

SUMMIT COUNTY SURFACE WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
BATH TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER - FALL, 2020



Surface Water Update



This is the third Newsletter of the Summit County Surface Water Management District, a quarterly publication to inform Bath Township residents about what's up in the SWMD.
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All studies and projects that will be undertaken will to varying degrees, slow the stormwater runoff flow, reducing erosion and flooding in Bath, and improving stream water quality in Bath and on down to the Cuyahoga River.

Permitting – The SWMD has regulations to assure that streams, waterways, wetlands and ditches shall remain open and free-flowing, shall not be altered without a permit, and shall not be polluted. To this end, we have established a Grading Permit for filling, grading, excavating, or pond construction activities. Following is a summary from Chapter 942 Appendix A.

23.02 PERMIT REQUIRED.

Except as provided in Subsection 23.03, a permit shall be required for every excavation, grading, pond or filling as defined herein.

23.03 EXCEPTIONS.

(a) No permit shall be required ***however, applications for these activities shall be reviewed*** for compliance with the permit requirements:

- (1) Site improvements as approved under applicable land development regulations.
- (2) Excavation for streets and drains when made in accordance with subdivision plans approved by the Planning Commission.

(b) The following operations shall be exempt from the requirements provided the operations do not affect a wetland and do not block or divert natural storm water flows.

- (1) Foundation grading. (2) Landscaping. installation of landscaping materials and plants and seeding or sodding.
- (3) Utilities and conduits for which the necessary permits and/or work authorizations have been obtained.
- (4) Farming where permitted by the local zoning code and ORC § 519.21.
- (5) Land Fills.

23.04 PROHIBITED EXCAVATION, GRADING OR FILLING.

No excavation, grading, filling or pond construction shall be permitted which would interfere with the natural drainage of the site or the general area surrounding the site or interfere with the preservation of wetlands on, adjacent to, abutting or affected by the site. *Some exceptions and further restrictions may apply.*

Funding – The SWMD has submitted two pre-Applications for grants under the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program of the Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) to the Ohio Emergency Management Agency (EMA), for funding coming from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The two projects of interest are the Wye Road Drainage Improvement and the Idle Brook Bankfull Wetland off Hametown Road. In each case, the grant funding maximum is \$600,000, and a local match of at least 25% is required. We are currently in preliminary discussions with officials at Ohio EMA about the benefit-cost analysis for each project. ms consultants is assisting us with the Wye Road project, for which they performed the preliminary study last year.

General Correspondence and Drainage Concerns - 229 calls and 80 emails have come in so far, with 24 Drainage Concerns. We have studied each concern through a map review and conducted field reviews where needed and are in the process of contacting each owner. Some are simply looking for advice and guidance, some may be included in upcoming or future projects, some are township roadside ditch issues, some are assessed subdivision issues, and some are erosion issues that may be addressed by Summit Soil & Water Conservation District.

STUDIES

Yellow Creek Watershed Study by Sustainable Streams, LLC. Sustainable Streams is extensive and includes over 80 projects with a total preliminary estimated cost of approx. \$40 Million. As further development of the study, Sustainable Streams conducted field visits of several priority concept locations, and revised their recommendations, especially finding greater detention volumes. These refinements are described in a memo that will be a valuable reference as projects are developed.

Wye Road Drainage Study was performed by ms consultants in 2019. The studied stream flows through and downstream of the Sanctuary of Bath subdivision along Wye Rd., past the Bake Shop in Ghent to Yellow Creek. We authorized ms to perform additional survey and preliminary design to verify the feasibility of the proposed SWM basins, which look good. The design will be on hold until authorized by Council in accordance with the ditch petition process.

Yellow Creek NPS-IS has been finalized by Stephanie Deibel of Summit Soil & Water, Yellow Creek Watershed Coordinator. She referred to the Yellow Creek Watershed Study to prepare the Draft NPS-IS for review by OEPA. She submitted the final NPS-IS to OEPA on August 17, so we can begin to develop applications for funding.

PROJECTS

Wye Road – We have developed a preliminary petition and preliminary engineering report and will consider petitioner options and investigate the deposit and bonding requirements in accordance with the petition process. We have submitted a pre-application for FEMA BRIC funding grant (see above).

North Fork – We had a conference call with the Village of Richfield Planning Director and Engineer, about dropping some trees on their wooded land on an upper reach of North Fork, to force excessive runoff onto the floodplain.

Idle Brook - We had a conference call with officials of Summit County Department of Sanitary Sewer Services, about excavating bankfull wetlands along Idle Brook on their land east of N. Hametown in Bath. They had initially acquired the land to establish a drinking water well field, but DSSS no longer needs it. We have submitted a pre-application for FEMA BRIC funding grant (see above).

I-77 Corridor – We had a conference call with ODOT officials about a small bankfull wetland project at their I-77 southbound rest area in Bath, and they were in favor of a joint project by SCE and ODOT forces. They added that they may want to do additional SWM projects along I-77 in Bath, for mitigation relative to their proposed widening project. We are bringing First Energy into the loop, as they have parallel transmission lines and have done SWM BMP projects along their corridors.