

## MCM #2 Public Involvement/Participation

**MCM Requirement** – Encourage public involvement in the Stormwater Management Program. This requirement shall be met through the implementation of the following Best Management Practices (BMPs).

### **BMP #1: Public Involvement and Participation Plan (PIPP)**

1. Develop, implement, and maintain a written PIPP which describes various types of possible participation activities and methods of encouraging the public involvement and input.
2. PIPP Development Timeframe
  - a. New permittees - a written PIPP must be developed and implemented within one year following approval of permit coverage, re-evaluated each year thereafter and revised as necessary.
  - b. Existing permittees - the existing PIPP should be reviewed annually and revised as necessary.
3. The PIPP must include, at a minimum:
  - a. Opportunities for the public to participate in the decision-making processes associated with the development, implementation, and update of the SWMP and activities.
  - b. Methods of routine communication to groups such as watershed associations, environmental advisory committees, and other environmental organizations that operate within proximity to the MS4 or to surface waters receiving discharges from the MS4.
  - c. Availability of Annual Status Reports and other permit required plans, maps, and reports to the public on the permittee's website, at the permittee's office, or by mail by request.

### **BMP #2: Public Input**

1. Permittees must advertise to the public and solicit public input on the following documents prior to adoption or submission to DEP:
  - a. Stormwater Management Ordinances (for municipal permittees) or Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) (for non-municipal entities); and
  - b. Pollutant Reduction Plans (PRP) including modification thereto.
2. For Ordinances and SOPs, the permittee must provide notice to the public, provide opportunities for public comment, document and evaluate public comments, and document the responses to the public comments prior to document finalization.
3. For PRPs, public participation requirements are specified in Appendices D and E of the General Permit.

### **BMP #3: Public Involvement and Participation**

1. Permittees must regularly solicit public involvement/participation from target audience groups on implementation of the SWMP (including reporting of suspected illicit discharges).
2. Solicitation of public involvement/participation can take the form of a public meeting or other event.
  - a. The public must be given notice in advance of each meeting or event.
  - b. During the meetings or events, the permittee should present a summary of progress, activities, and accomplishments with implementation of the SWMP, and the permittee should provide opportunities for the public to provide feedback and input.
3. Public Meeting Timeline
  - a. New permittees - are required to conduct at least one public meeting within 5 years following permit approval.
  - b. Existing permittees - are required to conduct at least one public meeting by March 15, 2023.

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4. The permittee should document and report (in the annual MS4 status reports) instances of cooperation and participation in MS4 activities, such as presentations made by the permittee to local watershed or conservation organizations.
5. The permittee should document and report activities in which members of the public assisted or participated in public meetings and in the implementation of the SWMP, including education activities or organized implementation efforts such as cleanups, monitoring, or storm drain stenciling.