

# Public Participation Program for the Alliance of Downriver Watersheds MS4s



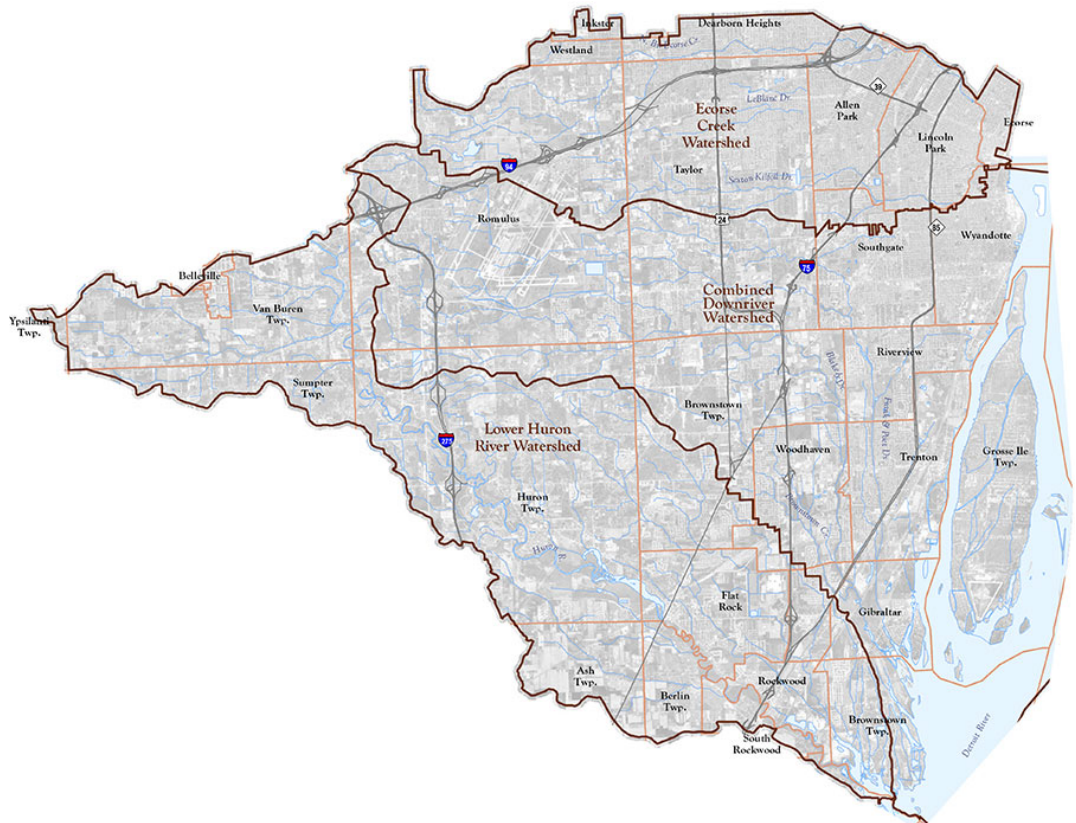
The Public Participation/Involvement Program (PPP) is required by the State of Michigan National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit Application for Discharge of Stormwater to Surface Waters of the State from a Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4).

The purpose of this PPP is to **facilitate the involvement of MS4s in the watershed, and the general public in the revision of MS4 Stormwater Management Plans (SWMPs)**. This PPP is designed to involve all entities in the watersheds identified below with the authority, ability, and desire to carry out the implementation of SWMPs in seeking comment on and implementing those plans.

## I. GENERAL INFORMATION

The Alliance of Downriver Watersheds (ADW) is a permanent watershed organization in southeast Michigan and formed under Public Act 517 of the Public Laws of 2004. The ADW was formally established in 2007 but its members have been working together for many years to manage the area's water resources. The ADW consists of 23 public agencies in the Ecorse Creek, Combined Downriver and Lower Huron River Watersheds within Wayne and Monroe Counties. ADW collaborative efforts include long-term water quality monitoring, stormwater permit compliance and reporting to the State, submittal of grant applications for water quality improvements, and public education.

The ADW is urban in nature consisting of 203.3 square miles and more than 450,000 people (2010 census). Major watercourses within the ADW that drain to the Detroit River and Lake Erie include the Ecorse Creek, Sexton Kilfoil Drain, Frank and Poet Drain, Blakely Drain, Brownstown Creek, Huron River, Smith Creek, Silver Creek and Woods Creek. There are three Watershed Management Plans



for the ADW area, approved by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality in 2012—Ecorse Creek, Combined Downriver and Lower Huron.

**This PPP is submitted by the ADW on behalf of the following Phase I and II MS4s within the Ecorse Creek, Combined Downriver and Lower Huron watersheds. Activities will be implemented collaboratively during the permit cycle by the ADW its cooperating partners and these MS4 permittees:**

Allen Park	Rockwood
Belleville	Romulus
Brownstown Township	Southgate
Dearborn Heights	Sumpter Township
Ecorse	Taylor
Flat Rock	Van Buren Township
Gibraltar	Wayne County
Grosse Ile Township	Westland
Inkster	Woodhaven
Lincoln Park	Woodhaven-Brownstown School
Melvindale	District
Riverview	Wyandotte

## **II. COMMUNICATION DURING THE SWMP DEVELOPMENT PROCESS**

The practices listed in this section will be used to solicit public participation during the SWMP development process for each MS4. Public input shall be encouraged in all aspects of the stormwater management program. The following minimum actions shall be taken to encourage public input:

1. Each individual MS4 shall follow local public notice requirements, as appropriate, when informing the public that a stormwater management program must be implemented. Copies of the SWMP shall be available for public inspection, and the public shall be notified of when and where it is available.
2. Each individual MS4 shall participate in and cooperate with the ADW by informing it of activities under their SWMPs, providing copies of the SWMPs and pursuing public input on them, and seeking ways to meet general permit requirements through ongoing programs for water resource protection and enhancement, including water quality monitoring.

## **III. PROCEDURES FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION, COMMENT AND PARTICIPATION IN IMPLEMENTATION AND REVIEW**

The following Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be carried out to meet public participation requirements:

### **BMP 1.1. Public Notice**

*Description:* Each individual MS4 will provide electronic copies of draft SWMPs to the ADW to share with the general public. The ADW and MS4s will notify the public that SWMPs were developed and encourage public input in the revision process. This will be done primarily through posting SWMPs and forms for collecting public comments on the ADW website and sending out an electronic notice to ADW

public contact lists. Individual MS4s will post links to the SWMPs (housed on the ADW website) on their individual MS4 websites. Additionally, other means of communication will be used for announcing progress on SWMP elements and soliciting input. These may include publication in local news media outlets, announcements to local boards, associations, other interested groups, at public meetings or major public events, articles in local newsletters, or posts on web sites and social networking sites. Each MS4 will follow any public notice requirements specific to their local jurisdiction. The same public notice procedure will be used following any major SWMP revision.

Timeline: Notice will be provided upon release of a draft permit.

Evaluation: Publication of notice in news media, impressions on ADW website.

Responsible Parties: Listed MS4s will provide SWMPs to the ADW and the ADW will notify the public within the ADW area via email distribution and posting to the ADW website. Each MS4 will notify the public in their local jurisdictions.

### **BMP 1.2 Public Access to SWMPs**

Description: The ADW and the MS4s will publish and make available copies of the SWMPs on the ADW website and at each MS4 office.

Timeline: Following review by MDEQ and revision by MS4s, SWMPs will be made available when the draft permit becomes available for public review.

Evaluation: Number of views each of the plans get at each website.

Responsible Parties: The ADW and individual MS4s.

### **BMP 1.3 SWMP Implementation**

Description: The ADW is a watershed implementation group that is open to and encourages public participation. This group meets three times a year (on average). Meeting schedules are posted to the ADW web site and via e-mail distribution lists. Meetings of this group will be the primary point of public input into SWMP implementation and for providing feedback to MS4 representatives.

Timeline: On-going; start in year one of permit.

Evaluation: Document MS4 representative and citizen participation in meetings.

Responsible Parties: MS4 representatives, ADW.

### **BMP 1.4 SWMP Review**

Description: Following public notice of the SWMPs, the ADW and MS4s will accept and consider comments from the public and MDEQ. After revising SWMPs, the ADW and MS4s will post revised drafts and accept public comments before each MS4 finalizes their SWMP.

Timeline: Review completed following initial application and prior to permit issuance.

Evaluation: Comments from the general public.

Responsible Parties: ADW and MS4s.