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Town of Granby

NPDES PII Small MS4 General Permit Annual Report

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Self Assessment:

As we have discussed in previous annual reports, The Town of Granby has managed to achieve or surpass most of the goals outlined in the first five year stormwater permit cycle. We have made significant investments in equipment and manpower that have enabled us to improve the management of our stormwater system. The GIS based maps and databases allow us to accurately record maintenance data and schedule ongoing cleaning and maintenance resources.

Participation in the Connecticut River Stormwater Committee gives us the opportunity to pool our resources with surrounding communities in order to provide an effective Public Education component of our program. We are committed to this effort because it appears to be the most cost effective method to achieve this goal.

We have also adopted local regulations for Erosion and Sediment Control, and Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination. In addition to the above, the Town of Granby is in the process of developing a new website for the town. The website will be easily customized by each department so that information on the site can be kept current. We hope that this tool can be utilized more effectively in the future for the stormwater program.

In the last few years, the Highway Department has significantly modified its winter anti icing program. We have attempted to maximize the use of mechanical snow and ice removal methods in order to reduce the need for chemical deicing. In addition, all trucks are equipped with computerized sander controls.

The Town of Granby is very pleased to be able to report that the major program goals have been accomplished during this first permit cycle.

Appropriateness of BMPs:

As mentioned above, we are pleased with the accomplishments of our program. We believe that the current BMP's have provided a realistic and appropriate guideline for our program.

Progress Toward Achievable Goals:

Specific achievements toward the various BMPs are detailed below and grouped under the individual BMP I. D. number:

- 1) The Local Storm Water regulations are in place. The proposed regulations have been reviewed by Town Counsel and the Sewer Commissioners. The sewer commissioners have incorporated the proposed regulations into the sewer regulations.
- 2) Same as above
- 3) Troubled waters brochures and posters are available at Town Hall. Posters are displayed at the Police Station and Highway Department. Public outreach is also being accomplished through the Connecticut River Stormwater Committee advertising and presentations.

- 4) The Town of Granby is a member of The Connecticut River Stormwater Committee. This committee is providing outreach towards targeted groups. The DPW opened a waste oil collection center.
- 6) The Connecticut River Storm Committee is constantly looking for grants to fund various stormwater related programs. See Appendix A for specific details
- 8) The Board of Selectmen is looking for volunteers to appoint to the Connecticut and Chicopee river watershed councils. We have joined the Connecticut River Storm Phase II Committee. The Highway Superintendent is representing the Town on this Committee.
- 9) Household waste recycling days are held annually.
- 10) The DPW has enlisted the help of the local Girl Scout troop to stencil the catch basins. This work will be ongoing.
- 11) Same as BMP 10. We have also accepted community service volunteers that have been provided through the court system to pick up roadside trash and clean up at the parks. The Girl Scouts and the Conservation Committee have assisted in roadside trash cleanup programs.
- 12) The Highway Department has always provided assistance for community cleanups. Also, we promptly try to pick up all large items that are dumped along the roadsides. We try not to let any accumulation occur in order to discourage and mitigate future dumping.
- 13) The Highway Department has purchased a hand held GPS unit and has utilized this equipment to map all storm drains and sanitary sewer systems. We have also shared this data with the local Conservation Commission and assisted them to establish GIS maps for their use.
- 14) We have delivered paper maps of the stormdrain system to the Police and Fire Departments. We are continuing to work on mapping and organizing the data. We have purchased Arcgis software.
- 15) We are continuing to perform annual inspections of the storm outfalls.
- 16) The proposed illicit discharge regulations have been adopted into our sewer regulations. As mentioned previously, we do not believe that the illicit discharge is a significant problem in our system, based on the information currently available.
- 17) The Board of Health establishes an annual hazardous waste recycling day and encourages proper disposal and recycling.
- 20) Mass Rural Water Association has begun a source water protection study for public drinking water sources in Granby.
- 21) Stormwater erosion control regulations have been adopted.
- 22) The stormwater control regulations address post construction controls.
- 23) The Town has constructed a new DPW building. The new facility has enabled us to greatly improve our maintenance and housekeeping. We hope to begin working on a municipal operation plan in the near future as time allows.
- 24) We have purchased a catch basin cleaner. We have also created a database to better manage the maintenance of the stormdrain system. This has enabled us to substantially increase the number of catch basins that are cleaned each year.
- 25) We are planning to support training seminars for employees as time allows.
- 26) We have repaired or replaced several deteriorated catch basins and drop inlets. We are currently planning road repairs in the Carver Street Chicopee Street area. There will be very little drainage changes in this area however, we may replace a few existing catch basins with deep sump basins. We also replaced a deteriorated culvert on Kellogg Street this year. We have also cleaned drainage swales and performed other routine maintenance of our stormdrain system.

Next Cycle:

Last year, the Highway Department completed a road resurfacing project on Easton Street. We will continue to focus our attention in this area because of its proximity to the impaired waters of Aldrich Lake.

The DPW and the local Conservation Commission have not encountered any problems with the existing local erosion and sediment control regulations. We will continue to monitor the effectiveness of the existing regulations but we do not foresee the need to make any changes at this time.

We plan to continue our participation in the Connecticut River Stormwater Committee. We believe that the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission has been very helpful and effective in achieving the Public Education and Outreach Goals.

The DPW representatives will continue to perform annual dry weather inspections of all stormwater outfalls. We plan to maintain the same level of service for catch basin cleaning and maintenance. Normally, catch basins are cleaned every two years. A few problem areas are cleaned more frequently. The total number of basins cleaned each year usually varies from 160 to 300.

Mass Rural Water Association has begun a source water assessment and protection plan on all municipally owned and large private public water sources in Granby. We hope to have this plan in the near future.

In general, we anticipate no major changes to the program over the next year.

Changes:

Our town is very concerned about the proposed changes in the next permit cycle. We believe that many of the new regulations will present an extreme hardship to small communities at a time of fiscal crisis at the local level.

Small communities such as ours have many small isolated segments of our stormwater system with only a few catch basins connected to an outfall. These systems are easily inspected visually and can be ruled out as a potential source of an illicit connection with a high degree of certainty. Mandating yearly physical testing of all outfalls in these systems is the equivalent of chasing ghosts and is a waste of precious resources. Allowing municipalities such as ours the flexibility to provide a more targeted approach is a much more appropriate use of taxpayer money.

We do not anticipate any significant changes to our stormwater program in the upcoming year. Overall the stormwater program appears to be appropriate for our community; therefore, no significant changes are planned for the immediate future.

Reliance on Others:

We have discussed the funding constraints of small towns in many of our previous reports. The situation in the last few years has become progressively worse with the declining economic conditions. Our infrastructure is aging and we have limited resources available to maintain existing systems let alone fund improvements.

We have documented the continual decline in our pavement systems over the last several years. This decline is not unique to our town but is typical of all towns large and small. This deterioration in the pavements and storm water systems will ultimately lead to more crumbling roads, sinkholes and higher sediment loads in our watersheds. The EPA and the Ma DEP should be concerned about this ever growing problem. We encourage the EPA and DEP to provide funding assistance for road and drainage improvements. Any assistance, even a matching grant type program, would be extremely helpful to the local communities.

Program Summary:

See chart attached