulness of educational program.

Londonderry Township, Dauphin County, PA is a Township of approximately 5,200 residents that has decided to conduct a general public meeting to discuss both the development and implementation of their stormwater program. The Township has also decided to hold several hands-on workshops with a variety of stormwater topics to involve the local community in activities improving stormwater BMPs. In addition, Londonderry Township has decided that working with local partner groups, like Penn State Extension, will allow them to reach a greater audience and continue to implement community action projects in the surrounding area.

**Minimum Measure Objective:** Involve stakeholder groups, including local governments, businesses, and citizens, in making decisions about stormwater management priorities and programs. Encourage the participation of local residents by hosting several workshops, and developing and implementing programs to help report and discourage illicit discharge and other unwanted activities.

- **Objective1:** Develop, implement and maintain a written Public Involvement/Participation Program (PIPP)
  - o PIPP has been developed and is available on our website. Community members can seek involvement in MS4 program via email, Facebook, BOS meetings or in person.
  - o PIPP:
    - Goal 1: Hold a public stormwater awareness meeting to educate and receive feedback on the MS4 program
      - The township will hold one general stormwater awareness meeting in conjunction with a summer Board of Supervisors meeting. The

presentation will educate the board and public about general stormwater management for property owners, the Township's MS4 program, and the MS4 permit. A sign-in sheet will be kept to track meeting attendance. Meeting minutes will be documented, and the stormwater awareness meeting will be listed as an agenda item, advertised with flyers and advertised online (website and Facebook), so the public is aware in advance of the scheduled presentation. (See MCM#6)

- Goal 2: Develop and host a hands-on workshop series with a variety of stormwater topics, and continue to develop this program, including keeping a list of target audiences
  - The Township will hold several hands-on workshops with a variety of stormwater topics to involve the local community in activities improving stormwater BMPs. In addition, Londonderry Township will create connections with local partner groups which will reach a greater audience and expand community action projects in the surrounding area. Topics include but are not limited to: rain barrels, composting, rain gardens, urban gardening, introduction of wildlife habitats through gardening, pollinator gardens, pesticide free gardening, naturalized stormwater meadows. Pamphlets will be distributed at each event. A sign-in sheet, copy of documents, and pictures will be kept for all workshops to track attendance. Workshops provide hands-on learning experience for members of the local community. It also allows township employees and residents to interact in a smaller setting, as well as give residents an opportunity to practice and try BMPs that have been discussed.
- Goal 3: Hold several coordination meetings with partner groups
  - Londonderry MS4 will involve stakeholder groups, including local governments, businesses, and citizens, in making decisions about stormwater management priorities and programs at monthly BOS meetings.
- Goal 4: Create community volunteer opportunities
  - With the help of partner organizations, organize at least two community action events per permit year. These projects will be planned with the objective of improving local stream and watershed quality, as well as improving the MS4. These volunteer opportunities will be published in advanced using the newsletter, Township website, Partner websites,

local newspapers and appropriate media. A record of all event materials as well as a list of volunteers in attendance will be kept.

- **Accountability:** Involving stakeholders in the stormwater management planning process will improve support for programs because the stakeholders will be able to voice their concerns and suggestions about the work of the MS4 program. Involving community members will increase education and participation.
- **Objective2:** Advertise and solicit public on new Stormwater Management Ordinances, Standard Operating Procedures, and Pollutant Reduction Plans (PRPs).
  - Prior to the adoption of any ordinance required by the MS4 permit, adequate public notice will be given as well as opportunities for public review, input and feedback. This notice will be given on Londonderry's website and at relevant BOS meetings.
  - Londonderry's PRP has been developed, and accepted. Any changes to this will be advertised at BOS meeting, on the website, on Facebook and in the Township newsletter.
  - Annual Report is available on Londonderry Township's website, which will be promoted on Facebook. A hard copy will be kept in the office, and will be referenced in the relevant BOS meetings.
    - **Accountability:** Londonderry Township will address the public, and record minutes at the BOS meetings, allowing the public to comment. The website will also serve as an outreach method, which will be trackable via google analytics and email responses.
- **Objective3:** Regularly solicit Public Involvement and Participating via personal interactions with MS4 Department. Londonderry Township will educate and encourage reporting of Illicit Discharges and publicize the SWMP. Via:
  - Londonderry will make efforts to reach the public at their monthly BOS meeting presentation, and once a year at the Stormwater Awareness focused BOS meeting (see MCM6).
  - With the help of partner organizations like Penn State Extension and Manada Conservancy, organize at least two community action events per permit year. These projects should be planned with the idea of improving local stream and watershed quality as well as improving the MS4 (tree-plantings, litter clean-ups along stream sides or roadways (target local groups: Boy Scouts, college environmental groups/clubs, HS sports team [swimmers])). Publish these projects well in advance using the newsletter, Township website, partner websites (Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Penn State Extension), newspapers, and other appropriate media. A record of all event materials as well as a list of volunteers in attendance will be kept.

- Hold several meetings with partner groups. The Township will hold coordination meetings involving Penn State Extension, Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Manada Conservancy, Conewago Creek Initiative, Alliance for the Bay and other interested stakeholders to discuss progress of the stormwater management program and upcoming activities/projects at least once every permit year.
- The Township's education program will prove to be successful with an increase of public awareness, measured by complaints related to stormwater. The Township will document any evidence of public participation by utilizing a tracking system to monitor any information/complaints received by the public pertaining to stormwater management, illicit discharge, construction runoff, and concerns about the storm sewer system. The tracking system consists of a spreadsheet and a call form with the content to be filled in as provided by the public. The content will pertain to the date of the complaint, construction project name, incident type, action taken to resolve the incident/complaint, and the municipal employee initiating the follow-up action. See the Address Illicit Discharge Procedure in the Operations and Maintenance Plan for Illicit Discharge protocol and chain of command. See documentation MCM3.
  - **Accountability:** Involving the local community in action projects gives citizens a vested interest in their local environment. It also educates and solicits participation from community members. As more citizens become involved in projects like these, hopefully word will spread about MS4 and the importance of keeping the watershed clean.
  - Coordination with other jurisdictions, regulatory agencies, partner organizations, and citizens helps to identify common goals, such as improving water quality, that are not defined by geographic boundaries. Responsibility for tasks that further these common goals can be distributed among these parties to use funding and labor efficiently.
  - Involving the local community in the reporting of illicit discharge and other stormwater hazards will allow the Township to better monitor and care for their jurisdiction. Incidents/complaints will be recorded, resolved, and then filed for future use. These incident reports can later be tracked and plotted to compare higher frequency of occurrences and other statistical data analysis. This line of communication will also help to improve stormwater awareness in the Township about the locally impaired watershed.

*Reviewed 1/8/2021.*

*Updated to better align with permit requirements 7/30/2020.*

*Updated to better align with permit requirements 7/25/2019.*

*Updated to reflect current Township programs and abilities 5/3/2018.*